

REPORT OF HEAD OF SERVICE: SAFEGUARDING

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To receive information the annual report of the Corporate Parenting Board including information and analysis on the performance of the Council and partners in relation to looked after children.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 When a child becomes looked after, he or she enters a system in which their care and upbringing is managed by professionals and paid carers. This has two major consequences for the child. Firstly, in addition to the problems of needing to re-form attachments, he/she moves into a world of paid, and sometimes changing, carers, where life is managed through formal and legal processes. Secondly, in addition to learning to cope with this world, they have lost the continuity of parental management of their access to services and opportunities.

2.2 The Corporate Parenting responsibility is shared by the Council as a whole. All members, not just those with an interest in Children's Services, are 'Corporate Parents'.

2.3 For 'Corporate Parenting' to replicate the quality of care afforded by a 'good parent', each agency and professional involved needs to consider how they can be proactive, within their own remit, on behalf of looked after children, and for all agencies to strive for ever stronger collaborative working so that the whole of the 'corporate parent' can be greater than the sum of its parts.

3. Overall Performance

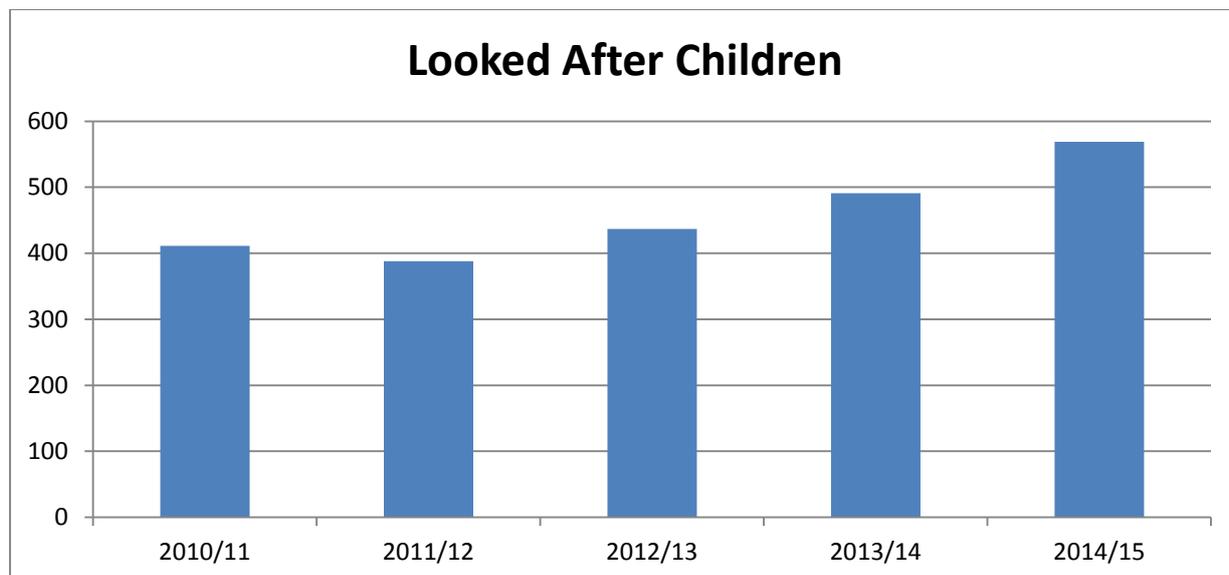
3.1 One of the five former National Indicators for Looked After Children are within the locally set 'Very Good' banding; one as 'Good', one as 'Acceptable'; and two as 'Investigate' as detailed within Annex 1. All of the reporting areas defined in 3.2 have improved in quarter 4 and has resulted in one of the indicators improving the banding rating.

3.2 The bandings are:

- Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves
- Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement
- Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescale
- Timeliness of Looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption.
- Care leavers in suitable accommodation

4. Numbers of Looked After Children

4.1 The number of Looked After Children end of year outturn for the last five years:



4.2 The number of Looked After Children has increased each quarter throughout 2014/15 with an overall increase of 76 young people looked after at the end of 2014/15 compared with 2013/14.

4.3 Overall the North East Looked After Children Figure appears to have risen again although 5 authorities have seen a small reduction in numbers at September 2014. The latest comparators are from 2013/14. Sunderland's rate per 10,000 has increased from 90 to 104.32 during the year 2014/15.

The Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population	2013/14	Sep 2014/15
Northumberland	53	55
Durham	60	61
Redcar and Cleveland	63	68.1
North Tyneside	76	74.6
Darlington	77	89
Gateshead	89	83.4
Sunderland	90	98.8
Stockton	90	90.8
Hartlepool	102	93.6
Newcastle	103	98.1
South Tyneside	107	100.7
Middlesborough	113	116
England Average	60	60

5. Where Looked After Children are Living

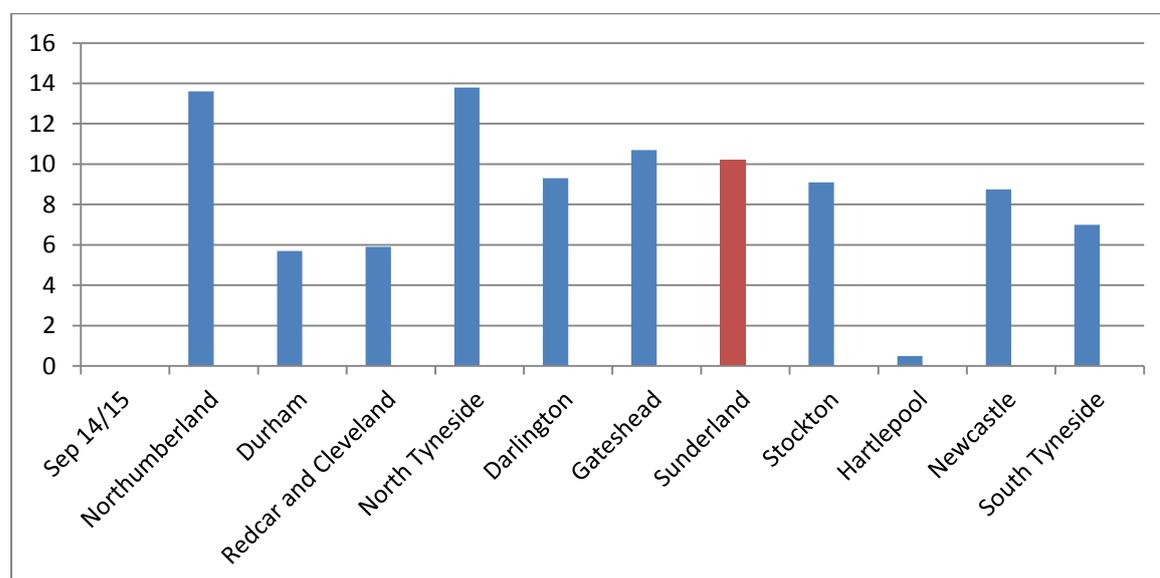
5.1 The table below details where Looked After Children were living as at 31.3.2015.

Placement Type	LAS Type Of Accomodation(LAC)	Children
1. Foster Placement Inside LA	F1 Foster Placement With Relative Or Friend Inside La Boundary	87
	F2 Placement With Foster Carer, Provided By La In La Boundary	200
	F3 Placement With Foster Carer, Arranged Through Agency In La Boundary	32
2. Foster Placement Outside LA	F4 Foster Placement With Relative Or Friend Outside La Boundary	15
	F5 Placement With Foster Carer, Provided By La Outside La Boundary	78
	F6 Placement With Foster Carer, Arranged Through Agency Outside La Boundary	37
3. Children's Home Inside LA	H3 Children'S Homes & Hostels Inside La Boundary Including Dual Registered Schools	27
4. Children's Home Outside LA	H2 Secure Unit Outside La Boundary	3
	H4 Children'S Homes & Hostels Outside La Boundary Including Dual Registered Schools	36
6. Placed for Adoption	A1 Placed For Adoption (Not With Former Foster Carers)	11
	A4 Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act (ACA), 2002) not with current foster carer	3
	A6 Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the Adoption and Children Act (ACA), 2002) not with current foster carer	13
7. Placed with Parents	P1 Placed With Own Parents Or Other Person With Parental Responsibility	11
8. Independent Living	P2 Independent Living, E.G. In Flat, Lodgings, Bedsit, B & B Or With Friends With Or Without Formal Support Staff	11
9. Other	H5 Hostels And Other Supportive Residential Settings Not Subject To The Children'S Homes Regulations	2
	R5 Y.O.I. Or Prison	2
	T1 Temporary Periods In Hospital	1

6. Stability of Placement

6.1 The Looked After short term stability indicator (number of moves in a year) has improved in performance from 12% for April to March 2014 to 10.2% for April to March 2015. This indicator remains in the 'Very Good' band rating.

The table below shows the figures for September 2014/15 (the end of year figures are not yet published) regionally and the England average. Sunderland compares well both regionally and nationally, falling below the outturn figures.



6.2 The long term stability indicator (Looked after for more than 2 and half years, in the same placement 2+ years) has also improved by over 5% points from 67% to 72.6% during 2014/15 and this has improved the banding in which the indicator sits. This is also an improvement against the outturn figures for this indicator for the last 4 years and almost meets the target of 73% set for 2014/15.

6.3 Very little change has been seen in placement stability across the region when comparing the outturn for 2013/14 and September 2014/15.

7. Views of the Young People

7.1 Of the children and young people who gave their opinions to the Viewpoint project in 2014-15, the following satisfaction levels with their experiences in the looked after system were shared:

- Satisfaction amongst 10 to 15 year old looked after children for 2014/15 is 81.3%, based on 99 responses;
- Satisfaction amongst 7 to 9 year old looked after children for 2014/15 is 74.5%, based on 54 responses;
- Satisfaction amongst 4 to 6 year old looked after children for 2014/15 is 73%, based on 23 responses.

8. Adoption

8.1 The percentage of adopted children who were placed for adoption within a year

of agency decision has improved to 72.3% for April to March 2015; this is from a cohort of 47 adopted children. This is a 7.4% increase on the outturn figure for 2013/14

8.2 The table below details the percentage of children leaving adoption providing the most up to date figures available. As you can see from the table below Sunderland compares well both regionally and nationally and the outturn position for 2014/15 has improved by over 4% points compared to 2013/14

Percentage of those leaving care due to adoption	2013/14	Sep 2014/15	2014/15
Redcar and Cleveland	28	20.7	
Newcastle	25.9	19.3	
Durham	25.3	14.7	
South Tyneside	24.7	33	
Darlington	20	14.7	
North Tyneside	19.4	13.6	
Gateshead	17.9	16.8	
Sunderland	17.1	23.1	21.5
Hartlepool	16.5	9.8	
Stockton	16.1	26.4	
Northumberland	14.7	19	
Middlesborough	9	11.4	
England Average	14	17	17

8.3 Average number of days in adoption process (Looked After to Placed for Adoption) has improved during the year to 484 days compared to the 2013-14 outturn (599 days). This does now meet the National threshold of 608 days and meets the locally set target of 600 days.

8.4 Average number of days in the adoption family finding process (Placement Order to Matching date) has also improved during the year to 201 days compared to 215 days in 2013-14, and is better than the 2012-14 England average of 217 days and meets the target set of 250 days.

8.5 In April 2015 we successfully placed a new born baby as part of our foster to adopt registration.

9. Educational Attainment

9.1 The percentage of Sunderland pupils achieved 5+ GCSEs including English and Maths at grades A* - C:

Sunderland LAC 2014	National LAC 2014	National All Pupils
20.6%	12%	53.4%

9.2 The percentage of Sunderland pupils who achieved 5+ GCSE at grades A* - C:

Sunderland LAC 2014	National LAC 2014	National All Pupils
23.5%	16.3%	63.8%

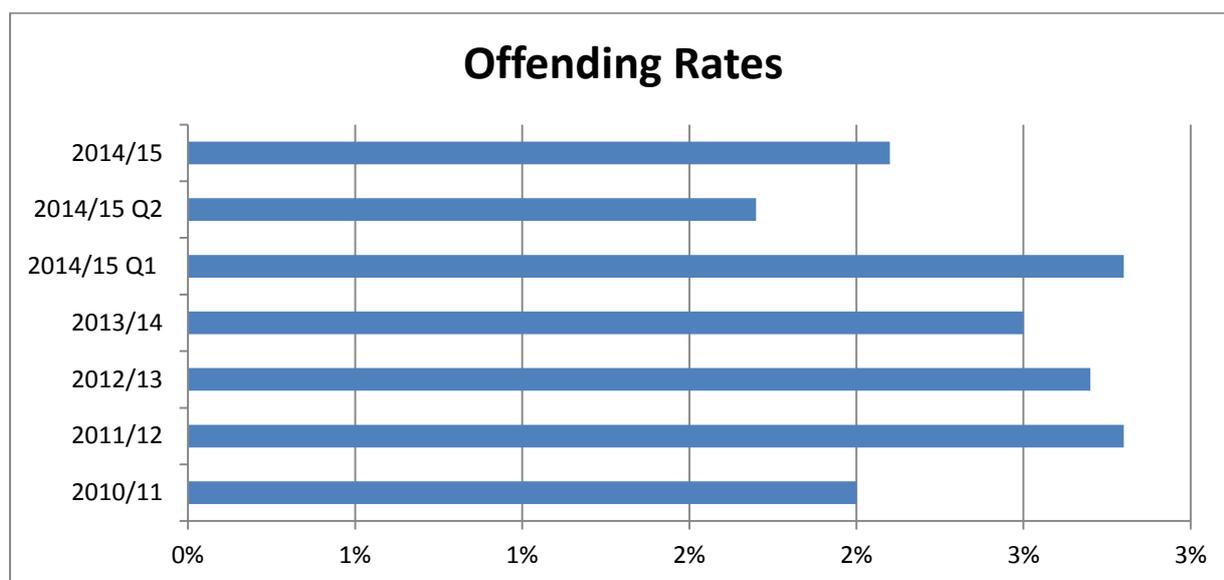
9.3 The percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in both English and Maths was above the national average for all LAC, but below the national average for all pupils.

10. Offending

10.1 Looked after Children who have offended represents 12.3% (28 young people) of the cohort as at the end of Q3 2014/15 and improvement on the outturn of 14.1% of the cohort, however this equates to more young people as the cohort is greater.

10.2 The offending ratio (which is the ratio of the percentage of all children aged 10 – 17 given a youth caution or convicted) for Q3 2014/15 is 2.1 which has improved when compared to 2013/2014 which was 2.5.

10.3 Offending 2010/11 – 2014/15



11. Leaving Care

11.1 44.1% (this equates to 60 care leavers of a cohort of 136) 19, 20 & 21 year old care leavers were in suitable accommodation during 2014-15 compared to 65.3% in 2013/14 (96/147)

11.2 74.3% of 19, 20 & 21 year old care leavers were not in education, employment or training (NEET) during 2014-15, which equates to 101 individuals. This is compared with 56.5% in 2013/14 (83 individuals).

12. Recommendation

12.1 The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to consider and comment on the Annual Report for 2014/15.