

**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 June 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.
- 3.3 This report is based on data from 1/7/09 to 30/6/10.
- 3.4 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> May 2010 (1/6/09 to 31/5/10).

**4. Summary of Key Points**

- The numbers of CLA remains stable, with minimal change from the previous 12-month period.
- 32 of the 390 CLA had 3 or more placements in the period. This represents 8.2% against a 10% target.
- All CLA under 10 were in family placements, and 99.5% of under 12's were in family placements.
- 348 reviews took place and 331 of them were in timescale. This represents a 95.1% outturn against a 100% target. All CLA contributed to their reviews.
- 7 CLA were privately fostered.
- Over two-thirds of care leavers aged 19 were in suitable accommodation, whilst less than half were in Education, Training or Employment.
- 12 of 20 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 June 2010.
- 14 of 390 CLA were of an ethnic minority other than White British or White Irish.

### 3.0 **Section A: Children Looked After**

#### 3.1 **CLA Placements**

3.1.1 Within Sunderland the number of CLA has been stable as shown in 4.1.2. As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 there were:

- 390 CLA (67.7 per 10,000 children under 18) (↓ 1 from previous period)

Of these:

- 13 (3.3%) CLA placed with **parents** (↓ 5 or 1-percentage point from the previous period).
- 47 (12.1%) CLA, excluding those placed with parents, in **residential care** (↑ 2 or 0 percentage points from previous period).
- 32 (8.2%) CLA for 6months+, excluding those placed with parents, placed for **adoption** (↓ 1 or 2.1 percentage points from the previous period).
- 291 (74.6%) CLA, excluding those placed with parents, in **foster care** (↑ 4 or 1.2 percentage points from the previous period).
- 162 **under 10** and in **family placements**, representing 100% of the under 10's (→ stable percentage from the previous period).
- 203 under 12 and in family placements, representing 99.5% of the under 12's.
- 160 female CLA and 230 male CLA. 1.4 males for every 1 female.

3.1.2 Focusing further on CLA in foster care, the largest placement group, the table below shows the providers of that foster care. Furthermore, it shows detail of those placed inside the LA Boundary and those placed outside the LA Boundary.

Foster Care Provider	Children	%	Breakdown of Placements		
Relative/Friend Carer	28	9.62%	Inside LA Boundary	22	78.6%
			Outside LA Boundary	6	21.4%
LA Provided Foster Care	238	81.79%	Inside LA Boundary	179	75.2%
			Outside LA Boundary	59	24.8%
Agency Provided Foster Care	25	8.59%	Inside LA Boundary	8	32%
			Outside LA Boundary	17	68%
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>100%</b>			

#### 3.2 **CLA Placement Stability**

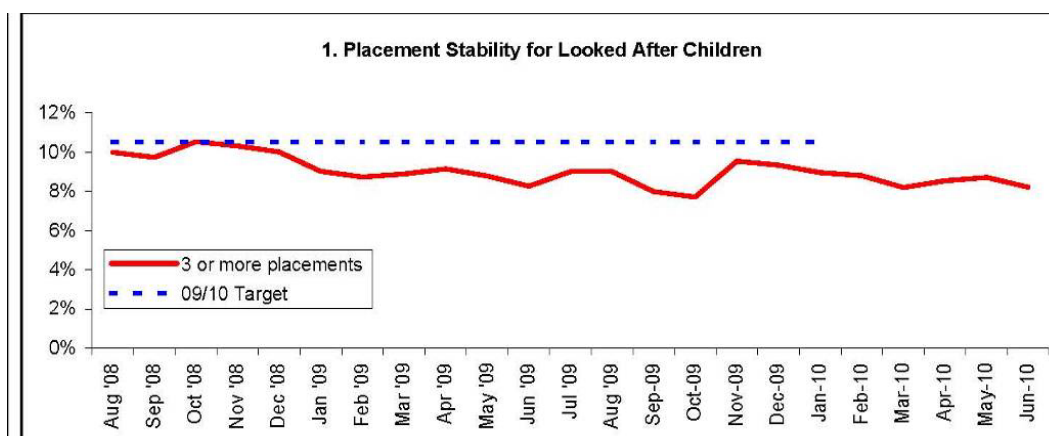
3.2.1 Although the numbers of CLA remains stable, there is movement within admissions and discharges that is not reflected in the above placement information. Activity in this area in the period is represented below and shows that 138 came into care and 134 left care, with 20 more boys leaving than girls, and 22 more boys being admitted:

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

<b>Jun-10</b>	4	6	<b>10</b>	6	4	<b>10</b>	11	16	<b>27</b>
	<b>58</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>237</b>

3.2.2 Stability is associated with better outcomes. Placement breakdown has a significant impact on children's well being, 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 1 and below:

- **NI62 (CLA with 3 or more moves during the period):** 32 of 390 CLA had 3 or more placements in the period. This represents 8.2% against a 10% target for 2010/2011(↓ 2 or 0.5 percentage points from the previous period).



- **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):** 141 CLA fell into this category, with 96 of them in the same placement for 2 or more years. This represents 68.1% against a 72% for 2010/2011(↑ 1.9 percentage points from the previous period). For those over 16 the percentage falls to 54.1%.
- **Old PAF B79 (% of CLA (exc with parent in family placement aged between 10 and 15):** Of the 143 CLA aged at least 10 but under 16 (excluding those placed with parents), 122 were in family placements. This represents 85% against an 84% target for 2010/2011(↓ 1 percentage point from the previous period).
- All 162 children under 10 were in family placements (→ stable performance from the previous period) and 99.5% of under 12's were in family placements.

3.2.3 In the year ending June 2010, 1 child moved school as a result of a placement move. (data validation by Services for Looked After Children).

### 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 June that were reviewed on time during the year):** 331 reviews were in timescale of the 348 that took place. This represents a 95.1% outturn against a 100% target for 2010/2011(↑ 0.8 percentage points from the previous period).

### 3.4 Participation in Reviews

3.4.1 **PAF C63 (Participation of CLA in Reviews):** 100% of children contributed to each of their reviews in the period (→ stable performance since March 2007).

3.4.2 Foster Care Review details are being developed for inclusion in this report. Anticipated September/October 2010.

### 3.5 Private Fostering

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

### 3.6 Leaving Care

- 3.6.1 **NI147 (former care leavers aged 19 in suitable accommodation):** of the 13 care leavers aged 19, 9 were in suitable accommodation. This represents 69% against a 90% target for 2010/2011 (↓ 1 percentage point from the previous period). This is the lowest outturn since the period ending June 2009.
- 3.6.2 **NI 148/PAFA4 (Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training at the age of 19):** of the 13 care leavers aged 19, 6 were in Education, Training or Employment. This represents 46% against a 67% target (↓ 24 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 June 2010 remains at 12 from a possible 15. To raise the rating, further work is needed in the areas of:
- Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways
  - Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals
  - Local procedures including effective needs assessment protocols.
- 3.8.2 The following tables shows the number of instances of missing children up to end June 2010:

Summary of missing instances by month	
Sept-09	60
Oct-09	41
Nov-09	51
Dec-09	41
Jan-10	42
Feb-10	42
Mar-10	50
Apr-10	58
May-10	73
Jun-10	68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>526</b>

### 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):** 12 adopted children were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision from a possible of 20. This represents 60% against an 82% target for 2010/2011 (↓ 11.4 percentage points from the previous period – the lowest recorded performance outturn to date).
- 3.8.2 **PAFC23 (annual No. of Adoptions as % of CLA continuously for 6 months):** in the period ending May 2010, 20 CLA were adopted and 12 had a Special Guardianship Order from the 339 CLA for over 6-months This represents 9.4% against a 9% target for 2010/2011 (↑ 0.3 percentage points from the previous period).
- 3.8.3 32 CLA were placed for adoption at the end of the period, 31 of who were under 10. This represents 96.9% of all CLA adoptions.

### 3.9 Offending

- 3.9.1 PAFC18 (Offending whilst looked after):** At the end of quarter Jan-Mar 2010 there were 194 CLA for 12months+, of which 18 of them were offenders. This gives a cumulative offending rate of 9.3% for CLA, compared to 7.68% for the general 10-17 population in Northumbria. Thus, there were 1.2 CLA Offenders for every 1 10-17 offenders at the end of the quarter, compared to 1.3 the previous quarter.

### 3.10 Strengths and Difficulties

- 3.10.1 NI58 (Emotional and Behavioural health of CLA):** 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 questionnaire is split into 5 sections (Emotional, Conduct, Hyperactivity, Peer Problems and Pro-social Behaviour), each with 25 questionnaires that are scored and summarised to produce an overall 'Difficulties Score'. A total Difficulty Score can range from 0 to 40, where 0-15 indicates no mental health concerns, 16-19 indicates likely mental health concerns, and 20-40 indicates high mental health concerns.
- 3.10.2 The latest available data for this quarterly indicator showed an average score of 14.1 for the end of June 2010 (no mental health concerns) (↑ 0.9 percentage points from the previous quarter).
- 3.10.3 Approximately 92.1% are now assessed compared to 78.6% at the end of March 2010 (↑ 13.5 percentage points from the previous period).

### 3.11 Education

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

### 3.12 Disabilities

- 3.12.1 116 disabled children and families were in receipt of direct payments compared to 3206 of the general population aged 0-17 years. This represents 3.6% (→ stable performance from previous period).

### 3.13 Ethnicity

- 3.13.1 14 of 390 CLA were of an ethnic origin other than White British or White Irish. This represents 3.59%, and represents a fall (↓) of 0.51 percentage points from the previous period ending May 2010. Interestingly, when looking at CIN, the ethnicity rises to 5.38%. 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
Asian or Asian British Any Other Asian					3	3
Black or Black British Any Other Black				1		1
Mixed Any Other Mixed Background (White & Any Other)		3	1			4
Mixed White & Asian	1	1	1		1	4
Other Ethnic Group			1		1	2
White British	26	65	63	145	76	375
White Irish				1		1