

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Title of Report: Corporate Parenting Performance Report, Quarter 1 2012/13

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ARE THERE ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES TO CURRENT POLICY?

Yes Please provide details:

No

Corporate Parenting Board, Performance Report, Quarter 1 2012/13

1. Purpose of the Report

This report informs members of Scrutiny of the current position of the Council as 'Corporate Parent', ensures that all members are aware of their role as "corporate parents", and provides an update on the current performance of the Council in meeting this responsibility. It also updates Scrutiny members on actions being taken to improve the outcomes for those children and young people to whom the Council has a parenting responsibility.

2. Reporting Structure

This report includes a Position Statement for Looked After Performance, the Looked After Children Performance Scorecard, an Outcome Statement, and the Looked After Children Dataset.

The structure for the report is:

- Position Statement, Page 1
- Looked After Children Performance Scorecard, Page 2
- Looked After Children Outcome Statement, Page 3
- Looked After Children Dataset - up to August 2012, Page 16

1 Corporate Parenting Board Report Quarter 1, 2012/13

1.1 Quarter 1 Position Statement

ALL 2011/12 END OF YEAR FIGURES ARE PROVISIONAL BEFORE PUBLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- One of the six former National Indicators for Looked After Children is within the locally set “Very Good” banding; one is banded as “Good”, one as “Acceptable”, two as “Ask Questions”, and one is in the “Investigate urgently” band.
- The fall in performance for some indicators into the lower bands is due to relatively poor performance in the small cohorts who qualify for those cumulative indicators in the first quarter of the year.
- Number of Looked After Children has increased from 388 in March 2012 to 396 at the end of June 2012.
- LAC short term stability indicator (number of moves in year) improved compared to the end of March 2012 (11.9% at the end of quarter 4 2011/12 and 10.4% at the end of quarter 1). This has remained in the ‘Very Good’ band.
- LAC long term stability indicator for Looked After Children (looked after for more than 2 and a half years, in the same placement for 2 years +) at 64.6% and has declined when compared to the same period in 2011/12 and the quarter 4 outturn. This indicator has deteriorated from the ‘Acceptable’ to ‘Ask Questions’ band.
- LAC reviews within timescales has declined from 95.4% at the end of March 2012 to 89.5% at the end of quarter 1 and is now in the ‘Acceptable’ band.
- Decrease in the percentage of adopted children who were placed for adoption within a year of agency decision in quarter 1 of 2012/13 to 57.1%, compared to 85.7% for the same period in 2011/12. This indicator is now in the ‘Investigate’ banding, based on a cohort of seven children.
- Average number of days in adoption process (Looked After to Placed for Adoption) is 614 in quarter 1. Although this above the National threshold of 639 days, performance is expected to decline throughout the year.
- Average number of days in the adoption family finding process (Placement Order to Matching date) is 261, declining performance on 2011/12. This is above the DfE National threshold of 213 days.
- Care Leavers in suitable accommodation has decreased in quarter 1 however this is in the ‘Good’ band. Care leavers in EET currently at 66.7% and remains within the ‘Ask Questions’ band.
- Data is not yet available for looked after offending in quarter 1, at quarter 4 this was 2.8, representing 16.1% of cohort.

2 - Looked After Children Scorecard

Position at Quarter 1, 2012/13 End of Year figures Provisional until publication by Dept. for Education

	Ref	Definition	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	3-Year Average	12/13 Target: ²		2012/13	Number of Children	Bandings	2010/11 National Rank	Projected 3-Year Average
			Outturn	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn		Target	In-line?	Q1				
Placements		Number of Looked After Children ^S	393	392	411	388	-	-	-	396	-	-	-	-
		Percentage of looked after children placed outside LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live ^S	-	2.0%	4.9%	7.0%	4.6%			7.3%	29/396		2	
	NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves ^S	10.2%	7.9%	10.2%	11.9%	10.0%			10.4%	41/396	Very Good	34	10.8%
	NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement ^S	67.3%	68.2%	72.5%	68.5%	69.7%			64.6%	73/113	Ask Questions	29	68.5%
Reviews	NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales ^C	96.8%	95.1%	97.2%	96.5%	96.3%	100%	N	89.5%	317/354	Acceptable	-	94.4%
Adoption	NI 61	Timeliness of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption ^C	67.6%	76.9%	45.8%	75.6%	66.1%	84%	N	57.1%	4/7	Investigate Urgently	93	72.0%
		Percentage of Children who Ceased to be Looked After who were Adopted ^C	26.8%	19.9%	15.1%	27.4%	20.8%	-	-	17.9%	7/39	-	8	21.1%
		Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days) ^C	789	717	686	687	695	639	N	614	-	-	-	680
		Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days) ^C	225	221	231	236	230	213	N	261	-	-	-	247
Care Leavers		The proportion of children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday ^C	69.7%	66.7%	54.5%	60.9%	60.7%	-	-	66.7%	10/15	-	85	60.7%
	NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation ^C	88%	89.3%	94.5%	97.5%	93.8%		-	91.7%	45	Good	68	94.6%
	NI 148	Care leavers in employment, education or training (percentage) ^C	73%	82.1%	61.1%	67.5%	70.2%		-	66.7%	45	Ask Questions	18	65.1%
		Percentage of 19 year old Care Leavers who are in Higher Education ^C	3.8%	3.4%	8.3%	7.5%	6.4%	-	-	8.3%		-	N/A	8.1%
Offending		Offences whilst looked after - ratio of the percentage of all children aged 10-17 given a final warning/reprimand or convicted ^C	2.6	1.2	2.0	2.8	-	-	-	N/A		-	-	-

Notes:

¹ Warning: Ofsted Profile rating based on latest available financial year data, highlighted ac/to four quartiles: upper, upper middle, lower middle, lower

² Targets: current performance compared to end of year targets has been traffic lighted: >5% below target is Not on Target (N); within 5% of target or better than target is On Target (Y)

^R Rolling year data

^S quarter end Snapshot data

^C Cumulative data for financial year

4.1 Achieving Positive Outcomes for Looked After Children and Young People

Introduction

This section of the report will analyse the information held by Sunderland City Council about the children for whom they act as Corporate Parent. It will show how the placement arrangements of children combine with their feelings and views in order to give an indication of the child's outcomes from the care system.

Information used in this analysis

The analysis will use the data collected via the Viewpoint system of questionnaires for looked after children, the indicator information shown in the Looked After Children Performance Scorecard, and the data held in the Looked After Children dataset.

It will also reference a national study on children's well-being carried out by the Children's Society and the University of York ("*The Good Childhood Report: A review of our Children's Well-being*", 2012). The Good Childhood report will give a benchmark of the qualitative questions asked of looked after children against their peers in the community.

Nationally published benchmarking information is included in the form of the 2010/11 DfE Adoption and Looked After Children Performance League Tables. The report also includes a section around the Adoption Performance Scorecard; an analysis of the regional results for the scorecard is also included. Additional outcome information around Children's health, offending, and education has also been included from the most recent data sources. In the case of the

education results, these are for the 2010/11 academic year.

What are Positive Outcomes?

The children who are looked after by Sunderland naturally range in their age and circumstances, and therefore it is not easy to define a positive outcome that is true for the whole population. The characteristics of currently looked after children will be assessed (3.2) as context for the outcome analysis. The importance of a child being placed close to their home has been identified as important to their outcomes, and the report will analyse several elements around this (3.3).

The recently released initial findings of the Office of the Children's Commissioner Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups and the Rochdale case have both highlighted concerns regarding looked after children, in particular those in residential homes outside of the area. Section 3.4 discusses the issues that this report raises for children who are placed away from Sunderland.

An analysis of the child's journey through the adoption process will form one section of this report (3.5), and on a longer term basis we will evaluate those children who have left the care system (3.8).

We can also look at the education results of older children as an indication of how being looked after affected their lives (3.6), as well as analysing the information that is collated by the Designated Nurse (3.9), and the offending data provided by the Youth Offending Service (3.7).

Throughout the report we will be using the responses that children and young people gave to the Viewpoint and Care Evaluation questionnaires in order to derive an indication of how well the care system within Sunderland is working to promote positive outcomes.

4.2 Currently Looked After Children Characteristics

More children are looked after than at the same point in March

More children in Foster Care, with a rise in the proportion with Local Authority approved carers, and a fall in those children with externally commissioned carers

More babies, and fewer toddlers, were in care in June 2012 than in June 2011

Less than half of children have been looked after for more than 2 years

More children have entered care, but are staying for shorter periods of time

Over eight out of ten children say that they are satisfied with their care, and are happy in their placement. All children say that they feel safe in their placement

At the end of June 2012 there were 396 children and young people looked after by Sunderland. This is an increase of eight children from the end of March 2012, and equal to 70.6 children for every 10,000 children in the general population of the city.

302 Children were placed with Foster Carers, an increase of six children on the figure for the end of March 2012. However, there are less children with externally commissioned carers, and more with relative/friend carers and with Sunderland approved foster carers.

Two extra children were in residential placements compared to the end of March, although the total of 47 includes one young person in a Secure Unit and one child in hospital.

The below table shows the placements of these children, split to identify if they were placed within or outside of the city boundary, and if they were in a placement commissioned by the local authority or from an external provider.

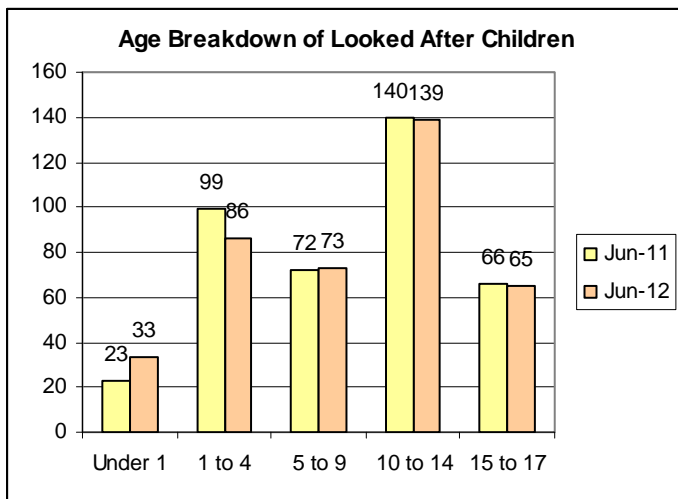
	Foster Placement Inside LA	Foster Placement Outside LA	Children's Home Inside LA	Children's Home Outside LA	Placed for Adoption	Placed with Parents	Independent Living
LA Adoption					13		
Adoption Org					5		
OLA Adopters					8		
LA Foster Care	176	72					
Relative/Friend Foster Care	15	9					
External Foster care	14	16					
LA Residential			31	1			
Private Residential				14			
Secure Residential				1			
Placed with Parents						16	
Independent Living							5
Total Children	205	97	31	16	26	16	5

A more detailed analysis of those children placed outside of Sunderland will be given in section 3.3 below.

Age and Length of Stay for Looked After Children

The average age of a looked after child was nine at the end of June 2012, although the breakdown of the age groups in the below chart shows the full picture.

Although there were four more looked after children in June 2011 than there were in 2012, the number of older children in each age group is very similar. In both years, just under 70% of looked after children were in the over five year old age groups. However, in 2012 a greater share of the remaining children were aged under the age of 1 year old than in 2011.



These figures on the age of children suggest that those infants who are taken into care are staying for shorter periods of time. This is supported by the lower proportions of children in care for over 2 years.

At the end of June 2012, less than half (47%) had been in care for more than 2 years, compared to more than 50% at the end of December 2011.

	Under 6 months	Under 2 years	2 to 4 years	Over 4 years	% Over 2 Years
Jun 2012	70	140	62	124	47.2%
Mar 2012	68	133	60	127	48.2%
Dec 2011	72	126	67	133	50.3%
2010	58	123	51	156	53.4%
2009	64	101	59	164	57.5%
2008	36	84	89	180	69.2%

This is a significant reduction on the same figure for 2008, where just under 70% had been looked after for more than 2 years. Although the total population has been similar over the last four years, the proportion of long term looked after has reduced year on year.

These figures suggest a shift to permanent care arrangements outside of the looked after system (e.g. adoption or residence orders), and the use of more short term foster care placements.

The “throughput” of children in the looked after system backs this up, with 46 children becoming looked after since April 2012 compared to 26 children in the same period in 2011. Overall, 434 children were looked after at some point during quarter 1 of 2011/12.

Ethnic Diversity of Looked After Children

At the end of June 2012 there were 19 children from Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) groups who were looked after by Sunderland. This accounts for 4.8% of the total number of looked after children. This is stable with the previous 12 months, where the highest number of children from BME groups was 21 (5.2%), and the lowest being 15 (4.0%).

The historic trend of looked after children from BME groups has been slightly higher than the current figure; between April 2007 and March 2012 there were 1022 children looked after by Sunderland, with 59 of these being from BME groups (or 5.8%).

The proportion of BME children who go on to be adopted has been small over the last five years; only 4 children (6.8% of all BME) have been adopted, compared to the proportion of non-BME children who were adopted (154 children or 16.2% of all non-BME children looked after during this period). The last BME child to be adopted was in April 2009, although there are currently 4 children from BME groups Placed from adoption (or 15% from the total of 26 children).

Children and Young People's Views

The Viewpoint survey has identified the satisfaction of children based on several dimensions. This has been aggregated to show the overall satisfaction – 81.4% of children identified themselves as satisfied in quarter 1 of 2012/13.

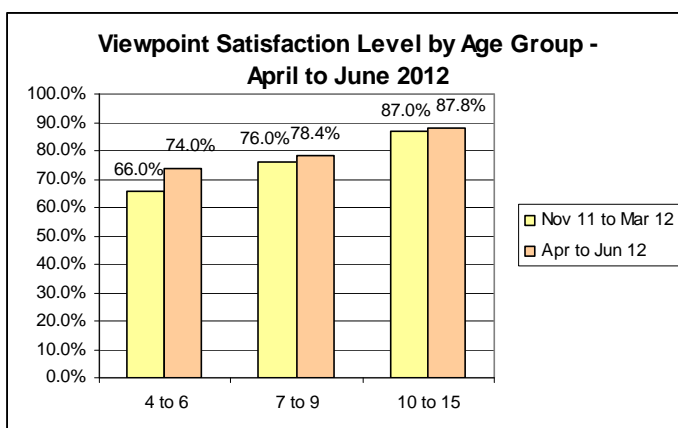
This is similar to the overall population figures, where children's well-being was measured at "between 70 and 80 percent" (*Children's Society, 2012*), and is also an increase on the 80% satisfaction level for quarter 4 of 2011/12.

- Satisfaction amongst 10 to 15 year old looked after children has risen slightly from 87% to 87.8%;
- Satisfaction amongst 7 to 9 year olds has risen from 76% to 78.4%;
- Satisfaction amongst 4 to 6 year olds has risen from 66% to 74%.

Although these show quite large changes for the younger age groups, the cohort for these groups is quite small, and therefore the changes do not represent a significant amount of children. However, the largest age group of children using the Viewpoint system are the 10 to 15 year olds, and the increase in the overall satisfaction level for these children can be seen as a positive measure.

Within this satisfaction total, there are key figures that show what children think about their placements and their experience of the looked after system. For example, 100% of young people feel "safe" in their placement, an increase on the 91% figure for the last reporting period. A comparable figure from the general population is that 92% of children agreed when asked if they felt safe at home (*Children's Society, 2012*).

As well as "overall satisfaction" and "safety", children are asked whether they are "ok" in their placement (for 10-15 year olds this is replaced with a question asking if they feel "settled"). In the older age group this returns a figure slightly less than the "satisfaction" score at 80% answering "yes". However for the younger age groups the scores are significantly higher – with 4 to 6 year olds reporting 100% "yes" and 7 to 9 year olds reporting 90% "yes". This suggests that the elements of their care that they are not satisfied with are mostly not associated with where they are living.



The satisfaction levels have also increased for each of the identified agree groups:



4.3 Children Placed Away from Sunderland

11 more Foster Carers were available this year compared to last

A quarter of Foster Carers live outside of Sunderland

29 Children live more than 20 miles away from their home, more than in the past

Over one in ten placements were made away from Sunderland due to there being no available placement in the city

Number of nights that children spent in external residential settings increased by over 60% in the last year

Placements Inside / Outside the City Boundary

Since April 2011 each local authority has had a duty to secure wherever is “reasonably practicable”, a placement for each looked after child within the boundaries of the authority’s area. A placement within the City is recognised as not always being within the best interests of the child, and therefore not “reasonably practicable”. This means that specialist placements, which meet the most complex needs for children looked after by Sunderland, are used within the confines of the “sufficiency duty”, despite them being located outside of the city. However, there is now a focus from the DfE on those placements that result in children living more than 20 miles away from their home address. These placements, despite sometimes not failing the sufficiency duty, are recognised as potentially more challenging for the

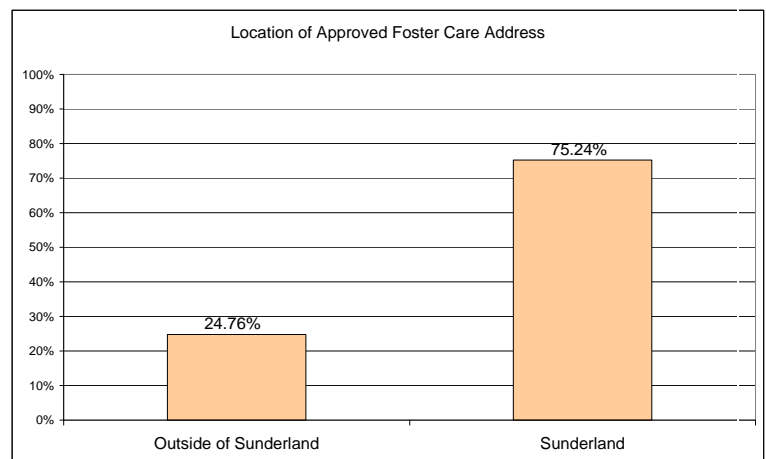
child or young person than those closer to home.

The below section will explore some of the issues for those children who either:

- Are placed outside of the city boundary, due to there being insufficient placements within the city;
- Are placed over 20 miles away from their home address;
- Are placed in residential placements offered by external providers.

Foster Care capacity

As at the end of March 2012 there were 382 foster care placements available from the 205 Sunderland approved foster carers. 70% of these places were filled by the 267 children in foster care on that night. However, there were 399 children in foster care over the course of the 2011/12 year, resulting in 51 instances where “exemptions” had to be applied due to foster carers looking after three or more children who were not part of the same sibling group. The number of foster carers offering placements increased by 11 in the year to March 2012 with 32 new carers being approved and 21 carers being deregistered.



Of the placements available from Sunderland approved foster carers, 75.2% of these were within the city boundary, leaving almost a quarter of carers who look after Sunderland children outside of the city.

This suggests that although the capacity of foster carers is often enough to accommodate those children looked after; it will not always be possible to accommodate them within the city boundaries.

This is also the case when fostering placements have been commissioned from Independent Fostering Agencies for example in 2011/12 there were 30 instances where children were placed with IFA Foster Carers and 70% of these were outside of the city boundary.

Children placed more than 20 miles from their home address

A key measure for placement location is whether looked after children were placed within 20 miles of their home address. This not only identifies if the authority is meeting the “sufficiency duty”, but also points towards the impact on the lives of children who are placed away from their home.

In 2008/09 and 2009/10 just 2% of children were placed more than 20 mile away from home. However, the same measure at the end of June 2012 shows that 7.3%, or 29 children, are living more than 20 miles from home. This is indicative of the rising trend since 2010, with a three year average at the end of 2011/12 of 4.6%.

The below map plots the placements for these 29 children, and shows the spread throughout England and Scotland.

Children placed more than 20 Miles from Home – June 2012



However, it is important to look deeper than the headline indicator, as in most instances those children who are placed more than 20 miles from home are in that placement for a specific purpose rather than simply a lack of capacity within the local area. For example, for the 29 children who were placed at the end of June:

- 11 children were Placed for Adoption, pointing to a positive outcome for the child which may justify the distance from home;
- 10 children were placed in residential placements outside of the region, either due to their complex needs or due to the risks posed to their safety should they remain in Sunderland. This also points to a justification based upon the lack of

specialist residential placements (eg secure centres) within Sunderland;

- 8 children were in foster placements that were more than 20 miles from home; 5 of these were in the Teesside area, while the remaining three were placed with relatives; one in Scotland, and two in the West Midlands.

In terms of the “sufficiency duty”, the number of these children who were either placed for adoption, placed in specialist residential locations, or who were placed for fostering with relatives, means that at the end of June there were only five children who could be considered as being placed away from home due to a lack of available carers.

These five children were all placed in the Teesside area (Hartlepool, Darlington, Billingham, and Stockton). These placements were just outside of the 20 mile radius, with the farthest being 25 miles. However, all of the children in the placements were from the north of the City, and the placements would be considered within the 20 mile zone should the children’s home address have been in the south of Sunderland. Four of the children were in externally commissioned foster placements, while one was from a Sunderland approved foster carer.

The recent publicity around the Rochdale case has brought a significant focus on those children placed from Sunderland in the Lancashire area. At the end of June only one child was placed in that region, with this being a residential placement in the north of Lancashire, 25 miles away from Rochdale. This child was moved from a residential placement in Rochdale during April 2012.

Over Capacity – Failing to Meet the Sufficiency Duty

As well as the above information which gives an indication on how far Sunderland meets the “sufficiency duty”, there are also specific mechanisms in place to record when placements have been made that do not meet the duty. This differentiates those placements that have been made outside of the city “on request”, due to the child’s individual circumstances and those instances where a child could not be placed within the city due to a lack of capacity.

The below table shows that Sunderland have been unable to source an appropriate placement within the city on 56 occasions since April 2011. This accounts for 9.2% of all placements made during this period. Quarter 1 of 2012/13 has seen less placements made than in previous quarters, and as such has resulted in a higher proportion of total placements failing the sufficiency duty. However the total number of children who this has affected during the last quarter is less than the quarter 2 and quarter 3 periods of 2011/12.

Year		Placed for Adoption	Sunderland Foster Carer	External Foster Carer	Secure Unit	External Residential	Total Children	% of Total Placements
2011/12	Q1	0	4	4	0	1	9	7.5%
2011/12	Q2	0	8	1	0	5	14	11.7%
2011/12	Q3	5	3	3	0	3	14	11.5%
2011/12	Q4	0	2	0	1	2	5	3.8%
2012/13	Q1	0	10	0	1	2	13	12.1%

Just under half of children who can’t be placed within the city due to a lack of appropriate placements are placed with Sunderland foster carers outside of the area. This points to the 25% of foster carer resource that is outside of the city boundary,

and highlights the need for more recruitment of foster carers who live in Sunderland. However, the fact that these children were able to be placed with Sunderland approved carers, rather than with IFA carers, suggests that the recruitment of foster carers from outside of Sunderland is reducing the need to commission foster placements from external organisations.

External Residential Care Providers

The number of children in externally provided residential settings has increased from 6 to 14 children in the twelve months to the end of June 2012. However, a more comprehensive view of this increase is shown in the table opposite. This shows the number of nights spent in this type of placement in each of the last two years, including quarter one of 2012/13 (Note: this total is for the number of nights that covers the main placement for looked after children, and does not take into account any holiday placements, or where the child has a joint placement. This does also not include any children looked after under an agreed series of Short Breaks).

Although Sunderland regularly has less externally commissioned residential placements at any one point in time than other local authorities in the region, no overall number of nights comparison has been conducted to confirm this judgement. However, a regional sharing of data has recently been conducted, and the results of this will shortly be available. This will potentially show the total spend on external residential care across the local authorities in the North East.

Number of Nights in External Residential Placement for Looked After Children			
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
ALAN SHEARER SHORT BREAK CENT	42	80	0
ASH HOUSE	580	328	0
BENECARE LTD	108	0	0
CARES LTD	260	244	0
CONTINUUM CARE LTD	30	369	254
EAST FARM HOUSE	0	4	0
EVOLUTION CHILDREN'S SERVICES	6	616	180
FUTURE IN MIND	0	212	90
GREEN CORNS	0	88	24
HOLLY BANK SCHOOL	0	119	0
HUNTERCOMBE HOUSE	0	97	31
KESTREL HOUSE	197	0	0
NORTHERN COUNTIES SCHOOL	686	319	90
ORACLE CARE LTD	167	365	90
POSITIVE PATHWAYS LTD	182	0	0
RADICAL SERVICES	93	213	112
RED BANK COMMUNITY HOME	0	197	90
UNDERLEY HALL SCHOOL	0	187	74
WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES	285	850	230
Total Nights in Year	2636	4288	1265

The above table shows that there was an increase of 1652 nights in external residential care from 2010/11 to 2011/12, a rise of 63%. This increase has continued into quarter 1 of 2012/13, with 1265 nights accounting for 30% of the previous year's total.

Although a range of residential placement providers has been used over the last two years, it is clear from the table that most of these providers are utilised for short term placements. In 2011/12 only four from the sixteen providers were used for more than 365 nights. In quarter 1 2012/13 however eight from the 11 utilised providers had children in care for more than the 90 available nights in the quarter.

At the end of June 2012, the most utilised provider was Continuum Care, with three children in placement. Two children were in placement with each of Wilderness Experiences, Radical Services, and Evolution Children's Services. Only one child who was placed in an external residential setting was placed there due to no suitable placement being available within Sunderland, with the remainder being placed there to mitigate the risk to themselves or others, or in order to receive specialist services.



4.4 Keeping Looked After Children Safe

Six young women currently placed out of the city in external residential placements

Two young women placed out of area due to concerns about sexual exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation Concerns can now be recorded as part of a contact on CCM

The verdict in the Rochdale child sexual exploitation case in May this year and the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, have both highlighted the issue of sexual exploitation and particularly regarding children and young people in care.

In Sunderland, six young females are currently placed in external placements outside of the city boundary. A recent analysis by Children's Services Commissioning Team highlighted that two of the young women were placed out of the area due to a risk of sexual exploitation.

The OCC Inquiry made a call for evidence to local authorities to provide data about children and young people to identify indicators of risk of sexual exploitation. The data included children missing from school or care, young people accommodated in hostels, foyers, bed and breakfasts and children who have offended.

Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education asked the OCC to provide an accelerated report before the full data analysis has taken place with a focus on the risks facing children living in children's homes. The report was

published on 3 July with the Government's response to its recommendations, which were accepted in full. In June the Joint All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Report into Children who Go Missing from Care was also published.

As a result of the reports the Government announced urgent reforms to protect children in residential care homes from sexual exploitation and to overhaul the wider system. The measures include more robust checks before children are placed in homes outside of their home area; overhauling the quality and transparency of data; and reviewing all aspects of the quality and effectiveness of children's homes. An interim report will be published in September and a final report in Autumn 2013 by the OCC.

The call for data from the OCC Inquiry highlighted that while information regarding child sexual exploitation concerns are known to workers in Sunderland and may be recorded on CCM, there was difficulty in extracting this data from the system.

Progress has been made since April as child sexual exploitation concerns can now be recorded as part of a contact. As the majority of concerns have been recorded against Children in Need or children not currently open to social care, further work is needed to record concerns regarding looked after children and care leavers; currently these young people are identified through intelligence sharing.

The Inquiry also highlighted issues regarding children going missing from care and differences in data between Local Authorities and Police. In Sunderland missing episodes over 24 hours are recorded as a change in placement, however, due to changes in available police data, it is not possible to ascertain whether a missing episode from the police lasts more than 24 hours. Differences in historical data were due to differences in police and Children's Services procedures

regarding the time when a missing episode ends.

An example of this is the data from July 2011. The police identified 43 missing episodes for looked after children, 7 of which lasted more than 24 hours. Children's Services recorded three episodes that lasted more than 24 hours.

As police data is no longer available for all missing episodes, processes are being put in place to collate missing episode information from a number of sources and will identify any gaps in current data.

4.5 Adopted from the Care of the Local Authority

Slight slow down in adoptions in the last three months; seven children adopted compared to eight in the same period last year

“Whole Journey” to Adoption was the longest in the North East during April 2008 to March 2011.

“Whole Journey” expected to get longer in 2012/13, and the average to remain the same as last year.

Only one local authority in the North East had a longer “Family Finding” average length than Sunderland in 2008 to 2011.

Unlikely to meet 2013 Performance thresholds for both the “Whole Journey” and “Family Finding”

39 Children left the care of the local authority between April 2012 and June 2012. The circumstances of the child dictate what would be the most appropriate outcome, however the best alternative to returning the child to the care of their birth family would be to seek a permanent / adoption placement.

Adoption Performance Scorecard

The Department for Education recently issued an Adoption Performance Scorecard to each local authority. This scorecard introduced new indicators which aim to show more outcome focused measures of the adoption process, and add context to the timescales. These indicators focus on the “whole journey” and the “Family Finding” process, and will replace National Indicator 61 which set a target of 12 months for the time period between Adoption being agreed as the

best option for the child, and placing the child with the adoptive family.

Adoption April to June 2012/13

Seven children were adopted from care between April and June 2012, representing 17.9% of the total number of children who were discharged, compared to 27.4% of the total in the 2011/12 year. This is a slight slow down in the number and proportion of adoptions, and is lower than the previous three years average of 21% from 2008/09. However, the total number is similar to 2011/12, when eight children were adopted during the first quarter of the year.

Although only 57% of children had to wait less than 12 months to be placed with their adoptive family once the decision that adoption was in their best interest was made, this represents four out of the seven children who were adopted. The remaining three children in quarter 1, who had to wait more than twelve months to be placed for adoption is representative of the 12 children who and to wait more than twelve months in 2011/12. This indicator is therefore in line with the performance for last year when the outturn was 75.6%.

“The Whole Journey” - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (days)

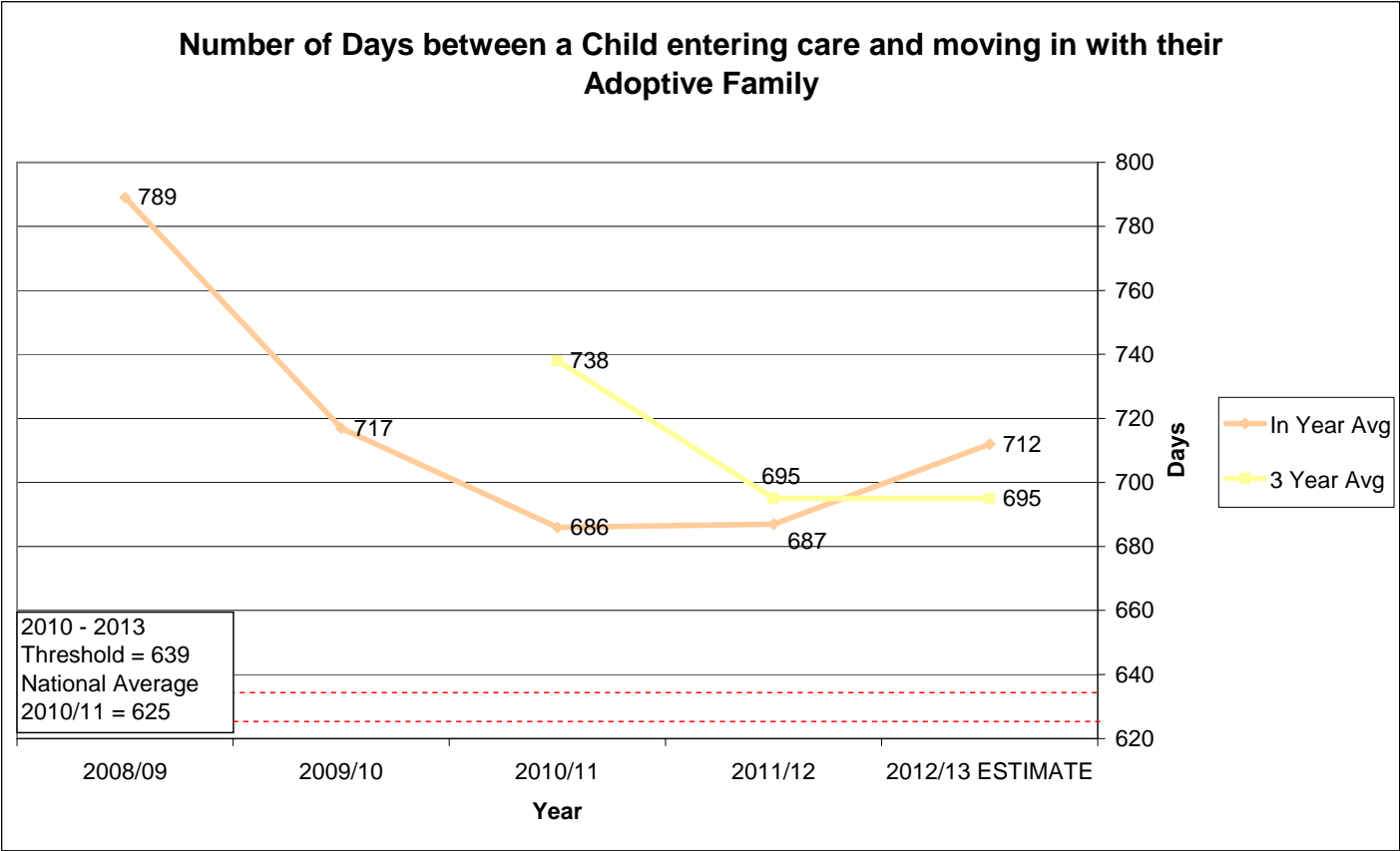
The average number of days between entering care and being placed for adoption remained stable in Sunderland at 687 days for 2011/12. The three year average for this measure was 695 days, an improvement on the 2010/11 three year average of 738 days. The regional comparison for the 2010/11 scorecard shows that Sunderland had the longest “whole journey” in the region for the three years to that point. The DfE expects each local authority to have met the threshold of 639 days by the end of 2012/13, and the below table shows the difference for each local authority to this measure.

Whole Journey - Distance from 639 day Threshold for 2008 - 2011	
	Distance from threshold
Hartlepool	-181
Redcar & Cleveland	-118
Gateshead	-111
Newcastle	-95
Middlesbrough	-87
North Tyneside	-78
Durham	-64
South Tyneside	-62
Northumberland	-41
Darlington	-23
Stockton	+4
Sunderland	+99

For the seven children who have been adopted in 2012/13 so far, the “whole journey” timescale average is 614 days. Although this represents improved performance, the likelihood of this being maintained is low, with the average journey for those children currently placed for adoption standing at 739 days.

The below chart shows that if the children who are currently placed for adoption all have their adoption order granted before April 2013, then the average number of days for the whole journey indicator will be 712 days. The projected 2010-13 average for Sunderland will be therefore be 695 days, level with the 2009-12 average and above the 639 day threshold.

Sunderland was only one of two local authorities in the region not to have met the threshold.



“Family Finding” - Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)

The time taken for matching a child to an adoptive family after the court has granted a Placement Order for the child remained relatively stable over the last four years, and there was a slight lengthening of the process in 2011/12.

The 2008 – 2011 three year average of 226 days was only 13 days above the expected threshold, however the below table shows that most other local authorities in the region met and exceeded this threshold.

Family Finding - Distance from 213 day Threshold for 2008 - 2011	
LA	Distance from threshold
South Tyneside	-153
Gateshead	-138
Hartlepool	-128
Newcastle	-123
Northumberland	-95
Middlesbrough	-58
Durham	-56
North Tyneside	-44
Redcar & Cleveland	-29
Sunderland	+13
Stockton	+45
Darlington	-

Although Darlington were unable to provide any data for this indicator, Sunderland is, as with the “Whole Journey” indicator, one of only two local authorities not to have met the threshold in 2008-11.

Although the DFE threshold for 2010-13 is only 16 days shorter than the

2011/12 outturn, there would need to be a sharp reduction in the process length to 172 days in order to meet the threshold. Although this seems a challenging target, the current national average rate is similar to this at 171 days.

Family Finding Timescale		
	In Year Avg	3 Year Avg
2012/13	172*	213
2011/12	236	229
2010/11	231	226
2009/10	221	-
2008/09	225	-
*Required to achieve 213 days threshold		

However, the seven children who have been adopted in the year so far have an average of 261 days for the family finding process, and therefore this indicator is expected to move away from the threshold in 2012/13.

4.5.1 A Child's Adoption Journey: Analysis of the timeline

On average, around half of a child's journey to adoption is before adoption is decided to be in their best interest

Children take three and a half times longer to match with adopters after their second birthday

Over half of children adopted spent over a year in care before adoption was decided to be in their best interests

Half of children adopted were part of sibling groups; however on average this did not affect their journey length

Despite improvements, "Whole Journey" length is unlikely to meet threshold until at least 2015/16

The thresholds for timeliness that were set out in the National Adoption Strategy indicate two key measurements. The first of these is the time taken in Family Finding, and the second being the time taken from a child first entering care to the date that they were placed with their adoptive family. This analysis will break down that "Whole Journey" time for the children who have been adopted in Sunderland, and analyse the themes behind each of the stages in the adoption process.

In conducting this analysis the following dates were used as milestones in each child's adoption journey, and are presented in the associated tables, charts, and commentary:

- Date that the child entered care, for the period of care that ended

with the Adoption Order being granted

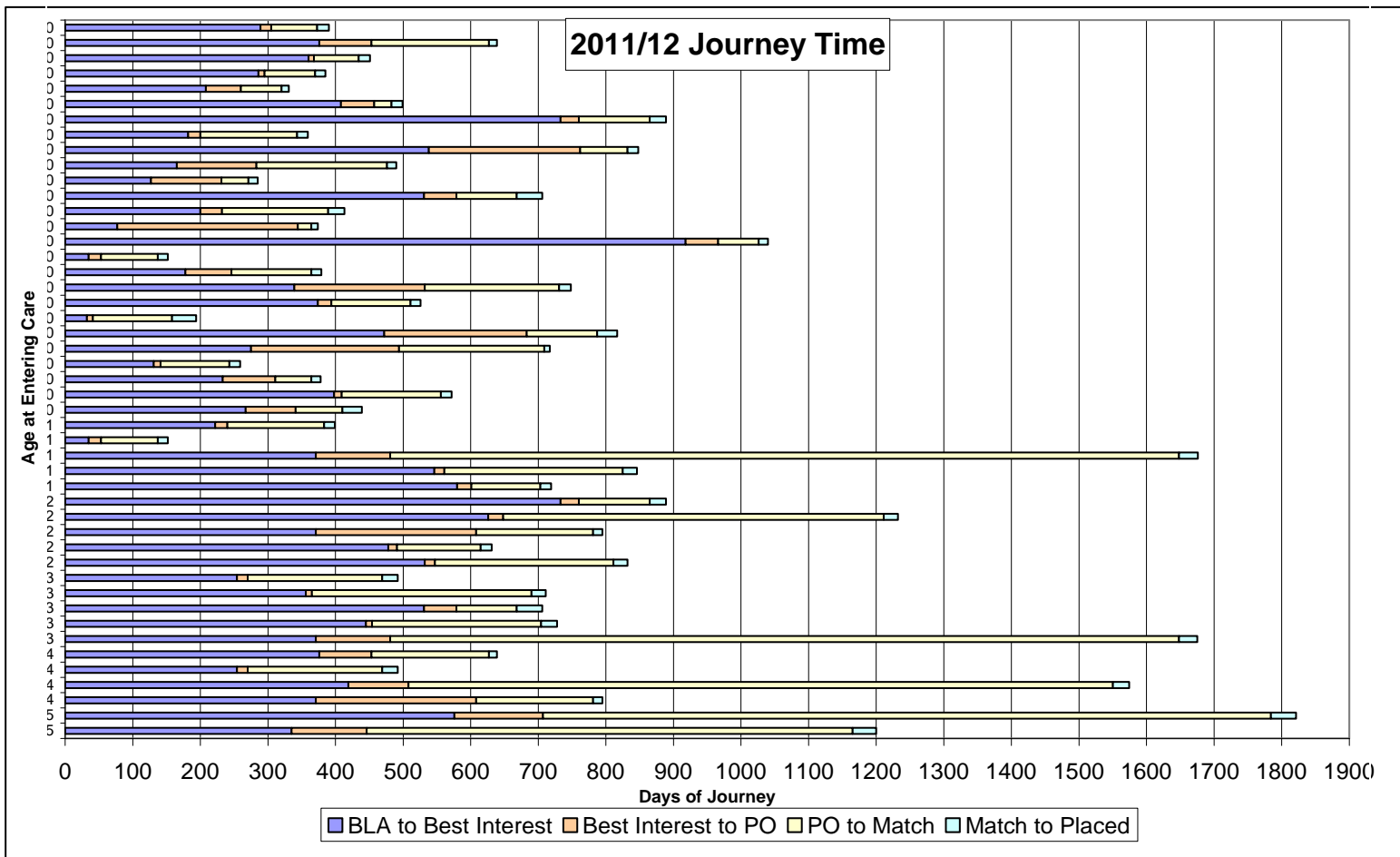
- Date of the "Best Interest" decision, when Adoption became the plan for the child
- Date that a Placement Order / Freeing Order was granted by the court
- Date of Matching the child to potential adopters
- Date that the child was Placed for Adoption with those potential adopters (children who were never placed for adoption prior to an adoption order being granted are excluded from this analysis)

The date of a child's "Permanence Decision Review" was examined for potential inclusion in the timeline, however it was discovered that the process for recording this electronically had not been robustly followed, and that not enough children had this date for it to be included in the analysis.

Whole Journey Timeline 2009-12

The table below shows the breakdown of the whole journey length in each of the years that will make up the three year average up to the end of March 2012.

Whole Journey Breakdown Averages				
Period	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	3-Year Average
Looked After to Best Interest	391	282	360	349
Best Interest to Order	89	91	71	81
Order to Match	221	293	236	246
Match to Place	16	20	20	19
Whole Journey	717	686	687	695



Although the annual averages show that the critical periods for the adoption journey are the time before a child is made subject to a plan, and the time taken to find matching adopters for the child, the yearly averages do not tell the whole story for the children in Sunderland who have been adopted. It is clear that by analysing each child's journey that a greater understanding of how this journey is made up is dependent on the circumstances of the individual child.

2011/12 Adoption Journey Chart

The above chart shows a bar for each child who was adopted in 2011/12. This bar is made up of several sections, each of them representing a stage in the adoption journey, starting with the date that they became looked after and ending with the date that they were placed for adoption. The child's age at the point that they entered care is shown on the x-axis of the chart.

The chart makes several things clear. Firstly, those children who are over two year old at the point where the decision is made that adoption is in their best interest are much harder to match with potential adopters. The average matching time for these older children was 370 days, compared to an average of 107 days for those with a "Best Interest" decision made before their second birthday.

Secondly, the chart shows that the time from a child entering care to the best interest decision is key for the child's journey to adoption being "complete" within the threshold. Of the 49 children who were adopted during the year, only 23 of them had the best interest decision made within their first year of being looked after. A further 23 children had that decision made in their second year, while three had been in care for more than three years before the best interest decision was made.

Best Interest Decision Influence on Journey		
Time to Best Interest Decision	All 2011/12 Children	2011/12 Children Excluding Long Matching Times
Under 1 Year	443	409
Over 1 Year	921	743

The average journey length for those children whose decision was within a year was 443 days, compared to 921 days for those where a decision was not made within a year. Even if the older children, whose long matching time slightly distorts this figure, are excluded from the calculation, the whole journey times are 409 days for those under a year and 743 days for those over a year.

Impact of Sibling Groups on Journey Length

There were 24 children who were adopted with a sibling in 2011/12; this accounted for almost half of all children adopted in the year. However the journey length for these children shows no significant difference to those children who were adopted as a single child.

The key points for those adopted sibling groups are that:

- The family finding process for matching sibling groups was 235 days compared to 237 days for single children
- The whole journey length for sibling groups was less than average at 666 days in 2011/12
- Only one of the 12 sibling groups fell into the lengthy family finding category

The impact of sibling groups on the journey length was therefore negligible

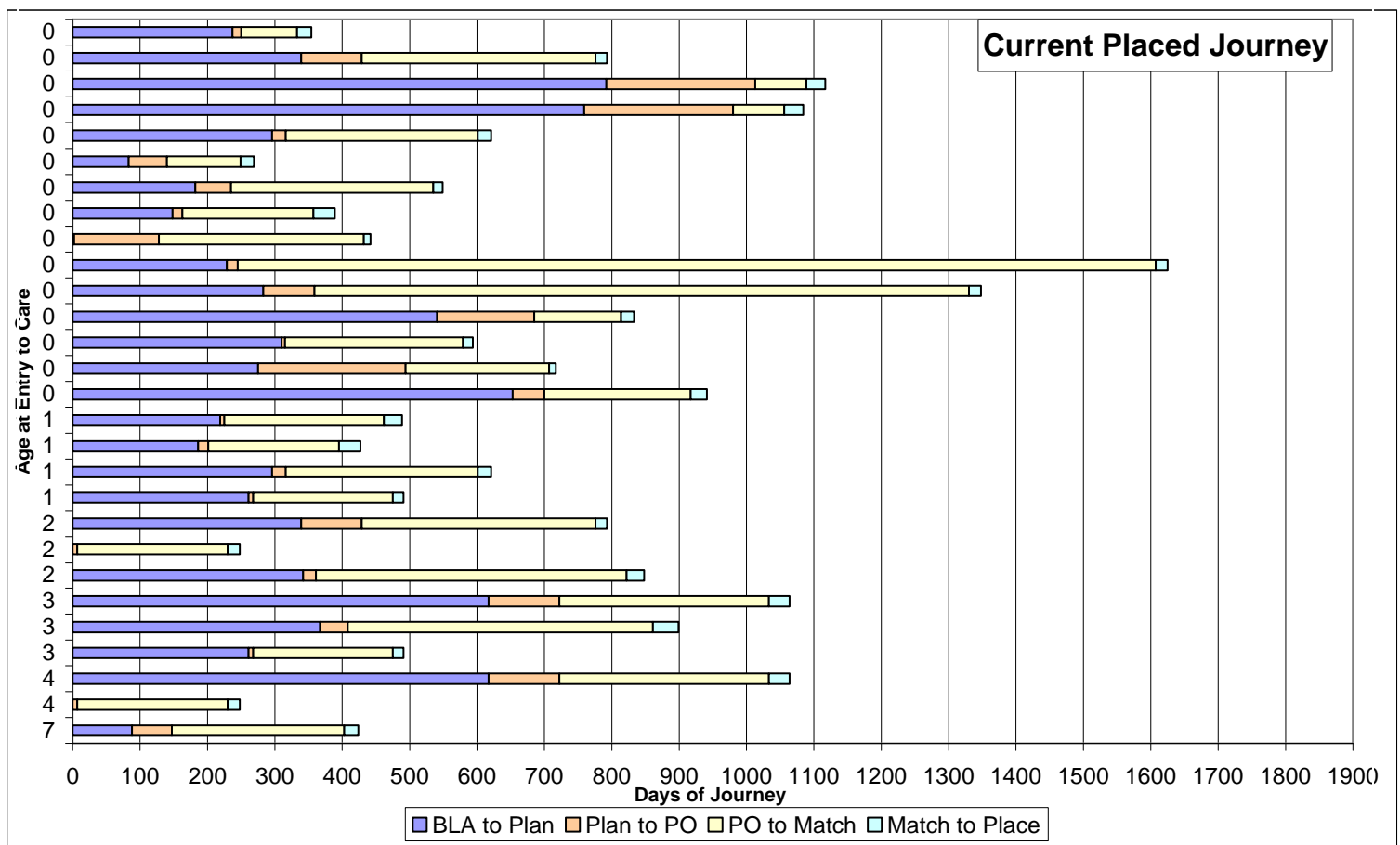
in 2011/12, and it is other issues such as the age of the children at both the time of entry to care and at the time when adoption became the plan, which are the most crucial influencing factors on these figures.

Sunderland's Adoption Journey in 2012/13

As the measurement for the adoption journey time is taken at the point when the adoption order is granted, it is possible to analyse the children who will fall into the measurement for 2012/13. This will include those children who have already been adopted in the year so far, as well as those children who are placed for adoption and are likely to be adopted before the end of March 2013.

An important point to note is that these figures reflect the decision making and practice within the service for children who entered the care of the local authority more than two years ago, any changes to practice made now may only influence the journey figures for the 2014/15 year. The fact that the threshold set by the DFE for the whole journey is planned to reduce from 639 days to 426 days by 2015/16, with a phased reduction of this figure from 2013/14 emphasises the challenge that Sunderland face in meeting the threshold figures for the next four years.

Section 4.5 of this report details the projected average journey times for the 2012/13 cohort, and points to the likelihood that the total average will not decrease for the 2010-13 average. However the below chart shows the journey split for each individual child who was placed for adoption on the 30th June 2012.



The above chart shows the journey breakdown for each of the children who are currently (at 30th June 2012) placed for adoption.

There are several points that are key to understanding the above chart and the projected performance for the adoption journey in the 2012/13 year.

Family finding is improving for older children, but is more difficult overall

8 from the 15 older children who were placed for adoption at the end of June 2012 were under the 639 day whole journey threshold. This compares against the 6 from 21 who were under the threshold in 2011/12.

However, despite family finding improving for older children, those younger children who were placed for adoption at the end of June had taken longer to match to their adoptive family. Overall, the family finding journey was significantly increased, at

309 days compared to 236 days in 2011/12. The above chart shows that younger children have taken longer to match with a family. Even when the exceptionally longer or shorter journeys are removed from the calculation the median average was 247 days in family finding compared to 124 days in 2011/12.

Decisions where adoption is in the best interest have been made more quickly

The pattern shown above, around the longer time taken to best interest decision having an affect on the whole journey length, has improved for the children who are currently placed for adoption. The average length of time from entering care to adoption becoming the plan for these children was 312 days, compared to 360 days in 2011/12. However, the median average (excluding the longest and shortest) was 279 days compared to 371 in 2011/12. This suggests that the difference in the adoption journey between older and younger children has reduced in the current years cohort.

4.6 Staying out of Trouble – results of offending analysis for children who are looked after

Looked After Children are offending almost three times as often than the general population

More than a third of offences took place in a residential home

More than a third of young people in cohort offended before they became looked after

At the end of March 2012 the offending ratio for children aged 10 and over who have been looked after for 12 months or more was 2.8. This equates to 27 young people receiving substantive outcomes between April 2011 and March 2012 from a cohort of 168 (16.1%). The percentage is expressed as a ratio to the Northumbria offending figure of 5.66% for the same age group. This is an increase in offending behaviour compared to 2010/11 when 20 young people received substantive outcomes (11.2% of the cohort) and the offending ratio to Northumbria was 2.0.

Characteristics of Offenders

Of the 27 young people who received outcomes, 70.4% were male. The age breakdown of the young people at 31st March 2012 is shown below. Two young people aged 17 offended for the first time during 2011/12.

Age	Male	Female	Total
13	3	0	3
14	1	0	1
15	4	4	8
16	6	1	7
17	5	3	8
Total	19	8	27

More than half of young people who offended were living in residential

homes at the end of the March 2012 (59.3%). Another 22.2% were living in foster care. The table below shows the placements at the end of March.

Placement	Total
Sunderland Residential Home	16
Sunderland Foster Care	6
External Placement	2
Supported Accommodation	2
Missing	1
Total	27

Five young people (4 males, 1 female) were responsible for 38.3% of all substantive outcomes in the year. The 5 young people ranged in age from 13 to 16; therefore they have the potential to be in the 2012/13 cohort if they continue to offend.

Outcomes & Offences

27 young people received 60 outcomes during the year of which seven were also in the 2010/11 cohort. Seven young people received outcomes for the first time in 2011/12.

The most common substantive outcome was a Youth Rehabilitation Order (45%). The Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) is a generic community sentence for young offenders and combines a number of sentences. It is the standard community sentence used for the majority of children and young people who offend. It simplifies sentencing for young people, while improving the flexibility of interventions.

The Youth Rehabilitation Orders received ranged from six months to 12 months, one order also included a football banning order, and three included Intensive Supervision and Surveillance. 18.3% of outcomes were Referral Orders and 13.3% were Conditional Discharges.

Outcome	Total
Absolute Discharge	1
Conditional Discharge	8
Final Warning	6
Referral Order	11
Reparation added to YRO	1
Reprimand	5
Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO)	23
YRO & Football Banning Order	1
YRO with ISS	3
Total	60

Substantive outcomes received in the year related to 102 offences committed between October 2010 and March 2012.

Five young people were responsible for almost half of all offences committed (45.1%). These are all young men, aged between 13 and 16. At the end of March 2012, 4 were living in residential homes and one was in an external placement. All have offended in previous years. One young person committed 13 offences (resulting in 6 substantive outcomes), the offences ranged from assault (6 offences including assaulting a police officer), theft and absconding/failure to surrender to bail. This young person is 16 and at 31st March 2012 was placed in a residential home.

10 young people were responsible for 70.6% of all offences, with 72 in total, the rest of the cohort all offended less than 4 times.

Almost a third of offences were related to Assault (30.4%), which included Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm, Common Assault and Assault on a Police Officer. Over half of these offences took place in a residential home (17 offences) with another third (35.5%) taking place in the community in Sunderland.

Criminal Damage accounted for 19.6% of all offences, more than half took place in a residential home.

More than three quarters of all offences took place in either a residential home (39.2%) or in the community in Sunderland (37.3%). The table below shows the location of placements.

Location of Offence	Total
Residential Home	40
Sunderland (in the community)	38
Out of Area	8
Location Unknown	8
School	6
Foster Carer	2
Total	102

Offending Behaviour

Of the 27 young people in the cohort, 10 young people received a substantive outcome before they became looked after (37.0%), 4 of these children were aged 10 at the time of their first outcome. Further analysis would be required to determine whether offending behaviour was a contributing factor in the young people becoming looked after.

For the cohort, the average age to receive the first substantive outcome was 12. Six young people received their first outcome when they were 10 years old.

Of the five young men who have committed the most offences, three offended before they became looked after and all had their first substantive outcome by the time they were 13 years old.

4.7 Moving On - How well do young people who grow up within the care system fair as young adults

A significant improvement on EET after Year 11

At June 2012/13, two thirds of 19 year olds were in employment, education or training

Over two thirds of 19 year olds were EET in 2011/12, an increase on last year

A significant majority of young people were satisfied with the support they were given to live independently

The Leaving Care Service in Sunderland work with young people in care from the age of 15, supporting them for leaving care and living independently. This support continues once the young person has left care, up to the age of 21. Around the young persons 19th birthday the service gets in contact with the young person to ask where they are living, and if they are in education, employment, or training. This data is used to monitor the Government's objective that all children leaving care, on reaching adulthood should participate fully in society.

The Leaving Care Service also asks young people who have left care to complete a questionnaire called the Care Evaluation Survey. This shows important information about the young person's outcomes, outside of the Suitable Accommodation and EET categories.

Employment, Education and Training After Year 11

The EET situation for young people who have been looked after for 12 months or more at 31 March and were in Year 11 at school in the previous academic year is monitored to see what they are doing in September after they left Year 11.

In 2011/12 90.3% were in employment, education or training, a significant improvement from 66.7% in 2010/11.

	2010	2011	2012
FT Education	28	17	20
FT Training	0	0	8
FT Employment	0	3	0
PT EET	1	0	0
NEET: disability	2	7	0
NEET: other	7	3	3
Total	38	30	31
% NEET	23.7%	33.3%	9.7%

Further monitoring is planned to track looked after young people and care leavers from 17 to 19 to analyse employment, education and training status.

Young people who had left care and turned 19 since April 2011

In 2011/12 there were 40 young people in the 19th birthday cohort, these are young people who were looked after during Year 11 at school.

Four young people were supported by the Learning Disabilities team, the rest were open to Leaving Care. During the 4 months around their 19th birthday 97.5% (39 young people) were in contact with the Leaving Care Service or with their Learning Disabilities Social Worker.

Of the young people who were in contact, all were living in suitable accommodation at the time of their contact (97.5%). The table below shows the accommodation of those young people who were in contact.

Accommodation	Total
With Parents or Relatives	6
Community Home	2
Semi-independent	7
Supported Lodgings	5
Ordinary Lodgings	1
Independent Living	14
Other Accommodation	1
With Former Foster Carers	3
Total	39

Fourteen young people had successfully moved to independent living with the support of the Leaving Care Service and one young person has joined the army and was living in barracks (other accommodation).

Of the 40 young people in the cohort at the end of 2011/12 one was not in contact, therefore their EET situation cannot be counted. Twenty seven (67.5%) of the cohort were in employment, education or training, including 11 young people who were in full time training or employment and four who were working or in training on a part time basis.

EET Situation	Total
Full time higher education	3
Full time education other than higher	8
Part time education other than higher	1
Full time training or employment	11
Part time in training or employment	4
NEET due to illness or disability	3
NEET other circumstances	9
Unknown/Not in Contact	1
Total	40

Eight young people were currently in full time education other than higher education and one was in part time

education. Three young people were continuing their studies at university (7.5% of the whole cohort).

There were twelve young people who were not in education, employment or training on or around their 19th birthday. Of these three were NEET due to illness or disability and one is a full time parent.

Young people who had left care and turned 19 since April 2012

At the end of June 2012 there were 12 young people in the 2012/13 cohort who had celebrated their 19th birthdays since April. Of these 91.7% were in contact with the Leaving Care Service.

Of the young people in contact, all were living in suitable accommodation, with the majority living independently.

66.7% of young people were in employment, education or training including one young person studying at university. Two young people were unemployed and two have not yet had their EET status confirmed so are currently assumed to be NEET.

Young People's Views on Leaving Care

As part of the Care Evaluation Survey young people were asked about the help and support they were given to live independently. When asked how prepared young people felt they were to leave care they gave an average score of 5 out of 6.

89% of young people knew where they were going to live when they left care. In 94% of these cases, young people indicated the place they moved on to was where they wanted to live.

Comments from the survey about help and support from Leaving Care to live independently include:

"I was given lots of assistance and support from [Leaving Care Worker] with information but I had in my own mind from the start what I wanted."

“With my plan going to university, my Leaving Care Worker helped me look at student accommodation and the logistics of securing a place.”

Young people were asked to rate the support they were given to help them live independently, young people gave an average score of 4.9 out of 6.



4.8 Being Healthy

All children aged 5 and under had their development assessments up to date

Improvement on annual health assessments in timescales

Decline in the number of children with up to date immunisations

Decline in the number of children seeing a dentist

The average score for emotional and behavioural health is judged to be in the normal banding

All young people identified as having a substance misuse problem in 2011/12 were offered an intervention

During 2011/12, three young women were teenage mothers

Health performance is measured in relation to children who have been in care for at least 12 months at 31st March; 267 children and young people in 2012.

Health Assessments

Development Health Assessments should be completed for all looked after children aged 5 and under. 100% of children had their development assessments up to date by 31st March 2012, this has remained constant since 2011 when the national figure was 76.4%. This is also an improvement on the 2010 figure of 97.8%.

All looked after children should have an annual health assessment, for those under 5 the assessment should be every 6 months. 92.1% of children and young people had their health assessments in timescale, an improvement on 85.8% in 2011.

Of those who did not have an assessment, 52.4% were aged 15 and over. 33.3% of those without an assessment were arranged out of area and were not completed in timescale.

Young people who have declined a health assessment are treated as not having their assessment. Five young people (23.8%) failed to attend appointment, all aged 16 and over.

Health Care

The immunisations of children and young people are monitored to establish if they are up to date on 31st March 2012.

88.4% of all children and young people looked after for 12 months had their immunisations up to date at the end of March, this is a decline from 95.8% in 2011.

Where children have not received their immunisations because of parental refusal, for health reasons, or because the young person refuses, they are counted as not being up to date. 77.4% of those who were not up to date were aged 14 and over suggesting the young person may have refused the immunisation.

Age Group	Number of Children
0 – 4	3
5 – 9	2
10 – 15	8
16 & Above	18
Total	31

All children and young people should have their teeth checked by a dentist during the year. 77.2% of looked after children and young people had their teeth checked in the year, a decline from the 2010 figure of 88.5%.

Of those who had not had their teeth checked in the year, 42.6% were aged 14 and over compared with 66.7% in 2011, again suggesting refusal of treatment.

Emotional & Behavioural Health

The white paper Care Matters: Time for Change highlighted the need to improve the mental health of children and young people in care. Evidence suggests that mental health problems are over four times more likely for looked after children compared to their peers.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a screening tool to assess the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children aged between 4 and 16 years, as recorded by the child's main carer.

The questionnaire returns a single 'Total Difficulties Score' ranging from 0 to 40. The average score of all looked after children aged 4 to 16 who have been looked after for 12 months or more is also calculated. On an individual basis a score of 13 or below is normal, a score between 14 and 16 is borderline. A score of 17 or above is cause for concern.

208 children and young people were eligible for an SDQ score, of these 79.8% had a carer questionnaire completed during the year (166 children), this is reduction from 94.7% in 2010/11.

Of the 42 children and young people who did not have a questionnaire submitted, one was due to the severity of the child's disability and two young people refused for a Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire to be completed. Thirty nine children and young people had the reason of "Other" as to why they didn't have a carer score.

The overall average score gives an indication of the level of concern for looked after children. The provisional average SDQ score for 2011/12 is

13.0, this is provisional as there are no definitions from the DfE as to how they calculate the score, confirmation will be received in the Statistical Release in Autumn 2012. The provisional SDQ score of 13.0 is a slight improvement on the 2010/11 score of 13.1. The England average score in 2011 was 13.9.

In 2011/12 scores ranged from 0 to 30 (maximum score is 40), with 36.7% of children and young people having an individual score in the range of cause for concern.

Score Range	Number of Children
Normal (0 – 13)	93
Borderline (14 – 16)	12
Cause for Concern (17 & Above)	61
Total	166

Just over half of the children and young people with a score of 17 and above also completed a child's questionnaire (57.4%). The vast majority had a score lower than their carer score, with only five scoring the same or higher than their carer.

The table below shows the age range of the children and young people with scores of 17 and above.

Age Group	Number of Children
0 – 4	2
5 – 9	14
10 – 15	30
16 – 17	15
Total	61

Of the offending cohort for 2011/12, 17 had an SDQ score recorded in the year (63%) with scores ranging from 5 to 28. The average score was 15.5.

Substance Misuse

The substance misuse data is primarily based on a profile note for substance misuse which is recorded by the Looked After Health Team. The full cohort is then checked to YDAP (Youth Drug & Alcohol Project) data as a cross reference.

During the year ending 31st March 2012, 24 young people were identified as having a substance misuse problem, 9.0% of all children looked after for 12 months or more. The young people ranged in age from 13 to 17. This is inline with 9.1% in 2010/11 where 26 young people were identified as having a substance misuse problem. Seven young people in the 2011/12 cohort were also identified in the 2010/11 cohort as having an substance misuse problem.

All young people identified with a substance misuse problem were offered an intervention, in line with 2011. There was an improvement in the number of young people who received an intervention, 95.8% compared to 61.5% in 2011. One young person was offered an intervention but refused it during the year.

Teenage Mothers

Of the young women looked after during 2011/12, 3 were mothers. Two are now care leavers; one is in supported accommodation with their child and one is living in supported accommodation while her child is living with father, subject to a Child Protection Plan.

One looked after young person is placed in a mother and baby placement with her child, she became looked after just before her child was born and is currently pregnant with her second child.

Further analysis is required to look at pregnancies for looked after young women and care leavers.

Children and Young People's Views about their Health

As part of the Viewpoint process, young people aged 10 – 15 were asked how often they exercised or played sport. 96% said they exercised or played sport at least once a week, including 46% said three times a week or more.

10 – 15 year olds were also asked if they had someone they could talk to about their health, 92% said yes and 8% said yes about some things.

5.3 - Looked After Children Dataset

Child Population 0 - 17

56,100

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12
Number of Children Looked After at the End of the Month	407	408	412	403	398	390	379	388	395	391	396	407	415
Number of Children Looked After at the End of the Month per 10,000 population	72.5	72.7	73.4	71.8	70.9	69.5	67.6	69.2	70.4	69.7	70.6	72.5	74.0
Number of Females Looked After at the end of the month	42.0%	41.7%	42.2%	41.7%	41.5%	42.3%	44.3%	44.8%	45.1%	46.0%	46.0%	45.9%	46.0%
Number of Males Looked After at the end of the month	58.0%	58.1%	57.8%	58.3%	58.5%	59.7%	55.7%	55.2%	54.2%	54.0%	54.0%	54.1%	54.0%
Children Looked After Age 0 at the end of the Month	24	23	25	22	23	24	22	29	31	33	33	31	34
Children Looked After Age 1 to 4 at the end of the Month	98	95	95	91	89	84	84	82	85	86	87	98	98
Children Looked After Age 5 to 9 at the end of the Month	75	79	77	73	70	70	66	69	75	70	73	66	66
Children Looked After Age 10 to 15 at the end of the Month	147	112	150	152	152	154	145	140	142	143	139	143	148
Children Looked After Age 16 to 17 at the end of the Month	63	99	65	65	64	58	62	68	65	59	64	69	69
Placements - Foster Care													
Number of Children in Foster Care Placements at the End of the Month	305	303	306	297	295	297	285	294	300	296	302	314	319
Foster Care Inside Authority Boundary	217	218	220	209	202	207	200	206	208	204	206	211	214
Foster Care Outside Authority Boundary	87	85	86	88	93	90	85	88	92	92	96	103	105
Foster Care in Internally Commissioned Placements	246	240	242	236	235	237	232	242	248	247	250	262	268
Foster Care in Externally Commissioned Placements	35	36	35	36	38	38	33	32	31	29	30	32	33
Foster Care in Friends or Family Placements	23	26	29	25	22	21	19	20	21	20	22	20	18
Placements - Residential													
Number of Children in Residential Placement at the End of the Month	46	45	46	46	46	44	43	46	45	45	46	47	50
Internally Commissioned Residential Placements	34	32	32	31	31	30	30	30	29	31	30	32	32
Externally Commissioned Residential Placements	12	13	14	15	15	14	13	16	16	14	16	15	18
Children Placed for Adoption at the End of the Month	37	38	32	31	30	29	26	29	30	27	27	23	24
Placements - Placed With Parents													
Children Placed with Parents at the End of the Month	14	14	17	20	20	18	16	12	12	16	16	16	15
Children Placed with Parents at the End of the Month Aged 10 to 15	4	3	3	6	7	4	3	3	3	4	4	5	6
Placements - Independent Living													
Young People in Independent Living Placements at the End of the Month	4	7	11	9	7	6	5	6	7	4	4	5	6
Legal Status													
Children with an Interim Care Order	69	75	67	67	59	60	56	59	61	66	66	63	60
Children with a Full Care Order	108	105	109	112	116	113	116	118	114	116	120	121	123
Children with a Freeing Order Granted	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Children with a Placement Order Granted	100	96	95	92	89	90	92	92	92	89	90	91	95
Children with a Section 20 Legal Status	120	124	131	121	123	118	105	109	118	110	110	122	126
Legal Status - Under 10													
Children Aged Under 10 with an Interim Care Order	55	55	46	46	44	45	42	45	46	51	52	49	46
Children Aged Under 10 with a Full Care Order	2	2	3	5	7	7	11	11	10	14	16	14	14
Children Aged Under 10 with a Freeing Order Granted	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children Aged Under 10 with a Placement Order Granted	83	79	79	75	72	73	75	75	74	70	71	72	76
Children Aged Under 10 with a Section 20 Legal Status	55	61	67	58	58	53	44	49	58	54	54	60	61
Placements													
% of Children in Residential Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	11.7%	11.4%	11.6%	12.0%	12.2%	11.8%	11.8%	12.2%	11.7%	12.0%	12.1%	12.0%	12.5%
% of Children in Foster Care Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	77.6%	76.9%	77.5%	77.5%	78.0%	79.8%	78.5%	78.2%	78.3%	78.9%	79.5%	80.3%	79.8%
% of Children in Friends or Family Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	5.6%	6.6%	7.3%	6.5%	5.8%	5.6%	5.2%	5.3%	5.5%	5.3%	5.8%	5.1%	4.5%
% of Children in Family Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	87.0%	86.5%	85.6%	85.6%	86.0%	87.6%	85.7%	85.9%	86.2%	86.1%	86.6%	86.2%	85.8%
% of Children Looked After for More than 6 Months who are Placed for Adoption (excluding Placed with Parents)	11.3%	11.3%	9.9%	9.9%	9.8%	9.5%	8.6%	9.4%	9.5%	8.8%	8.7%	7.5%	7.8%
Number of Children Looked After for More than 6 Months at the End of the Month	342	351	340	334	326	323	318	320	328	324	326	323	324
% of Children in a Placement Outside of Sunderland (excluding Adoption and Placed with Parents)	28%	28%	28%	29%	31%	30%	29%	30%	31%	30%	32%	32%	33%

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12
% of Children in Foster Care Placements at the End of the Month	74.9%	74.3%	74.3%	73.7%	74.1%	76.2%	75.2%	75.8%	75.9%	75.7%	76.3%	77.1%	76.9%
Placements - Under 10													
Number of Looked After Children Aged Under 10 Year Old at the End of the Month	197	197	197	186	182	178	172	180	191	189	193	195	198
Number of Children in Foster Care Placements Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	150	147	150	141	139	141	132	144	151	151	157	164	167
Number of Children in Residential Placements Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Number of Children Placed for Adoption Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	0	38	32	30	29	28	28	28	29	26	25	23	24
Number of Children Placed with Parents Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	10	11	14	14	13	14	11	7	7	7	9	8	7
% of Children in Foster Care Placements Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	76.1%	74.6%	76.1%	75.8%	76.4%	79.2%	76.7%	80.0%	79.1%	79.9%	81.3%	84.1%	84.3%
% of Children Placed with Parents Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	6.7%	7.5%	9.3%	9.9%	9.4%	9.9%	8.3%	4.9%	4.6%	4.6%	5.7%	4.9%	4.2%
% of Children Placed for Adoption Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	0.0%	19.3%	16.2%	16.1%	15.9%	15.7%	16.3%	15.6%	15.2%	13.8%	13.0%	11.8%	12.1%
% of Children In Family Placements (excluding Placed with Parents) Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	80.2%	99.5%	99.5%	99.4%	99.4%	103.0%	99.4%	99.4%	97.8%	97.3%	98.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Child Protection Plans													
The Number of Looked After Children with an Open Child Protection Plan at the end of the Month	11	12	16	13	8	6	5	12	14	9	4	8	9
Private Fostering													
Number of children with Private Fostering arrangements at End of Month	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	14	14	11	10	10
Started Arrangement in Year % of visits in timescale (including arrangements ended in year)								69.2%			50.0%		
Started Arrangement in Previous Years, % of visits in timescale (including arrangements ended in year)								60.0%			38.5%		
Placement Stability													
NI62 - % Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months.	10.6%	9.3%	9.2%	9.2%	9.3%	9.5%	10.6%	11.9%	10.4%	11.5%	10.4%	10.3%	11.8%
Number of Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months.	43	38	38	37	37	37	40	46	41	45	41	42	49
Number of Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months - Excluding Missing Episodes.	38	31	31	28	28	30	31	35	31	39	39	37	42
NI62 - % Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months, Excluding Missing Episodes.	9.3%	7.6%	7.5%	6.9%	7.0%	7.7%	8.2%	9.0%	7.8%	10.0%	9.8%	9.1%	10.1%
Children under the Age of 16 who have been Looked After for more then 2 and a half years	129	129	128	127	124	123	114	111	111	113	113	106	106
Children Under the Age of 16 who have been in the same placement for more than 2 years	93	92	91	87	85	86	83	76	72	73	73	71	71
CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd	72.1%	71.3%	71.1%	68.5%	68.5%	69.9%	72.8%	68.5%	64.9%	67.3%	64.6%	67.0%	67.0%
Children aged 16 and over who have been Looked After for more then 2 and a half years	48	48	49	48	48	44	49	54	50	47	50	55	55
Children aged 16 and over who have been in the same placement for more than 2 years	25	24	23	23	22	24	29	33	27	26	23	30	30
CLA 16 yrs+ LA for 2.5+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd	52.1%	50.0%	46.9%	47.9%	45.8%	54.5%	59.2%	61.1%	54.0%	55.3%	46.0%	54.5%	54.5%
Outcomes for Children Looked After - Offending Behaviour													
CLA 1+ yrs - Conviction/Final Warning rate (10-17 yrs): Offences whilst looked after - expressed as a ratio of the percentage of all children aged 10-17 given a final warning/reprimand or convicted for an offence in the police force area.		1.3			2.4			2.8			N/A		
Outcomes for Children Looked After - Reviews													
% of Children looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews, in a rolling 12 months	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12
% of Children Looked after who communicated their views specifically during statutory reviews since April	99.5%	99.6%	99.8%	99.8%	99.7%	99.0%	99.0%	98.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NI66 - Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After, in a rolling 12 months	95.0%	95.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
NI66 - Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After, Since April	N/A	N/A	98.6%	98.1%	96.1%	97.2%	96.2%	96.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reviews of Foster Carers held in timescale - Cumulatively since April	74.2%	76.4%	77.6%	78.6%	78.4%								
Outcomes for Children Looked After - Education													
% Children Looked After who have a current PEP	95.8%	95.8%	95.5%	95.8%	94.3%	94.6%	94.0%	93.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Children with school moves due to placement change	2	3	3	3	3								
Adoptions/Permanency Planning													
Number of Children Adopted in a Rolling 12 Months	31	32	32	35	39	43	46	49	51	51	52	59	59
Number of Children with a Special Guardianship Order from Care in a Rolling 12 Months	3	3	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
Annual Adoption Rate: Number of Children Adopted as % of Children Looked After continuously for 6 months	9.1%	9.1%	9.4%	10.5%	12.0%	13.3%	14.5%	15.3%	15.5%	15.7%	16.0%	18.3%	18.2%
Annual Adoption Rate including SGO: Number of Children Adopted/Guardianship Order as % of Children Looked After continuously for 6 months	9.9%	10.0%	10.6%	12.0%	13.5%	14.6%	15.4%	16.3%	16.5%	17.0%	17.2%	19.5%	19.4%
Number of Children Adopted per Month	5	5	6	7	4	5	3	3	2	4	1	3	4
Number of Children subject to a Special Guardianship Order from Care in the Month	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Number of Children Adopted Since April	16	21	27	34	38	43	46	49	2	6	7	10	14
Number of Children subject to a Special Guardianship Order from Care Since April	0	0	1	3	3	3	3	3	0	1	1	1	1
Adoption Rate Since April: Number of Adoptions/SGOs as % of Children Looked After continuously for 6 months	4.7%	6.0%	8.2%	11.1%	12.6%	14.2%	15.4%	16.3%	0.6%	2.2%	2.5%	3.4%	4.6%
Care Leavers													
16+ care leavers in contact with SSD	93.8%	94.7%	95.8%	93.1%	93.8%	93.8%	95.0%	97.5%	87.5%	80.0%	91.7%	84.6%	84.2%
16+ care leavers known to have suitable accommodation	93.8%	94.7%	95.8%	93.1%	93.8%	93.8%	95.0%	97.5%	87.5%	80.0%	91.7%	84.6%	84.2%
16+ care leavers in employment, education or training (runs one month in arrears)	62.5%	63.2%	70.8%	69.0%	68.8%	68.8%	67.5%	67.5%	75.0%	70.0%	66.7%	61.5%	63.2%
Ethnicity													
Ethnic Origin other than White British and White Irish	21	20	18	20	21	16	15	17	17	20	19	18	19
% of Looked After Children who are not White British or White Irish	5.2%	4.9%	4.4%	5.0%	5.3%	4.1%	4.0%	4.4%	4.3%	5.1%	4.8%	4.4%	4.6%