

**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 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. As at 31.03.08 there were 398 children in care (64.6 per 10,000 child population), which is within the target of 410 set for March 2008.
  - In the year to 31.03.08 10.5% of children who had been in care for 12 months or more had experienced three or more placements during the year.
  - As at 31.03.08, 71.9% of children under 16 who had been in care for at least 2.5 years, had been in the same placement continuously for 2 years. Placement stability is closely associated with the achievement of good outcomes for children and so this area was given priority for improvement.
  - The proportion of care leavers who were in education, employment or training on the 19th birthday was almost the same as for all young people.
  - Over 91% of children in care for more than 1 year, had a health assessment during the year

- In the year to 31.03.08, 9% of those children who had been in care for at least 6 months had permanent new family arrangements secured either through adoption or special guardianship, which placed Sunderland in the top performance band.
- 100% 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 to 31.12.07, there was a reduction in the number of children in care for 12 months who had a substantive outcome (i.e. final warning, reprimand or conviction) arising from an offence committed while in care. 38 children had a substantive outcome compared with 41 in the year to 31.12.06. This represents 19.3% of the total cohort compared with 18.8% in the previous year. 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.
- As at 31.01.08, 82.7% of children had a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which had been reviewed. 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																	
Code	Indicator Description	Mar-08	07/08 Target	Banding	Achieve Target?	Distance From Target	Direction	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	06 / 07 Outturn
PAF C23 Revised BVPI 163 2059SC LAA9 NIS DSO2	Annual Adoption Rate: Annual No. of Adoptions/Guardianship as % of CLA continuously for 6 months	9.0%	8.5%	5	✓	0.5%	↓	9.0%	9.5%	10.5%	10.4%	9.4%	8.4%	8.5%	8.8%	8.2%	9.4%	9.0%	8.3%
SS(LAC) 11	% of CLA aged <10 years placed for adoption	19.1%	13.5%	5	✓	5.6%	↑	14.8%	14.0%	14.0%	15.6%	16.8%	18.0%	15.5%	16.6%	16.8%	16.3%	19.1%	N/A
PAF C24	Children Looked After, Absent from School (Annual: OC2)	13.0%	12.0%	3	✗	1.0%	→	Sep '03 13.9%	Sep '04 13.7%	Sep '05 14.3%	Sep '06 13.0%	Sep '07 13.0%	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)	54.4%	56%	-	✓	1.6%	↓	58.3%	59.2%	56.9%	54.8%	55.1%	55.3%	54.0%	53.5%	53.2%	54.8%	54.4%	52.7%
PAF C63 4016SC	% of children and young people looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews	100%	100%	5	✓	0%	→	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
PAF C68 2064SC	Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After	96.0%	100%	5	✗	4.0%	↑	88.2%	88.8%	90.8%	88.9%	89.0%	89.9%	92%	93.2%	93.8%	94.5%	96.0%	85.2%
PAF D78 (SS (LAC) 24) 2067SC	CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs, same place 2+ yrs - end pd	71.9%	72%	-	✓	0.1	↓	68.8%	70.8%	66.5%	64.5%	63.4%	62.4%	62.7%	61.9%	72.5%	73.2%	71.9%	71.0%
CLA Personal Education Plans	% CLA who have a current PEP	82.7%	100%	-	✗	27.1%	↑	68.4%	64.5%	65.1%	65.6%	61.9%	53.5%	70.6%	72.8%	68.9%	72.9%	82.7%	N/A