

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

30 March 2010

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 January 2010. 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 The indicators measuring placement stability are stable as is the headline number of Children Looked After. However, this does not give a complete picture of the activity within the service as the numbers starting and ending approximately balance. The increase in those with a Child Protection Plan may adversely affect the number of looked after children in 2010.

The number of children adopted is ahead of other North East Councils

Appendix 1 provides information about performance against key Indicators over time

4. Children Looked After

Within England the numbers of looked-after children have increased by around one-quarter since the Baby Peter tragedy – with some councils reporting rises of up to 70% (July 2009). June 2009 saw the highest demand for care ever recorded for a single month since the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass) began collecting this data. The rise in applications to courts follows recent steep rises in child protection referrals to local authorities. This has been partly caused by some agencies referring lower level concerns in case they make a mistake by under-reacting. Anthony Douglas, Cafcass' chief executive, said: "The child protection system is

dealing with higher referrals at every stage of assessment and service provision.

- Within Sunderland the number of CLA has been stable. At the end of January 2010 there were 391 CLA, this equates to 67.4 per 10,000 of children under 18, an increase of 5 on December. There are 46 (12.3%) children within residential care a fall of 2 on last month, 29(26) placed for adoption, 18(13) placed with parent and 291(291) in foster care. All children under 10 are in family placements.
- Table1 shows comparative information as at the end of September, Sunderland is amongst the lowest of the groups.

Core Cities	LAC	per 10000	Neighbours	LAC	per 10000
Newcastle upon Tyne	489	94.0	Newcastle upon Tyne	489	94.0
Birmingham			Gateshead	312	80.2
Bristol UA			Halton		61.0
Leeds	1,357	89.0	Hartlepool	161	76.7
Liverpool			Leeds	1,357	89.0
Manchester	1,414	148.6	Liverpool		
Nottingham UA			Middlesbrough UA	317	99.8
Sheffield			Salford	493	106.0
			Sheffield		
Average	1,087	110.5	South Tyneside	269	87.1
			Sunderland	391	67.3
			Average	474	84.6

Table 1: CLA comparisons

- While the numbers of CLA remains stable, it does not reflect the amount of work that happens within this overall stability. 148 came into care and 142 left, 18 more boys leaving than girls and there were 237 non- admissions moves.
- Within Sunderland here has been a considerable rise in the number of children with a Child Protection Plan (CPP), 399 at the time of writing. In the previous year 27% of children ending their CPP had outcomes that they became looked after. Applying this to both the current number with plans and the possible new plans there is a potential rise in the number of children looked after. Difficult to estimate the scale as it will depend on the numbers ending a CPP but assuming a 50% increase there is potentially 75 coming through to become Looked After. Details for those ending a CP plan in 2009 are shown in table 2.

	Child in Need	Child Looked After	Transfer to OLA	Total
2009	116	49	14	179
Percentage	64.80%	27.37%	7.82%	

2010	10	5	1	16
Percentage	62.50%	31.25%	6.25%	

Table 2: Reason for Ending of Child Protection Plan 2009

4.1 Placement Stability

Stability is associated with better outcomes. Placement breakdown has a significant impact on children's well being and their friendships and continuity of access to other key services.

- NI 62, (CLA with 3 or more moves) 9.0%(9.3%) or 35/391 children, against a target of 10.5%. This is based on the period until the end of January. If those who went missing from care are excluded this figure would fall to 7.9% or 31 from 391.
- NI 63, (long-term stability of CLA) of those less than 16 and in care for over 2.5 years and have been in the same placement for more than 2 years is 66.7%(67.1%) or 100/150, below target of 74%. [1]
- In the year ending January 31st, one child moved school as a result of a placement move.

The related indicator for placement stability based on the old PAF B79 (% of CLA (exc with parent) in family places aged between 10 and 15), 83%(82 %) or 129/155 is stable and just below the 83% target.

4.2 NI 66, PAF C68 - Timeliness of reviews of Children Looked After

In the year since April 2009, 94.9%of reviews for looked after children are within timescale a fall from last month. In the rolling year to the end of January 329 from 354 or 95.5% had of their reviews in timescale, against a target of 100%.

4.3 Leaving care –

NI 148, PAF A4 – Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET) at the age of 19

- 19 from 20 care leavers at 19 (95%) were in contact
- At the end of December NI 148 – 14 were in Employment Education or Training ETT or 70%, against a target of 62%.

NI 147 - The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 in suitable accommodation

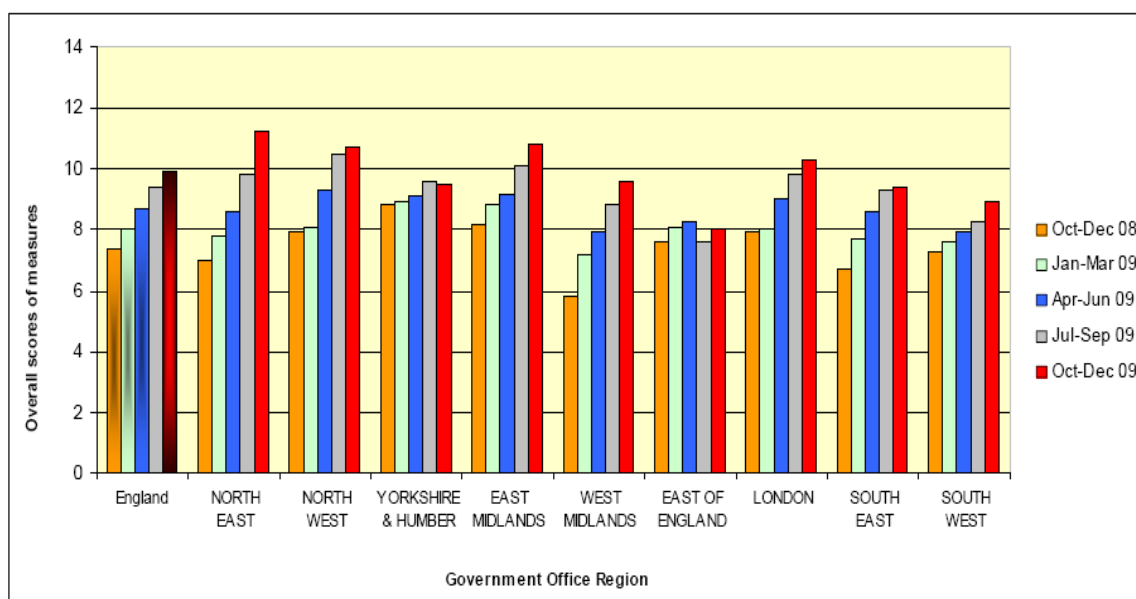
- Of care leaver 95% (19/20)were in suitable accommodation, against a target of 86%
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4.4 NI 71 Children missing from Home / Care

The self-assessment at the end of December is 12 from a possible 15. Sunderland has shown continuous improvement. Target of 15 by the end of 2009/10. The details are as follows

- 3 – Thorough and systematic collection and analysis of data, which is monitored by appropriate body
- 3 - Analysis in place, frequently updated, and reviewed by LSCB.
- 2 – Protocols and procedures in place, alongside risk assessment tool.
- 2 – Protocols in place and referrals are made whenever a young person is found or presents themselves out of hours.
- 2 – Well established prevention services in place and is well known to those who may wish to use or make referrals to them

Overall self-evaluation scores for measures to monitor, respond to and address young runaway cases in Government Office Regions in England, Oct 2008-Dec 2009



Self-evaluation overall scores for measures to monitor, respond to and address young runaway cases in Local Authorities in England, Oct 2008-Dec 2009

Self-evaluation Overall Score					
	Oct-Dec 08	Jan-Mar 09	Apr-Jun 09	Jul-Sep 09	Oct-Dec 09
England	7.4	8.0	8.7	9.4	9.9
NORTH EAST	7.0	7.8	8.6	9.8	11.2
841 Darlington	7	7	7	7	7
840 Durham	7	7	8	9	9
390 Gateshead	8	9	10	10	12
805 Hartlepool	3	5	5	10	13
806 Middlesbrough	11	11	13	13	13
391 Newcastle upon Tyne	8	8	10	12	14
392 North Tyneside	11	11	12	12	12
929 Northumberland	5	6	6	9	11
807 Redcar and Cleveland	-	11	11	11	11
393 South Tyneside	5	8	9	11	11
808 Stockton-on-Tees	-	4	4	4	9
394 Sunderland	5	7	8	9	12

Self-evaluation scores for measures on each of the five criteria of the indicator in Local Authorities in England, Oct-Dec 2009

Self-evaluation Score; The extent to which...					
	Local information about running away is gathered	Local needs analysis is in place (based on the information gathered)	Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways agreed	Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals from police or other agencies are in place	Local procedures include effective needs assessment protocols, to support effective prevention /intervention work
England	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	1.7
NORTH EAST	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.6	1.6
841 Darlington	1	2	1	2	1
840 Durham	2	2	1	2	2
390 Gateshead	2	3	2	3	2
805 Hartlepool	3	3	3	3	1
806 Middlesbrough	2	3	3	3	2
391 Newcastle upon Tyne	3	3	2	3	3
392 North Tyneside	3	3	3	2	1
929 Northumberland	3	3	1	2	2
807 Redcar and Cleveland	3	2	2	3	1
393 South Tyneside	3	2	2	3	1
808 Stockton-on-Tees	1	2	2	3	1
394 Sunderland	3	3	2	2	2

Police data on children who go missing from September has been collated and can now be used to produce management information.

Between September and February 2010 there were 60 children reported missing relating to 235 incidence, Friday being the most popular day to go missing

Day	Total	
Monday	32	13.62%
Tuesday	26	11.06%
Wednesday	36	15.32%
Thursday	21	8.94%
Friday	45	19.15%
Saturday	41	17.45%
Sunday	34	14.47%
	235	

4.5 PAF C63 – Participation of Looked After Children in Reviews

All children contributed to each of their reviews during the period.

4.6 Adoption - PAF C23 - Percentage of children adopted

- In the period since April there were 25 children adopted and 8 children had an SGO (Special Guidance Order), 10.1% of those in care over 6 months, against a target of 8.7% for the year. There have been no adoptions in December or January. It was predicted that adoptions would fall off towards the end of the year and this is what seems to be happening
- In the twelve months there were 35 children adopted and 8 children had an SGO, 13.1% of those in care over 6 months.
- The number of those placed for adoption is 29 children, 27 of whom are under 10. This has increased by 3 since last month

NI 61 the percentage of children adopted who were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision being made

- Had improved from 68 at the end of March to 76 % (19/25) in the period since April . This is in context of 25 children adopted In a 12 month period the figure is 74.3%. This is below the target of 82%

4.7 PAF C18 Offending

At the end of December 09 there were 26 individual children who offended in the 12 months. From April 09 to December 09 there were 19 young offenders. In the third quarter (October – December) there were 7 individual children who offended.

At the end of September the ratio of children who offended had fallen to 1.9 based on a calculation using the police figure for percentage of offenders within the Northumbria area.

4.8 Education

The percentage of children with a current PEP at the end of January was 98%.

In the year ending January 31st, one child moved school as a result of a placement move.

4.9 Disabilities

The percentage of children and families in receipt of direct payments at the end of January continues to rise up to 3.4% or 111 children.

5 Ethnicity

The following table shows the percentage of non-white children who are looked after. The ethnic population in schools is 4.6%. The DCSF suggest that a percentage above this would reflect the needs of ethnic minorities.

Ethnicity	1. < 1	2. 1 to 4	3. 5 to 9	4. 10 to 15	5. 16 to 17	Total	
Asian Or Asian British					3	3	
Asian Or Asian British Bangladeshi					1	1	
Black Or Black British				1		1	
Mixed Any Other Mixed		2	1			3	
Mixed White & Asian	1	1	1	1		4	
Not Yet Defined	1	1				2	
Other Ethnic Group -			1		1	2	
White British	26	55	67	158	68	1	375

