

## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD July 2010

### REPORT OF HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

#### CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE

#### 1. 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).

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The work of Children's Services Social Care in Sunderland is of critical importance in achieving good outcomes for the authority's Children Looked After; to ensure that each and every child looked after is able to achieve their full potential.
- 2.2 The National Indicator Set for local authorities includes several indicators by which Sunderland can measure its performance for its Children Looked After, and in doing so can flag areas for improvement.
- 2.3 The National Indicator set covers adoptions, stability of placements, reviews, care leavers, educational attainment, child protection and assessments relating to Children Looked After. Used locally, these give a picture of current performance in Sunderland and form the basis of this report.

#### 3. Context

- 3.1 Performance Information relates to the 12-month period ending May 2010.
- 3.2 Final performance information is submitted to the DfE annually in June, and thereafter follows a period of validation. The majority of figures provided in this report are therefore subject to finalisation and validation, which can cause small changes to data.
- 3.2 Where relevant, the performance of the previous period is inserted in brackets to provide comparative information. **In this case, the previous period reflects year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 (1/5/09 to 30/4/10).**
- 3.3 The Appendix provides historical/trend information about performance against key indicators.

#### 3. Summary of Key Points

- The numbers of CLA remains stable, with minimal change from the previous 12-month period.
- 34 of the 391 CLA had 3 or more placements in the period. This represents 8.7% against a 10% target.
- All children under 10 were in family placements
- 3548 reviews took place and 328 of them were in timescale. This represents a 94.3% outturn against a 100% target. All children contributed to their reviews.
- 7 children were privately fostered.
- Almost three-quarters of care leavers aged 19 were in suitable accommodation and almost three-quarters were in Education, Training or Employment.
- 15 of 21 children adopted were placed for adoption within 12-months of a best interest decision being made.
- Almost all CLA had a current Personal Education Plan (PEP) at the end of April 2010.
- 16 of 390 CLA were of an ethnic minority other than White British or White Irish.

### 3.0 Children Looked After

#### 3.1 CLA Placements

3.1.1 Within Sunderland the number of CLA has been stable. At the end of the 12-month period ending May 2010 there were:

- 391 CLA (67.9 per 10,000 children under 18) (↑4 from the previous period).

Of these:

- 18 (4.6%) CLA placed with **parents** (↑ 4 or 1-percentage point from the previous period).
- 45 (12.1%) CLA, excluding those placed with parents, in **residential care** (↑ 2 or 0.6-percentage points from previous period).
- 33 (10.3%) CLA for 6months+, excluding those placed with parents, placed for **adoption** (→ stable from the previous period).
- 287 (76.9%) CLA excluding those placed with parents in **foster care** (↓ 2 or 0.6 percentage points from the previous period).
- 164 **under 10** and in **family placements**, representing 100% of the under 10's (→ stable percentage from the previous period).
- 162 female CLA and 228 male CLA (1 unaccounted due to data anomaly between dates of data extraction). 1.41 males for every 1 female.

3.1.2 Focusing further on CLA in foster care, the largest placement group, the table below shows the details by placement type for those in Foster Care:

LAS Placement Type	Children	Percentage
Barnardos-Foster Family Vol Org-Placement	6	2.08 %
Foster Care-Approved Friend Carer (Temp)-Placement	4	1.38 %
Foster Care-Approved Relative Carer (Temp)-Placement	15	5.19 %
Foster Care Associates-Independent Fostering Organisation-Placement	1	0.35 %
Foster Care Solutions-Independent Fostering Organisation-Placement	2	0.69 %
Foster Care Worker-Foster Care-Placement	45	15.57 %
Foster Care Worker+-Foster Care-Placement	19	6.57 %
Foster Care Worker - Permanent-Foster Care-Placement	1	0.35 %
Fostering People-Independent Fostering Organisation-Placement	5	1.73 %
Fostering Solutions-Independent Fostering Organisation-Placement	1	0.35 %
Friend Carer-Temporary Registration (Reg 38)-Placement	2	0.69 %
Futures for Children-Independent Fostering Organisation-Placement	1	0.35 %
IPS Carer-Foster Care-Placement	7	2.42 %
Kingscare Fostering Agency-Independent Fostering Organisation-Placement	1	0.35 %
Permanent Fee Paid-Foster Care-Placement	20	6.92 %
Permanent Level 2-Foster Care-Placement	17	5.88 %
Permanent Level 3-Foster Care-Placement	2	0.69 %
Relative Carer-Temporary Registration (Reg 38)-Placement	10	3.46 %
South Tyneside Ssd-Foster Family Other Local Auth-Placement	1	0.35 %
St Cuthberts Care-Foster Family Vol Org-Placement	1	0.35 %
SWIS Fostercare-Independent Fostering Organisation-Placement	3	1.04 %
Temporary Level 2-Foster Care-Placement	114	39.45 %
Temporary Level 3-Foster Care-Placement	11	3.81 %
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>289</b>	
<b>Percent:</b>		<b>99.65 %</b>

\*2 extra foster care placements listed due to data anomalies between dates of when report run.

## 3.2 CLA Placement Stability

3.2.1 Although the numbers of CLA remains stable, there is movement within admissions and discharges that is not reflected in the above placement information. Activity in this area for the period is represented below and shows that **135 came into care** and **131 left care**, with 21 more boys leaving than girls, and 23 more boys being admitted:

	Admission			Left			Non-admission placements		
	Fem	Male	Total	Fem	Male	Total	Fem	Male	Total
Jun-09	2	5	7	4	3	7	7	6	13
Jul-09	8	4	12	5	4	9	7	12	19
Aug-09	7	4	11	6	7	13	4	8	12
Sep-09	5	9	14	5	10	15	6	14	20
Oct-09	4	8	12	8	10	18	6	12	18
Nov-09	7	6	13	2	9	11	9	10	19
Dec-09	4	11	15	2	6	8	1	18	19
Jan-09	4	5	9	1	6	7	12	10	22
Feb-09	2	4	6	4	6	10	9	11	20
Mar-09	6	10	16	4	6	10	12	8	20
Apr-09	4	8	12	11	6	17	3	13	16
May-09	3	5	8	3	3	6	16	8	24
	<b>56</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>222</b>

3.2.2 Stability is associated with better outcomes. Placement breakdown has a significant impact on children's well being and their friendships and continuity of access to other key services. Stability performance for the period is measured through National and Other Indicators, which are represented in table format (with historical comparative performance) in the Appendices and below:

- **NI62 (CLA with 3 or more moves during the period):** 34 of 391 CLA had 3 or more placements in the period. This represents 8.7% against a 10% target for 2010/2011 (↑ 0.2 percentage points from the previous period).
  - In comparison to the North East in 2009, Sunderland performed better at 10.2%, and also performed better than the England average as shown below:

NI 61	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
England	13.7%	12.9%	12.6%	11.8%	10.7%
North East	12.8%	12.3%	13.0%	10.9%	12.0%
Sunderland	7.4%	13.8%	12.8%	10.8%	10.2%

- **NI 63 (CLA aged under than 16 and in continuous care for over 2.5 years and in the same placement for more than 2 years):** 139 CLA fell into this category, with 92 of them in the same placement for 2 or more years. This represents 66.2% against a 72% for 2010/2011 (↓ 1.4 percentage points from the previous period). For those over 16 the percentage falls to 58.1%.
  - For 2009/2010 the figure was 68.4% Between 2008 and 2009 Sunderland's performance dropped – following the pattern experienced in the North East for 2008 and 2009. This is shown below:

NI 63	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
England	62.9%	63.6%	64.4%	65.3%	67.0%
North East	59.4%	61.5%	65.3%	67.4%	65.2%
Sunderland	64.2%	65.1%	69.7%	71.4%	67.3%

- Data gathered for the same period shows that of those placed 'in the area', 79% had stable placements for 2 years or more, compared to just 40.4% for those placed 'out of area'. This is reflected in the table below, together with further breakdowns by age, gender and BMI:

Measure	Percentage	Num
In area	79%	73 with stable placement from 92 placed in the area
Out of area	40.4%	19 with stable placement from 47 placed out of area
Over 15	58.1%	36 with stable placement from 62 over 15's
Female	68.1%	32 females with stable placement from a total of 47 females
Male	65.2%	60 males with with stable placement from a total of 92
BMI	66.6%	2 BMI with stable placements from a total of 3 BMI

- **Old PAF B79 (% of CLA (excluding with parent) in family placement aged between 10 and 15):** Of the 140 CLA aged at least 10 but under 16 (excluding those placed with parents), 120 were in family placements. This represented 86% against a 84% target for 2010/2011, (→ stable performance from the previous period).
- All children under 10 were in family placements (→ stable performance from the previous period).

3.2.3 In the year ending May 2010, 1 child moved school as a result of a placement move. Work is ongoing to ensure the accuracy of this figure in line with the Foster Care Inspection (paper-based).

### 3.3 Timeliness of CLA Reviews

3.3.1 **NI 66 / PAF C68 (percentage of CLA cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending May 2010 that were reviewed on time during the year):** 328 reviews were in timescale of the 348 that took place. This represents a 94.3% outturn against a 100% target for 2010/2011(↑ 1.2 percentage points from the previous period).

### 3.4 Participation in Reviews

3.4.1 **PAF C63 (Participation of CLA in Reviews):** All children contributed to each of their reviews in the period (→ stable performance since March 2007).

### 3.5 Private Fostering

3.5.1 After a detailed look at possible Private Fostering arrangements there are currently 7 children privately fostered (↑ 1 from the previous period). Regular monitoring is taking place surrounding this measure.

3.5.2 Foster Care Review details are being developed for inclusion in this report.

### 3.6 Leaving Care

3.6.1 **NI147 (former care leavers aged 19 in suitable accommodation):** of the 10 care leavers aged 19, 7 were in suitable accommodation. This represents 70% against a 90% target for 2010/2011, (↑ 3 percentage points from the previous period).

3.6.2 **NI 148/PAFA4 (Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training at the age of 19):** of the 10 care leavers aged 19, 7 were in contact with social care and 7 were in Education, Training or Employment. This represents 70% against a 67% target (↑ 3.3 percentage points from the previous period).

### 3.7 Missing CLA

3.7.1 **NI71 (CLA missing from home/care):** The self-assessment at the end of April 2010 is 12 from a possible 15. This is made up from the following procedures and systems that are in place:

- Thorough and systematic collection and analysis of data, which is monitored by appropriate body (3 Points).
- Analysis which is frequently updated, and reviewed by LSCB (3 Points).
- Protocols and procedures, alongside risk assessment tool (2 Points).

- Protocols in place and referrals made whenever a young person is found or presents themselves out of hours (2 Points).
- Well established prevention services that are well known to those who may wish to use or make referrals to them (2 Points).

3.7.2 Sunderland has shown continuous performance improvement during 2010. Target of 15 by the end of 2010/2011.

3.7.3 The following tables shows the number of instances of missing children up to March 2010 (latest available data from the Police):

<b>Summary of missing instances by month</b>	
Sept-09	60
Oct-09	41
Nov-09	51
Dec-09	41
Jan-10	42
Feb-10	42
Mar-10	50

### 3.8 Adoption

3.8.1 **NI61 (the percentage of children adopted who were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision being made):** 15 adopted children were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision from a possible of 21. This represents 71.4% against an 82% target for 2010/2011 (↓ 7.8 percentage points from the previous period).

3.8.2 **PAFC23 (percentage of CLA adopted):** in the period ending May 2010, 21 CLA were adopted and 10 had an Special Guidance Order (SGO) from the 339 CLA for over 6-months. This represents 9.1% against a 9% target for 2010/2011 (↓1 percentage points from the previous period).

3.8.3 33 CLA were **placed for adoption** at the end of period, 31 of who were under 10. This represents 8.4% (↓ 0.1 percentage points from the previous period). This has not changed significantly from previous reports.

### 3.9 Offending

3.9.1 PAFC18 (offending): Quarterly data is awaited in order to populate this section.

### 3.10 Strengths and Difficulties

3.10.1 **NI58 (strengths and difficulties):** The emotional and behavioural health of children and young people in care is assessed through the use of a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The latest available data for this quarterly indicator showed an average score of 13.2 by the end March 2010 (a score of over 16 is regarded as needing referral). Approximately 5 in 6 (78.6%) are now assessed compared to 1 in 6 (14.3%) at the end of 2009/10 (↑64.3 percentage points in the comparative period).

### 3.11 Education

3.11.1 98% of school-age CLA had a current PEP at the end of April, against a 100% target (→ stable performance from the previous period).  
\*number cannot be validated at current time.

### 3.12 Disabilities

3.12.1 115 disabled CLA and families were in receipt of direct payments compared to 3206 of the general population aged 0-17 years with disabilities. This represents 3.6% (→ stable performance from the previous period).

### 3.13 Ethnicity

3.13.1 16 of 390 of CLA were of an ethnic origin other than White British or White Irish. This represents 4.10% (↑ 0.5 percentage points from the previous period). Interestingly, when looking at CIN, the ethnicity rises to 5.42%. A percentage above 4.6% as found in Sunderland schools would reflect an over-representation of ethnic minorities. A more detailed breakdown is reflected below:

	<1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 15	16 to 17	Total
<b>Asian or Asian British Any Other Asian</b>					3	3
<b>Black or Black British Any Other Black</b>				1		1
<b>Mixed Any Other Mixed Background (White &amp; Any Other)</b>		3	1			4
<b>Mixed White &amp; Asian</b>	1	1	1		1	4
<b>Not Yet Defined</b>						1
<b>Other Ethnic Group</b>			1		1	2
<b>Undeclared/Unknown</b>	1					1
<b>White British</b>	27	60	68	142	77	374
<b>White Irish</b>				1		1



May-10

**Children Looked After and Care Leavers Performance against BVPI & PAF Indicators (LAC)**

		Current Status																		08/09 Outturn
Code	Indicator Description	May-10	09/10 Target	Banding	Achieved Target?	Distance From Target	Direction	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10		
PAF C63 4016SC	% of children and young people looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews	100.0%	100.0%	5	✓	0.0%	→	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
NI 66 PAF C68 2064SC	Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After from year to date	n/a	100.0%	5	✓	#VALUE!	→	98.0%	98.9%	97.7%	99.0%	98.0%	94.3%	95.5%	94.9%	94.6%	94.1%	n/a	98.5%	
NI 63 PAF D78 (SS (LAC)24) 2067SC	CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd	66.2%	74.0%	-	✗	-7.8%	↓	64.3%	66.9%	68.9%	69.0%	66.5%	67.5%	67.1%	66.7%	67.1%	67.1%	67.6%	67.3%	
CLA Personal Education Plans	% CLA who have a current PEP	98.0%	100.0%	-	✗	-2.0%	→	97.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	na
NI 58	The emotional and behavioural health of children and young people in care will be assessed through the use of a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The SDQ is a short behavioural screening questionnaire.	N/A	-	-	-	-	→	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	NA	NA	14.3%	NA	NA	13.2%	N/A	0.0%	
NI 61 SS (LAC) 18 2058SC	% of children adopted who were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision being made	71.4%	82.0%	-	✗	-10.6%	↓	77.0%	76.9%	78.6%	72.2%	82.2%	79.1%	76.9%	74.3%	76.7%	78.6%	79.2%	69.0%	
Children with Private Fostering arrangement	The number of children with Private Fostering arrangements	7	-	-	-	-	↑	5	5	5	7	7	7	4	0	6	7	6	6	