

Corporate Parenting Board

2 January 2015

Annual Report of the Virtual Head Teacher for 2013 - 2014

During the year 2013-14 we had a large number of young people coming into care. At the beginning of the academic year we had, according to our records, 290 LAC of school age (4-15), including 12 who had become looked after during the summer break. By the end of the year we had 348 LAC of school age, with 3 recently admitted into care. Most year groups had increased, with the exception of years 6, 7 and 9. The latter two year cohorts had actually decreased. The biggest rise was amongst the 15 year olds (Year 11), which rose by 15 during the year, from 45 to 60 young people.

School Year Group	Numbers on 2 nd September 2013		Numbers on 14 th July 2014	
	Already in care	Recently LA	Already in care	Recently LA
Reception	28	0	30	1
1	17	2	25	1
2	17	1	21	0
3	19	1	26	0
4	14	0	25	0
5	16	1	19	0
6	15	0	15	0
7	27	2	23	0
8	25	0	37	0
9	29	3	28	1
10	38	1	39	0
11	45	1	60	0

2014 Data outcomes

For the purposes of data analysis, only those pupils who were continuously looked after for 12 months, or more, have been included.

Data from the Autumn Term was used to target those pupils in Years 6 and 11 who needed support. This, in part way, contributes to the rise in standards in Year 11 where staff from the Virtual School were mostly involved from January onwards.

Final year students from Sunderland University supported 13 children across Years 2 and 6 for an afternoon per week over the Spring Term to raise attainment through 1-1 and to learn about the social and emotional needs of some of our children. This was achieved through our good relationships with schools and with Sunderland University.

2014– Key Stage 1 outcomes for children who have been continuously looked after for at least 12 months:

This is a cohort of 18 pupils, 15 of whom had been in care for at least 12 months. 3 (20%) of these children had Special Educational Needs at School Action Plus/ School Action but all were educated in mainstream schools. Out of the 15, 3 children had moved schools 4 times since starting school; 1 child moved 3 times; and 9 children moved twice.

Reading:

Level 2+	Level 2B	Level 2A	Level 3	Sunderland Level 2+ all children	
87% (13 children)	47% (7 children)	14% (2 children)	7% (1 child)	88%	
90%	81%	Not reported	22%		National results for 2014

Writing:

Level 2+	Level 2B	Level 2A	Level 3	Sunderland Level 2+ all children	
67% (10 children)	7% (1 child)	20% (3 children)	0%	94%	
86%	70%	Not reported	16%		National results for 2014

Maths:

Level 2+	Level 2B	Level 2A	Level 3	Sunderland Level 2+ all children	
87% (13 children)	54% (8 children)	14% (2 children)	7% (1 child)	93%	
93%	80%	Not reported	24%		National results for 2014

- At level 2 plus, Sunderland LAC were only 3% below the national averages for all children in reading, and 6% below in writing.
- At level 2B, Sunderland LAC were significantly below the national average for all children.
- At level 3, one Sunderland LAC achieved a level 3 in reading and maths, for the first time in the last 3 years. However, overall percentage outcomes are below all children nationally.
- There were no national averages for LAC available for 2014 at the time of writing this report.

Looked After Children: Key Stage 1 Trends over 5 years					
Academic Year	Cohort Size	Level 2+ Reading	Level 2+ Writing	Level 2+ Maths	Statemented
2014	15	87%	67%	87%	0%
2013	10	70%	60%	60%	0%
2012	9	78%	56%	67%	11%
2011	7	86%	71%	86%	0%
2010	12	58%	50%	50%	17%
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Key Stage 1 results for 2014 LAC have:

- increased from 70% to 87%, 2013 to 2014 which has stopped the downward trend in reading and is the highest result in 5 years.
- increased from 60% to 67%, 2013 to 2014 and shows an overall upward 5 year trend in writing
- increased from 60% to 87%, 2013 to 2014 and shows an upward 3 year trend in maths

Progress from starting point provided			
	At Least Expected	Greater than expected	Less than expected
Reading	93% (14 children)	66% (10 children)	7% (1 child)
Writing	87% (13 children)	53% (8 children)	14% (2 children)
Maths	100% (15 children)	66% (10 children)	0% (0 children)

2014 Key Stage 2 outcomes for children who have been continuously looked after for at least 12 months

19 children were eligible for the Year 6 tests in 2014, of whom 15 were in care for 12 or more months. Of the 15, 2 (14%) had statements of SEN and 47% (7 children) were at School Action Plus.

2014 outcomes are above those for 2013 in English, largely owing to the increase of 7% in writing.

Achieving Level 4+: English (Reading and Writing combined)

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland Average 2014	National Average 2014
60% (9 pupils)	88%	82%

Achieving Level 4: Reading

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland Average 2014	National Average 2014
74% (11 pupils)	89%	89%

4 children achieved a level 5 in reading, which is above the expected level for 11 year olds.

Achieving Level 4: Writing

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland Average 2014	National Average 2014
40% (6 pupils)	85%	85%

4 children achieved a level 5 in writing

Achieving Level 4+ Mathematics

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland Average 2014	National Average 2014
47% (7 pupils)	87%	86%

1 child achieved a level 5 in Maths and 1 child achieved a level 6

Achieving Level 4 English and Maths:

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland Average 2014	National Average 2014
34% (5 pupils)	84%	79%

- The number of Sunderland LAC achieving a level 5 in Reading was higher than in previous years, but at level 4, LAC performed below other children locally and nationally.
- Writing has improved by 7% 2013-2014, but is still well below local and national averages.
- For the first time, we had a child achieve a level 6 in Maths, although overall, the gap in maths has widened when compared with all children at level 4 and above.

Trends at Key Stage 2

Looked After Children: Key Stage 2 Trends over 5 years				
Sunderland LAC:	English	Maths	English and Maths	Statemented
2014	60%	47%	34%	14%
2013	40%	54%	40%	20%
2012	36%	36%	36%	27%
2011	42%	25%	17%	17%
2010	64%	64%	64%	15%

Key Stage 2 results for LAC have:

- improved from 40% in 2013 to 60% in 2014 for level 4 English with an upward trend over the last 3 years
- declined by 6% at level 4 and above in both English and Maths combined
- declined from 54% in maths to 47% 2013 – 2014

Progress from starting point provided			
	At least Expected	Greater than expected	Less than expected
Reading	74% (11 children)	27% (4 children)	27% (4 children)
Writing	74% (11 children)	47% (7 children)	27% (4 children)
Maths	54% (8 children)	20% (3 children)	47% (7 children)

Out of the children who did not achieve in 2 or more areas, 2 had statements of special need for learning; 1 moved placements a number of times during his primary education.

- More children are making greater than expected progress in writing than in reading or maths
- Fewer children are making expected progress in Maths
- Percentages are below the Sunderland averages for all children at aged 11.

Key Stage 2 – SEN

Level of SEN	Reading Level 4+		Writing Level 4+		Maths Level 4+	
	Sunderland LAC	National SEN 2013	Sunderland LAC	National SEN 2013	Sunderland LAC	National SEN 2013
Statement (2 pupils)	0	30%	0	18%	50% (1 pupil)	23%
School Action Plus (6 pupils)	33% (2 pupils)	57%	33% (2 pupils)	43%	16.5% (1 pupil)	53%
School Action (4 pupils)	25% (1 pupil)	69%	25% (1 pupil)	59%	0	65%

- One pupil at SA+ gained level 5s in all three subject areas
- Sunderland LAC with special needs are below the 2013 national average for special needs in all areas, but it is to be noted that numbers are very small.
- There are no 2014 data comparisons for SEN or for LAC at the time of writing this report.

School moves

7 children out of 15 (47%) attended 2 primary schools, according to our records.

2014 - Key Stage 4 pupils who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months:

The number of pupils eligible to sit GCSEs in this cohort was 41 where 17% of the cohort was statemented and 50% were at School Action / School Action Plus. This is the lowest percentage of pupils with SEN in the last 5 years.

- 73% (30 pupils) of this cohort achieved GCSE passes in English and Maths.
- 85% (35 pupils) achieved a qualification in English and Maths.
- Out of the remaining 6 pupils, 2 achieved a GCSE in Maths, 2 in English; 1 achieved a lower qualification in English and the remaining pupil was not in a position to take qualifications this year.

The percentage of Sunderland LAC achieving 1 GCSE at grades A*-G

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland All Pupils 2014	National 2014 (any passes)
95% (39 pupils)	98%	97.5%

This was 16% higher than predicted from prior attainment

The percentage of Sunderland LAC achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-G:

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland All Pupils 2014	National 2014
80% (33 pupils)	93%	92%

This was 31% higher than predicted outcomes from prior attainment

The percentage of Sunderland LAC achieving 5+ GCSEs, or equivalent at grades A*- C:

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland All Pupils 2014	National 2014
25% (10 pupils)	62%	64.1%

This was 5% higher than March predictions

The percentage of Sunderland pupils achieved 5+ GCSEs including English and Maths at grades A*- C:

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland All Pupils 2014	National all pupils 2014
20% (8 pupils)	52%	55%

This was 6% higher than predicted outcomes from prior attainment

The percentage of Sunderland pupils who achieved A*-C in English:

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland All Pupils 2014	National All Pupils 2014
29% (12 pupils)	64%	Not available

The percentage of Sunderland pupils who achieved A*-C in Maths:

Sunderland LAC	Sunderland All Pupils 2014	National All Pupils 2014
22% (9 pupils)	63%	Not available

The percentage of Sunderland pupils making the expected progress in English*:

Sunderland LAC	National LAC 2013	National All Pupils 2014
66% (27 pupils)	32.6%	72.1%

The percentage of Sunderland pupils making the expected progress in Maths*:

Sunderland LAC	National LAC 2013	National All Pupils 2014
49% (20 pupils)	29.2%	66.4%

*Progress data is based on schools' judgements.

- The percentage making expected progress in English, from their target set, was 34.6% above the national average for LAC (2013) and 6.1% below all pupils nationally.
- The percentage making expected progress in Maths, from their target set, was 20.2% above the national average for LAC (2013), but 18.4% below the national average for all pupils

Trends at Key Stage 4

Looked After Children: Key Stage 4 Results 2013							Pupil Context:	
Academic Year	Cohort Size	5+ A*-C (incl Eng&Maths)	5+ A*-C	5+ A*-G	1+ A*-G	Statemented	School Action/ SA Plus	Overall SEN
2014	42	20%	25%	80%	95%	17%	50%	67%
2013	25	20%	20%	40%	92%	40%	48%	88%
2012	33	12%	48%	79%	82%	36%	42%	78%
2011	31	7%	36%	52%	71%	35%	35%	70%
2010	31	7%	42%	65%	94%	32%	48%	80%
2009	40	11%	26%	n/a	90%	n/a	n/a	n/a

Key Stage 4 results for LAC 2014:

- % achieving 5+A*-C including English and maths has remained at 20% in 2014. To date there are no national comparatives available for 2014.
- % achieving 5A-C grades has risen from 20% (2013) to 25% (2014)
- 5 A*-G grades has doubled from 40% (2013) to 80% (2014).
- 95% achieved at least 1 GCSE pass, which is a 3% increase on 2013 results and shows an upward trend over 4 years.
- These outcomes are better than those predicted in March 2013, although 2 pupils who were LAC in March are no longer looked after.

We are grateful to Sunderland Secondary Schools/ Academies for their efforts and for working in partnership with us to achieve the above results.

Key Stage 4 – SEN

Level of SEN	5+ A*- C / equivalent		5+ A*- C / equivalent including Eng & Math		A*- C in English and Maths GCSE	
	Sunderland LAC	National LAC 2013	Sunderland LAC	National LAC 2013	Sunderland LAC	National LAC 2013
Statement (6 pupils)	0 pupils	16%	0 pupils	3.1%	0 pupils	3.2%
School Action Plus (16 pupils)	12.5% (2 pupils)	51.4%	12.5% (2 pupils)	17.8%	12.5% (2 pupils)	18.8%
School Action (6 pupils)	50% (3 pupils)	61.5%	50% (3 pupils)	17.4%	50% (3 pupils)	18.1%

- In 2014 those pupils who had a statement of special need, or who were at School Action Plus, performed below their national counterparts in 2013
- The percentages for those pupils at School Action were higher than the national averages for 2013, where English and Maths are included in the results.
- It was the same pupils who achieved in all areas listed
- There were no 2014 national comparators for SEN or LAC at the time of writing this report.

School moves

3 pupils moved school 4 times during their secondary education; 5 additional pupils attended 2 secondary schools. In total 8 pupils – 19.5% - changed schools during their secondary education.

Exclusions September 2013 – July 2014

Fixed term exclusions	No. of exclusions	No. of pupils	Total No. of days
2013-14 Academic Year	118	44	288.5
2012- 13 Academic Year	136	47	282.5

- The number of pupils excluded in 2013-14 has reduced slightly, although the number of days they have been excluded for has risen by 6 days
- The Virtual School has asked for early notification of severe behaviour so that support can be provided or a transfer to alternative provision can be made rather than exclude.

Permanent exclusions	No. of Pupils
2013-14 Academic Year	0
2012- 13 Academic Year	0

- In 2014, 4 children had to be moved to alternative provisions for their own safety as well as the safety of others

Numbers of looked after children on roll at each type of school for the academic year 2013-14 in Sunderland, as judged by Ofsted by the end of May 2014.

Category of School / Academy	Good or Outstanding Schools	Schools requiring improvement	Schools requiring Special Measures
Secondary	83	16	1
Primary	105	13	2
Special	33		
PRU	14		
Free School		1	
Early Years	1		

- 88% of school age LAC attended good or outstanding schools at the time of analysis.
- Only 1.5% (4 children) were placed in one school which already required improvement and this was done without the knowledge, or involvement of the Virtual School.
- 11% were already in the schools prior to being placed in a category, or became a LAC after the judgement had been made. Conversations with the school improvement team led to no child being removed because of the Ofsted judgement.

Summary of numbers of pupils in Ofsted Rated Out of Area Schools, as at 31st May 2014:

Category of School / Academy	Outstanding Schools		Good Schools		Schools requiring improvement		Schools requiring Special Measures	
	Number of schools	No. of pupils	Number of schools	No. of pupils	Number of schools	No. of pupils	Number of schools	No. of pupils
Secondary	5	17	8	44	2	7		0
Primary	4		15		2			
Special	3							
PRU			1					
Residential	1		3					
Free School								
Early Years					1			

- 68 pupils were placed out of area during the academic year 2013-14, including those placed for adoption.
- 61 of these pupils attended good or outstanding schools.
- The remaining 7 pupils were placed in the schools before they were judged to require improvements. On reading the Ofsted reports, it was not considered necessary to move any of them.

Pupils not in Full Time Education

At the time of writing this report, we have 24 pupils who are attending alternative or part time education. 14 of these pupils are now in year 11, and 3 pupils are still in primary education. This includes:

Type of Provision	Full / Part time	Number of pupils
Home Tuition	Part Time	3
PRU	7 FT & 8 PT	15
Residential	Full time	1
Vocational	Full time	1
Hospital	Part time	1
Secure	Full time	1
Not engaging / waiting for Statement review		2

It is becoming increasingly challenging to find appropriate provisions to meet the complex needs of some of our older pupils

We work closely with the PRU in order to ensure that education provision is offered to those pupils who find it hard to engage. Alternative learning provision or vocational learning is often a solution.

Post-16

Year 12 Pupils

Out of the 42 pupils currently in this cohort, only 4 (9.5%) are NEET at the time of writing this report.

The whereabouts of 3 pupils, in terms of education, employment or training, was being investigated at the time of writing this report. One pupil is currently in custody and a further pupil is in hospital longer term.

The remaining 33 pupils (78.5%) are in employment, education or training.

Education	5 are taking A Levels in school 6 th forms 4 are taking BTEC qualifications at a College
Employment	0
Training	24 are doing a variety of vocational courses
Unknown	3 are currently unknown and follow up is taking place
NEET	4
Custody	1

Personal Education Plans

Much staff time is spent monitoring the timing of PEPs, ensuring they are written up and a copy is sent to us, and monitoring the quality of them. The percentage of up to date PEPs at any one time can vary considerably. In the 2013-14, percentages were lower than in the previous year, as follows:

Date	%	All current LAC	All eligible for a PEP (Aged between 4 - 16)	PEP in the last 12 months
25.09.2013	89.96%	421	259	233
30.09.2013	90.46%	477	283	256
07.10.2013	89.16%	477	286	255
11.10.2013	92.66%	478	286	265
12.11.2013	91.00%	487	300	273
22.11.2013	91.33%	491	300	274
20.12.2013	90.43%	489	303	274
07.01.2014	92.67%	489	300	278
17.01.2014	91.33%	497	300	274
24.01.2014	91.80%	497	305	280
31.01.2014	92.46%	499	305	282
07.02.2014	92.18%	497	307	283
14.02.2014	92.26%	510	310	286
21.02.2014	91.26%	503	309	282
28.02.2014	90.06%	499	312	281
07.03.2014	88.92%	494	316	281
14.03.2014	89.62%	499	318	285
21.03.2014	87.50%	490	320	280
28.03.2014	87.00%	489	323	281
04.04.2014	86.69%	490	323	280
09.05.2014	81.87%	506	331	271
16.05.2014	82.78%	503	331	274
06.06.2014	84.24%	505	330	278
16.06.2014	82.48%	508	331	273
20.06.2014	84.15%	519	328	276
27.06.2014	84.59%	520	331	280
04.07.2014	86.14%	517	333	286
11.07.2014	86.50%	516	326	282
21.07.2014	89.06%	522	329	293

The variability in the percentage of up to date PEPs is a result of:

- Increased numbers coming into care – an increase of 70 pupils during the year requiring PEPs - causing increased caseloads for all concerned
- The number of school moves requiring a PEP within the first 20 days of moving
- The lack of availability of social carers owing to ill health

Actions taken

As a team, we continue to remind schools that PEPs are due and try to establish the covering social workers so that they can take place.

The Virtual School has worked with Social Care to establish School Moves Protocol, in an attempt to limit the numbers of school moves.

The Virtual Head Teacher and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) are encouraging Social Care staff to double up on meetings so that the Care Plan or Looked After Review can be done at the same meeting as the PEP. This is an area we will be pursuing in the next Academic Year to limit the number of meetings professionals, carers and young people need to attend; and thereby increasing the numbers of PEPs conducted within statutory timescales.

Pupil Premium

In full consultation with all concerned, including head teachers, IROs and social workers, it was agreed, from April 2014, to retain £700 of the allocated £1900 per pupil to support:

- complementary and alternative provision
- temporary additional support in schools
- work with the most vulnerable (including those in Children's Homes, in non-mainstream provision and complex cases recent to care)
- professional development in supporting looked after children and young people with complex needs
- support for schools in achieving 'attachment friendly' status.

From September 2014 we have used retained pupil premium to employ 2 additional staff on a supply basis at £25 per hour (plus on-costs) to target:

- our current Year 11s who are still in Sunderland and capable of improving their grades at GCSE level – 11 pupils
- 5 pupils who are exhibiting challenging behaviour and require some additional support to engage in school

Celebration of Achievement

In July 2014 we held the second of our Celebrating Achievement events. One of our Primary schools kindly agreed to host this for us at their Sports Hall in Southwick. The Executive Director of People Services opened the proceedings and presented certificates. The Associate Director (Education) also addressed those present.

There were 4 categories of achievement:

- Progress and attainment
- Good school citizen
- Personal achievement
- Special recognition.

Category	Numbers of Pupils Gaining Certificates
Progress and attainment	18
Good school citizen	5
Personal achievement	17
Special recognition	14

In total, 54 pupils of all ages were nominated by teachers, social workers and staff at the Virtual School for awards.

3 Special Awards were given for outstanding actions or effort and staff came from schools in Sunderland and in other Local Authorities to either speak about their achievements or, in one case, read out a poem written by the child.

One of the Sunderland Behaviour Support Team spoke about her story of being brought up in care and her dreams. This accumulated in all present being invited to express their dreams on stars, with carers joining in the activity.

Two LAC in a Primary school sang a song with actions. One secondary boy, at very short notice, sang a duet with another member of our Behaviour Support Team. All displayed great talent.

This is an event we will repeat in 2015.