

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**23 September 2008**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING**

**CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide members with information about performance against key performance indicators and targets for children looked after.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The numbers in this report relate to the end of July 2008. Appendix 1 contains information about performance against key indicators and targets for children in care, and provides a basis for monitoring performance over time, and for comparison with performance nationally (banding).

**3. Summary of Key Points**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 provides information about performance against key indicators (Best Value and Performance Assessment Framework Indicators) for children in care and care leavers and shows how the Council's performance compares with local authorities nationally.
- 3.2 Areas of Good Performance
- The number of children in care has shown a downward trend since March 2005 and has been stable at around 400 for the last six months. At the end of July there were 403 children in care, or for every 10,000 children in Sunderland, around 70 of them are Looked After. A target of 390 has been set for March 2009. To achieve target the number of CLA must reduce by 13 between.
  - At the end of July 08, 38 children had been in care for 12 months or more and had experienced three or more placements during the year. These 38 children represent 9.4% of the looked after population at the end of July 08 (38 children/403 CLA). Included in this figure are children who go missing from care. If the missing episodes were excluded the percentage would fall by two percent or 8 children.

- At the end of July 08, 185 children under 16 had been in care for at least 2.5 years. Out of these 185 children 135 of them had been in the same placement continuously for 2 years, in other words 73%. Placement stability is closely associated with the achievement of good outcomes for children and so this area has a priority for improvement. The number of missing episodes has fallen in the last 2 years both in the number of children and the number of incidences.
- There are only a small number of care leavers in the cohort for the proportion of care leavers who were in education, employment or training on the 19th birthday. At the end of July 08 there at 7 care leavers, who have turned 19 years old in the period since April of these 4 of them are in full time education, employment or training, 5 were in contact and 5 had suitable accommodation.
- From April 08 to July 08, 12 children had permanent new family arrangements secured either through adoption (10) or special guardianship (2).
- At the end of July 08 all of children over 4 years communicated their views to meetings held to review their plans, either in person, in writing or through another person of their choice.

### 3.3 Priorities for Improvement

- In the year ending June 2008, 43 CLA offended from the 209 children looked after aged 10-17 years old who had been looked after for 1 or more years. Currently there are two groups involved in helping improve this indicator, the Children Looked After Operational Group and the Children Looked After Strategy Group. The latter group is currently working with an officer from the Audit Commission to identify action which can be taken to improve this indicator.
- There are 237 children with a current PEP from the 297 children eligible for PEP. This represents 79.8% (237/297) CLA with a current PEP. After the steep rise the measure has levelled at around 80%. This is an improvement but clearly needs to be much higher, and a number of actions have been identified to ensure that this happens.



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

		Current Status																		06 / 07 Outturn
Code	Indicator Description	Jul-08	07/08 Target	Banding	Achieve Target?	Distance From Target	Direction	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08		
PAF C23 Revised BVPI 163 2059SC LAA9 NIS DSO2	Annual Adoption Rate: Annual No. of Adoptions/Guardianship as % of CLA continuously for 6 months	8.2%	8.5%	5	✓	0.5%	↓	10.4%	9.4%	8.4%	8.5%	8.8%	8.2%	9.4%	9.2%	8.4	9.1%	8.1%	8.3%	
SS(LAC) 11	% of CLA aged <10 years placed for adoption	24.6%	13.5%	5	✓	5.6%	↑	15.6%	16.8%	18.0%	15.5%	16.6%	16.8%	16.3%	19.1%	22.8%	24.6%	24.6%	N/A	
PAF C24	Children Looked After, Absent from School (Annual: OC2)	N/A	12.0%	3	✗	1.0%	→	Sep '05 14.3%	Sep '06 13.0%	13.6% 13.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.0%	
PAF D35 2044SC	CLA LA for 4+ yrs, same place 2+ yrs - end pd (no longer a PAF Indicator)	49.7%	-	-	-	-	↓	54.8%	55.1%	55.3%	54.0%	53.5%	53.2%	54.8%	54.4%	54.4	53.0%	50.6%	54.4%	
PAF C63 4016SC	% of children and young people looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews	49.7%	100%	5	✓	0%	→	54.8%	55.1%	55.3%	54.0%	53.5%	53.2%	54.8%	54.4%	54.4	53.0%	50.6%	100%	
PAF C68 2064SC	Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After	100%	100%	5	✗	4.0%	↑	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	85.2%	
PAF D78 (SS (LAC) 24) 2067SC	CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs, same place 2+ yrs - end pd		72%	-	✓	0.1	↓	88.9%	89.0%	89.9%	92%	93.2%	93.8%	94.5%	96.0%	97	96.5%		71.0%	
CLA PEP	% CLA who have a current PEP	73.0%	100%	-	✗	27.1%	↑	64.5%	63.4%	62.4%	62.7%	61.9%	72.5%	73.2%	71.9%	74.1	75.1%	74.6%	N/A	