

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD****10 March 2009****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 2009. 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 395 for the last six months. At the end of January there was a reduction to 388 young people in care, so for every 10,000 children in Sunderland, around 57 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 young people in residential care has remained stable, with 48 young people in residential care at the end of January.
  - At the end of January 09, 35 young people had been in care for 12 months or more and had experienced three or more placements during the year. These 35 young people represent 9% of the looked after population at the end of January 09 (35 YP/388 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 January 09, 188 young people under 16 had been in care for at least 2.5 years. Out of these 188 young 134 of them had been in the same placement continuously for 2 years, in other words 71.3%.

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 January 09 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, 33 young people had permanent new family arrangements secured either through adoption (23) or special guardianship (10). The number of children placed for adoption has decrease slightly to 42.
- At the end of January 09 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.
- The percentage of children with a current PEP at the end of January is 94%. The process of recording PEPs has changed and the figure reported previously had underestimated the actual percentage. The 94% is based on figures from Mike Foster.
- PEPs are now recorded on ICS within a notes field which cannot be reported against. This has been queried with the ICS/SWIFT team as ideally all the relevant data should come through one system.
- There are a number of reports set up around PEPs that are now redundant. These would have recorded the due dates, PEPs by team etc.

### 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.
- 18 young people have had a substantive outcome relating to 28 offences in the three months ending December this equates to a ratio of 1.3.
- 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.

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

		Current Status																		07/08 Outturn
Code	Indicator Description	Jan-09	08/09 Target	Banding	Achieved Target?	Distance From Target	Direction	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08		
PAF A1 2043SC NIS DSO2	BVPI 49 CLA with 3 or more placements - end period	9.0%	12.0%	5	✓	3.0%	↑	8.4%	10.5%	8.5%	9.2%	10.5%	9.4%	10.0%	9.7%	10.5%	10.3%	10.0%	10.5%	
PAF A2 3072SC	BVPI 50 % of Care Leavers 16+ with 1+ GCSE A*-G/GNVQ	N/A	67.0%	5	✓	-	N/A	N/A	76.7%	76.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	76.7%
PAF A4 161 CYPP Priority 10	BVPI Employment, education or training for care leavers on their 19th Birthday expressed as a ratio of all children in the community in EET (CLA on 16th Birthday)	0.83	0.76	5	✓	0.07	→	0.76	0.9	-	-	0.3	0.67	0.85	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.9
PAF B7 2056SC	% of CLA (exc with parent) in family places - end pd	85.4%	-				↑	84.8%	84.3%	83.6%	81.8%	81.5%	82.1%	81.8%	82.4%	82.4%	82.7%	84.1%	84.3%	
PAF B79 2068SC	% of CLA (exc with parent) in family places - end pd aged between 10 & 15 – end pd.	83.0%	82.0%	N/A	✓	1.0%	↑	82.5%	82.5%	82.5%	79.3%	80.0%	80.0%	79.0%	79.0%	79.0%	79.0%	83.0%	82.5%	
PAF C18	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	N/A	2	2	✗		N/A	N/A	N/A	3.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.4
PAF C19 1037SC	Of CLA for 1+ yrs, % with Health Check/Assessments completed during year (Annual: OC2)	N/A	92.0%	5	✓		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	91.0%	N/A	91.3%	N/A	91.5%	
PAF C23 Revised 2059SC LAA9 NIS DSO2	BVPI 163 Annual Adoption Rate: Annual No. of Adoptions/Guardianship as % of CLA continuously for 6 months	11.5%	8.6%	5	✓	2.9%	↑	9.4%	9.2%	8.4%	9.1%	8.1%	8.2%	8.9%	8.9%	10.8%	9.2%	11.3%	9.0%	
SS(LAC) 11	% of CLA aged <10 years placed for adoption	25.5%	17.6%		✓	7.9%	↓	16.3%	19.1%	22.8%	24.6%	24.6%	24.6%	23.5%	25.6%	28.4%	28.4%	25.6%	19.1%	
PAF C24	Children Looked After, Absent from School (Annual: OC2)	N/A	11	3	✗	-	→	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
PAF D35 2044SC	CLA LA for 4+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd (no longer a PAF Indicator)	48.6%	-			-	↑	54.8%	54.4%	54.4%	53.0%	50.6%	49.9%	50.3%	50.9%	48.5%	47.7%	47.8%	54.4%	

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		Current Status																07/08 Outturn			
Code	Indicator Description	Jan-09	08/09 Target	Banding	Achieved Target?	Distance From Target	Direction	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08		Dec-08		
PAF C63 4016SC	% of children and young people looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews	100.0%	100.0%	5	✓	0.0%	→	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
PAF C68 2064SC	Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After	N/A	100.0%	5	✓		↓	94.5%	96.0%	97.0%	96.5%	96.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	95.9%	95.5%	93.4%		96.0%	
PAF D78 (SS (LAC)24) 2067SC	CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd	71.3%	73.0%	-	✓	1.3%	↑	73.2%	71.9%	74.1%	75.1%	74.6%	73.0%	72.6%	75.3%	72.3%	70.6%	70.9%		71.9%	
CLA Personal Education Plans	% CLA who have a current PEP	94.0%	100.0%	-	✗	6.0%	↓	72.9%	82.7%	83.3%	82.4%	78.9%	79.8%	79.3%	72.9%	64.3%	54.5%	49.5%		82.7%	
NI 58	The emotional and behavioural health of children and young people in care will be assessed through the use of a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The SDQ is a short behavioural screening questionnaire.														11.3				11.2	new	
NI 54	Services for disabled children																				
NI 61 SS (LAC) 18 2058SC	% of children adopted who were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision being made	82.0%									68.0%								82.0%		
Children with Private Fostering arrangement	The number of children with Private Fostering arrangements	16					↑	5	8	8	8	6	8	8	11	11	12	13		8	