

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

02 December 2008

REPORT OF HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Background

- 2.1 The numbers in this report relate to the end of October 2008. Appendix 1 contains information about performance against key indicators and targets for young people 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 young people 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 young people in care has shown a downward trend since March 2005 and has been stable at around 400 for the last six months. At the end of October there was a reduction to 390 young people in care, so for every 10,000 children in Sunderland, around 67 of them are Looked After. As a result of this decline we are now performing to the target of 390 set for March 2009. The number of children in residential care has remained stable at 51.
- At the end of Oct 08, 41 young people had been in care for 12 months or more and had experienced three or more placements during the year. These 41 young people represent 10.5% of the looked after population at the end of July 08 (41 YP/390 CLA). Included in this figure are children who go missing from care. If the missing episodes

were not counted the percentage would fall by around two percent to 7% young people.

- At the end of Oct 08, 188 young people under 16 had been in care for at least 2.5 years. Out of these 188 young 136 of them had been in the same placement continuously for 2 years, in other words 72.3%.

Placement stability is closely associated with the achievement of good outcomes for young people and so this area has a priority for improvement. The number of missing episodes has fallen in the last 2 years both in the number of young people and the number of incidences.

- There are only a small group of care leavers. Out of this group we monitor who were in education, employment or training on the 19th birthday. At the end of Sept 08 there were 14 care leavers in the group. Of these 14, 10 were in full time education, employment or training, 11 were in contact and 12 had suitable accommodation.
- From April 08 to Oct 08, 22 young people had permanent new family arrangements secured either through adoption (17) or special guardianship (5). The number of children placed for adoption has continued to increase up to 46.
- At the end of Oct 08 all of young people over 4 years communicated their views to meetings held to review their plans, either in person, in writing or through another person of their choice.

3.3 Priorities for Improvement

- In the year ending Sep 2008, 45 CLA offended from the 216 young people looked after aged 10-17 years old who had been looked after for 1 or more years. This is considerably above the hoped for outcome of 26 children.

Currently there are two groups involved in helping improve this indicator, the Children Looked After Operational Group and the Children Looked After Strategy Group. The latter group had been working with an officer from the Audit Commission to identify action which can be taken to improve this indicator.

- There are 191 young people with a current Personal Education Plan from the 297 young people eligible for PEP. This represents 64.3% (191/297) CLA with a current PEP. Performance had levelled at around 80% over the past months however this is a sharp decline. This needs to be much higher, and a number of actions have been identified to ensure that this happens.

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

		Current Status																	06 / 07 Outturn	
Code	Indicator Description	Oct-08	07/08 Target	Banding	Achieve Target?	Distance From Target	Direction	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08		
PAF C23 Revised BVPI 163 2059SC LAA9 NIS DSO2	Annual Adoption Rate: Annual No. of Adoptions/Guardianship as % of CLA continuously for 6 months	10.8%	8.5%	5	✓	0.5%	↓	8.5%	8.8%	8.2%	9.4%	9.2%	8.4	9.1%	8.1%	8.2%	8.9%	8.9%	8.3%	
SS(LAC) 11	% of CLA aged <10 years placed for adoption	28.4%	13.5%	5	✓	5.6%	↑	15.5%	16.6%	16.8%	16.3%	19.1%	22.8%	24.6%	24.6%	24.6%	23.5%	25.6%	N/A	
PAF C24	Children Looked After, Absent from School (Annual: OC2)	N/A	12.0%	3	✗	1.0%	→	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.0%
PAF D35 2044SC	CLA LA for 4+ yrs, same place 2+ yrs - end pd (no longer a PAF Indicator)		-		-	-	↓													54.4%
PAF C63 4016SC	% of children and young people looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews	48.5%	100%	5	✓	0%	→	54.0%	53.5%	53.2%	54.8%	54.4%	54.4	53.0%	50.6%	49.7%	50.3%	50.9%	100%	
PAF C68 2064SC	Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After	100%	100%	5	✓	4.0%	↑	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	85.2%
PAF D78 (SS (LAC) 24) 2067SC	CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs, same place 2+ yrs - end pd	95.9%	72%	-	✓	0.1	↓	92%	93.2%	93.8%	94.5%	96.0%	97	96.5%	96%	95%	95%	95%	95%	71.0%
CLA PEP	% CLA who have a current PEP	72.3%	100%	-	✗	27.1%	↑	62.7%	61.9%	72.5%	73.2%	71.9%	74.1	75.1%	74.6%	73.0%	72.6%	75.3%	N/A	

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Children with Private Fostering arrangement	The number of children with Private Fostering arrangements	11						5	5	5	5	8	8	8	6	8	8	11	8

