

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Title of Report: Corporate Parenting Performance Report, Quarter 4 2011/12

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### Document History

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**Document Reviewers: who has contributed to, or been consulted during the writing of this report?**

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**ARE THERE ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES TO CURRENT POLICY?**

Yes  Please provide details:

No

## **Corporate Parenting Board, Performance Report, Quarter 4 2011/12**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report informs members of Scrutiny of the current position of the Council as 'Corporate Parent', ensures that all members are aware of their role as "corporate parents", and provides an update on the current performance of the Council in meeting this responsibility. It also updates Scrutiny members on actions being taken to improve the outcomes for those children and young people to whom the Council has a parenting responsibility.

### **2. Reporting Structure**

This report includes a Position Statement for Looked After Performance, the Looked After Children Performance Scorecard, an Outcome Statement, and the Looked After Children Dataset.

The structure for the report is:

- Position Statement, Page 1
- Looked After Children Performance Scorecard, Page 2
- Looked After Children Outcome Statement, Page 3
- Looked After Children Dataset, Page 16

## 1 Corporate Parenting Board Report Quarter 4, 2011/12

### 1.1 Quarter 4 Position Statement

#### **ALL 2011/12 END OF YEAR FIGURES ARE PROVISIONAL BEFORE PUBLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

- 50% (three) of the six former National Indicators for Looked After Children are within the locally set “Very Good” banding; one is banded as “Acceptable” and two are in the “Ask Questions” band.
- Five of the eight indicators that were published in the DfE Performance League Tables are performing above the position they achieved in 2010/11. One has declined on 2010/11 while two have remained stable.
- Number of Looked After Children has fallen from 398 in December 2011 to 392 at the end of March 2012. A reduction of 19 Looked After Children on the end of 2010/11 (411)
- LAC short term stability indicator (number of moves in year) stable compared to 2010/11 outturn (both 10.2%). Indicator still in line with target.
- LAC long term stability indicator (length of placement) at 72.3%, slightly reduced on 2010/11 outturn. Improved during the year, and now in line with target. Has remained in the “Acceptable” band in quarter 4.
- Sustained high performance regarding LAC reviews within timescales, although reduced on 2010/11. Remains in line with 2011/12 target and in the local “Very Good” band.
- Increase in the proportion of adopted LAC who were placed for adoption within a year of agency decision to 79.2% from 45.8% in 2010/11. In line with 2011/12 target.
- Average number of days in adoption process (Looked After to Placed for Adoption) is 686, constant with 2010/11. Three year average and 2011/12 outturns are both above the National threshold of 639 days.
- Average number of days in the adoption family finding process (Placement Order to Matching date) is 236, slightly reduced on 2010/11. This is above the DfE National threshold of 213 days, with a 3 year average of 229.
- Care Leavers in suitable accommodation has increased in quarter 4 and is now banded as “Very Good” and is exceeding target.
- Care leavers in EET is improved on the 2010/11 outturn. Although this indicator falls within the “Ask Questions” band, it is meeting the 2011/12 target.
- Data is not yet available for looked after offending in quarter 4, at quarter 3 this was 2.4, representing 13.6% of cohort.

2 - Looked After Children Scorecard

Position at Quarter 4, 2011/12 (March 2012) End of Year figures Provisional until publication by Dept. for Education

	Ref	Definition	2008/09 Outturn	2009/10 Outturn	2010/11 Outturn	3-Year Average	11/12 Target: <sup>2</sup>		2011/12				Number of Children	Banding	2010/11 National Rank	Projected 3-Year Average	Projected 2011/12 Rank
							Target	In-line?	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Placements		Number of Looked After Children <sup>S</sup>	393	392	411	-	-	-	400	407	398	392	-	-	-	-	-
	NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves <sup>S</sup>	10.2%	7.9%	10.2%	10.0%	10.5%	Y	8.8%	9.3%	9.3%	10.2%	40/392	Very Good	34	9.4%	20
	NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement <sup>S</sup>	67.3%	68.2%	72.5%	70.0%	75%	Y	72.1%	71.3%	70.2%	72.3%	81/112	Acceptable	29	71.0%	17
Reviews	NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales <sup>C</sup>	96.8%	95.1%	97.2%	96.4%	100%	Y	96.3%	95.3%	96.1%	95.4%	332/348	Very Good	-	95.9%	-
Adoption	NI 61	Timeliness of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption <sup>C</sup>	67.6%	76.9%	45.8%	71.0%	84%	Y	85.7%	81.0%	73.7%	79.2%	38/48	Ask Questions	93	72.0%	90
		Percentage of Children who Ceased to be Looked After who were Adopted <sup>C</sup>	26.8%	19.9%	15.1%	21.0%	-	-	18.2%	26.6%	29.9%	27.9%	48/172	-	8	21.1%	8
		Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	789	717	686	738	639	N	644	715	722	686	-	-	-	695	-
		Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	225	221	231	226	213	N	215	265	264	236	-	-	-	229	-
Care Leavers		The proportion of children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday <sup>C</sup>	69.7%	66.7%	54.5%	62.5%	-	-	100.0%	80.0%	66.7%	65.1%	28/43	-	85	62.1%	85
	NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation <sup>C</sup>	88%	89.3%	94.5%	92.0%	90%	Y	90% (9/10)	84.2% (16/19)	93.5%	97.6%	41/42	Very Good	68	93.8%	38
	NI 148	Care leavers in employment, education or training (percentage) <sup>C</sup>	73%	82.1%	61.1%	72.1%	69%	Y	70% (7/10)	63.2% (12/19)	68.8%	69.0%	29/42	Ask Questions	18	70.7%	52
		Percentage of 19 year old Care Leavers who are in Higher Education <sup>C</sup>	3.8%	3.4%	8.3%	5.5%	-	-	0.0%	5.3%	6.3%	7.1%	3/42	-	N/A	6.5%	35
Offending		Offences whilst looked after - ratio of the percentage of all children aged 10-17 given a final warning/reprimand or convicted <sup>C</sup>	2.6	1.2	2.0	1.9	-	-	1.1	1.3	2.4	N/A	25/184	-	-	1.5	-

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Warning: Ofsted Profile rating based on latest available financial year data, highlighted ac/to four quartiles: upper, upper middle, lower middle, lower

<sup>2</sup> Targets: current performance compared to end of year targets has been traffic lighted: >5% below target is Not on Target ( N ); within 5% of target or better than target is On Target ( Y )

<sup>R</sup> Rolling year data

<sup>S</sup> quarter end Snapshot data

<sup>C</sup> Cumulative data for financial y

### **3. Achieving Positive Outcomes for Looked After Children and Young People**

#### *Introduction*

This section of the report will analyse the information held by Sunderland City Council about the children who they act as Corporate Parent for. It will show how the placement arrangements of children combine with their feelings and views in order to give an indication of the child's outcomes from the care system.

#### *Information used in this analysis*

The analysis will use the data collected via the Viewpoint system of questionnaires for looked after children, the Care Leavers Evaluation survey, the indicator information shown in the Looked After Children Performance Scorecard, and the data held in the Looked After Children dataset.

It will also reference a national study on children's well-being carried out by the Children's Society and the University of York ("*The Good Childhood Report: A review of our Children's Well-being*", 2012). The Good Childhood report will give a benchmark of the qualitative questions asked of looked after children against their peers in the community.

Nationally published benchmarking information is included in the form of the 2010/11 DfE Adoption and Looked After Children Performance League Tables. The report also includes a section around the recently published Adoption Performance Scorecard, which will in future be used to support the DfE Adoption Action Plan. Additional outcome information around Looked After Children's education has also been recently published, and this

is analysed along with the 2011 results.

#### *What are Positive Outcomes?*

The children who are looked after by Sunderland naturally range in their age and circumstances, and therefore it is not easy to define a positive outcome that is true for the whole population. The characteristics of currently looked after children will be assessed (3.2) as context for the outcome analysis. The stability of children's placement history has been identified as an important element in determining their later outcomes, and therefore a section of this report will analyse that data (3.3)

An immediate positive outcome is for the most vulnerable children in the local authorities care to be adopted by a family, and an analysis of the child's journey through the adoption process will form one section of this report (3.4). On the longer term basis we can evaluate those children who have left the care system, and we will look closely at the measurable aspects of these young people's lives (3.8).

We can also look at the education results of older children as an indication of how being looked after by Sunderland affected their lives (3.6), as well as analysing the information that is collated by the Designated Nurse regarding the health of looked after children (3.9), and the offending data provided by the Youth Offending Service.

Throughout the report we will be using the responses that children and young people gave to the Viewpoint and Care Evaluation questionnaires in order to derive an indication of how well the care system within Sunderland is working to promote positive outcomes.

### 3.2 Currently Looked After Children Characteristics

**Fewer children are looked after than at the same point in December**

**Fall in the number of children in External Foster Care Placements and fewer children placed with their parents under order**

**Less than half of children have been looked after for more than 2 years**

**More children than ever have been in the care system this year, although for shorter periods of time**

**Eight out of ten children say that they are satisfied with their care, and are happy in their placement. Nine out of ten children say that they feel definitely safe in placement.**

At the end of March 2012 there were 392 children and young people looked after by Sunderland. This is a reduction of six children from the end of December 2011, and equal to 68.9 children for every 10,000 children in the general population of the city.

The ethnic make up of the children in the care of the local authority has changed slightly since the end of December 2011, with 16 BME children in care at the end of March compared to 21 at the end of December. This is a fall from 5.3% of the looked after population who were from BME groups to 4.1%.

The placements used by Sunderland at the end of March are shown in the below table, and illustrate the capacity

of certain attributes of the care system. For example there are 206 Foster Carers (including Friends or Family carers) approved by the authority, and 5 authority ran residential care homes. The number of children in externally sourced placements can indicate the need to commission placements from providers who offer specialist services that the authority cannot meet internally.

Placement Type	Children	%
Foster Care in Internally Commissioned Placements	244	62.2%
Foster Care in Externally Commissioned Placements	32	8.2%
Foster Care in Friends or Family Placements	20	5.1%
Internally Commissioned Residential Placements	30	7.7%
Externally Commissioned Residential Placements	15	3.8%
Children Placed for Adoption	30	7.7%
Young People in Independent Living Placements	6	1.5%
Children Placed with Parents under Order	15	3.8%

These figures indicate a small fall in the use of externally commissioned placements since the end of Quarter 3, with six fewer children placed with Independent Fostering Organisations. Five of those children left care from the external placement, while only one child entered an externally commissioned placement during the last quarter.

The same number of children (15) are placed in external residential placements than at the end of Quarter 3, this being the first quarter during 2011/12 when the use of this type of placement has not increased.

Although this still represents a 26% increase in the use of external residential placements since the

beginning of the year, the proportion of external foster care placements has fallen from 8.8% to 8.2% of all children in care; there are now fewer children in externally commissioned foster care placements than at any point in 2011/12.

Five fewer children are placed at home with their parents under order than at the end of December 2011, representing the bulk of the change in the number of children in care. However, 42 children left care in the last quarter, including six children who left care from a placed with parents placement. This total also includes 10 children who were adopted; three who were living independently; four who left residential care; and 19 who left a Foster Care placement (including the five from external placements mentioned above).

The reduction in the number of children who are placed at home with their parents meant that the total number in this placement type fell from 20 children to 15. Six of those 20 left care during the quarter, giving a discharge rate of 30%. In total 14 children who were placed with their parents under order left care during the year, a rise on 2010/11 (11 Children) and 2009/10 (10 Children).

The total for those Children who are either placed with their parents or placed for adoption is good indication of those children who will leave the care of the local authority in the near future. In March 2011 there were 53 children who were either placed at home with parents or placed for adoption (13% of all LAC). Of these, 45 children were no longer looked after in March 2012, giving a discharge rate of 83%.

The figures suggest that children are staying in care for shorter periods of time, with lower proportions of children in care for over 2 years. At the end of March 2012, less than half (48%) had been in care for more than 2 years, compared to the 50% at the end of December.

	Under 6 months	Under 2 years	2 to 4 years	Over 4 years	% Over 2 Years
Mar 2012	67	137	61	127	48.0%
Dec 2011	72	126	67	133	50.3%
2010	58	123	51	156	53.4%
2009	64	101	59	164	57.5%
2008	36	84	89	180	69.2%

This is a significant reduction on the same figure for 2008, where just under 70% had been looked after for more than 2 years. Although the total population has been similar over the last four years, the proportion of long term looked after has reduced year on year.

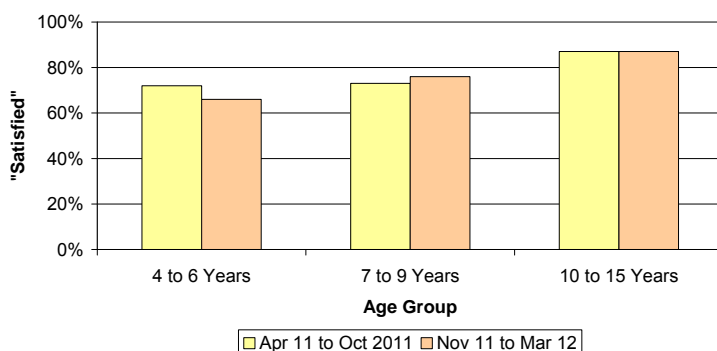
These figures suggest a shift to permanent care arrangements outside of the looked after system (e.g. adoption or residence orders), and the use of more short term foster care placements. The “throughput” of children in the looked after system backs this up, with 553 children being in care at some point during 2011/12. This is a high for total children, and is a slight increase on 2010/11 (550); although that year was itself a significant increase on previous years (2008/09 – 522 children; 2009/10 – 514 children).

*Children and Young People’s Views*  
 The Viewpoint survey has identified the satisfaction of children based on several dimensions. This has been aggregated to show the overall



satisfaction – 80% of children identified themselves as satisfied. This is similar to the overall population figures, where children’s well-being was measured at “between 70 and 80 percent” (*Children’s Society, 2012*). However, this is a slight reduction on the Viewpoint results from the first six months of the year, when 82% of Looked After Children identified themselves as “satisfied”.

**Viewpoint Measure of Satisfaction for Sunderland Looked After Children**



The satisfaction levels change with the age groups questioned – 87% of 10 to 15 year olds, 76% of 7 to 9 year olds, and 66% of 4 to 6 year olds (for the Viewpoint questionnaire period November 2011 to March 2012). These represent a slight change in the satisfaction levels for two age groups, 7 to 9 year olds report a rise of 3% while 4 to 6 year olds report a reduction of 5 % (although this is a small cohort of only six children, and therefore the percentage change is not significant). The largest group of children using the Viewpoint system are the 10 to 15 year olds, and the overall satisfaction level for these children remained unchanged from the last report.

Within this satisfaction total, there are key figures that show what children think about their placements and their experience of the looked after system. For example, 91% of young people

feel “definitely safe” in their placement, while 9% feel “just about” safe. This is a slight reduction on the same measure from the last report, where 95% reported to be “definitely safe”. A comparable figure from the general population is that 92% of children agreed when asked if they felt safe at home (*Children’s Society, 2012*). The reluctance of some looked after children to respond with the most positive option (“definitely safe”) could be due to the underlying circumstances that looked after children have been removed from. No children answering the Viewpoint survey reported the negative options for this question (“Not really” or “Not at all”).

As well as “overall satisfaction” and “safety”, children are asked whether they are “ok” in their placement (for 10-15 year olds this is replaced with a question asking if they feel “settled”). In the older age group this returns a similar figure to the “satisfaction” score at 87% answering “yes”. However for the younger age groups the scores are significantly higher – with 4 to 6 year olds reporting 83% “yes” and 7 to 9 year olds reporting 82% “yes”. This suggests that the elements of their care that they are not satisfied with are mostly not associated with where they are living.



### 3.3 Stability of Placement

**Long Term stability similar to last year, but has improved recently due to a reduction in the number of older children**

**Children with 2 or more moves the same as last year, children reported as missing for 24 hours has increased the final figure**

**Stability of placement close to stability in lives of children in general population**

For children and young people who are looked after by the local authority, it is important that they have the same opportunity for the development of relationships as those children who live with their own parents. In this sense living in a placement that does not change improves the chances that children will feel happy and safe within that setting (in the “Good Childhood” report 2012, it was found that children whose carer’s changed were twice as likely to report low well-being).

Sunderland has several strands of service that allows it to pursue good and stable placements for the children in its care. These will depend on the circumstances of the child as to what constitutes a positive outcome from the placement, but in general they can be described as:

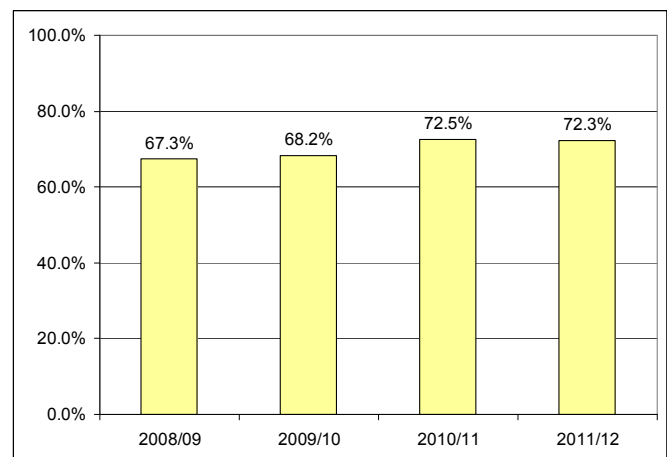
- Children in long term care where it is important that a stable placement is maintained
- Children in short term care where it is important that a suitable placement is provided, and that those children have the

chance to return to their parental home, or to friends or family who will retain parental responsibility.

#### *Long Term Stability*

At the end of March 2012, 112 children under the age of 16 had been in the care of Sunderland for more than 2 and a half years. This is a reduction of 12 on the children who met the same criteria in December 2011, and is in line with the reduction in the length of time children are spending looked after as discussed in section 3.1

Of these children, 81 of them had been in that placement for more than two years. This gives a Long Term Stability indicator of 72.3% at the end of quarter 4 2011/12, an increase on the previous quarter’s 70.2%.



**NI63, Children looked after for 2.5 years + and in the same placement for 2 or more years.**

As is shown in the above chart, this is only slightly lower than the figure that was reported at the end of the last reporting year (March 2011), and although it is an improvement on previous years, it ends the increasing trend for this indicator over the four year period.

This stability indicator also shows poorly when compared to a similar measure in the general population. 87% of children in England have reported that they remain with the same main carer that they lived with 12 months ago (*Children’s Society, 2012*).

However, there is more depth to this issue than at first glance. Although there were 31 children who had changed placement within the last two years, only 12 of these were as a result of placement breakdowns (11% of those long term looked after). The remaining placement changes were made to improve the outcomes for the children; 19 children were either moved to a permanent placement, removed from unsuitable placement arrangements with their birth parents on orders, or were moved into specialist placements that were suited to their level of need.

<b>Children Looked After at the end of March 2012 for more than two and a half years</b>	<b>112</b>	
In a Stable Placement for 2 years or more	81	72%
Have been moved in the last 2 years in order to improve their outcomes	19	17%
Have been moved in the last 2 years due to a placement breakdown	12	11%

These positive placements would increase the indicator by 17 percentage points – meaning that 89% of children who were looked after for more than two and a half years were either in the same placement for more than two years, or were moved to a different placement to improve their outcomes. This is a slight increase on the same figure for quarter 3 2011/12 (88%), and compares favourably against the 87% general population figure quoted above.

*Short Term Stability*

The indicator for short term stability looks at those children who have had three or more placements in the last year.

At the end of March 2012, 40 children had moved at least twice during the year. This gave the indicator a value of 10.2% for the 2011/12 year. This is the same as the 2010/11 outturn, and within the locally set target of 10.5% of children. However, when compared to children in the general population this is significantly higher; 5% of children in England moved their main carer more than once on the last 12 months (*Children’s Society, 2012*).

This is an increase from the figure of 9.3% at the end of Quarter 3, however this only equates to three more children who have moved placement in the last quarter. These three children all entered the indicator due to having a period of being missing from placements before returning to their original carer, rather than an actual change of placement.

In total, nine of the children who had more than two placements were missing for more than 24 hours from one of their placements. This means that if this effect upon the indicator is taken into account, the final figure would be at 7.9%. This compares more favourably to the 5% general population figure, and Sunderland should aim to have this figure as the benchmark for how often children in care move carer.

Although the indicator has risen in the last quarter, the numerator has remained stable during 2011/12, with the fluctuations being due to changes in the overall looked after population.

### 3.4 Adopted from the Care of the Local Authority

**Twice as many children were adopted in the last year than in 2010/11 (48 children compared to 24)**

**“Whole Journey” to Adoption took on average 42 days less than in the previous three years; in 2011/12 the “journey” took an average just short of two years**

**“Family Finding” slightly longer this year compared to last; three year average increased by 3 days**

**Unlikely to meet 2013 Performance thresholds for both the “Whole Journey” and “Family Finding”**

**Over a third of adopted children are over the age of five, over twice as many as the national average; makes adoption timescales more challenging**

172 Children left the care of the local authority between April 2011 and March 2012. The circumstances of the child dictate what would be the most appropriate outcome, however the best alternative to returning the child to the care of their birth family would be to seek a permanent / adoption placement.

#### *Adoption Performance Scorecard*

The Department for Education recently issued an Adoption Performance Scorecard to each local authority, although the national results are yet to be published. This scorecard introduced two new indicators which aim to show more outcome focused measures of the adoption process, and add context to the timescales. These indicators focus on the “whole journey”

and the “Family Finding” process, and will replace National Indicator 61 which set a target of 12 months for the time period between Adoption being agreed as the best option for the child, and placing the child with the adoptive family.

#### *Adoption in 2011/12*

48 children were adopted from care between April 2011 and March 2012, representing 27.9% of the total number of children who were discharged. This is significantly higher rate than in the previous three years (21% average from 2008/09), and would represent a higher rate than any other local authority in England managed to achieve in 2010/11. The 2009-12 three year average is increased slightly to 21.1%, although the 2011/12 figure is significantly higher than the previous year when 24 children were adopted, only 15.1% of the total.

The table below shows this monthly breakdown of adoptions and the increasing prevalence of adoption as the year has progressed.

Month of Adoption	Children Adopted
April	4
May	2
June	2
July	3
August	5
September	5
October	6
November	7
December	4
January	5
February	2
March	3

Although 10 children had to wait more than 12 months to be placed with their adoptive family once the decision that adoption was in their best interest was made, the remaining 79.2% who

waited less than a year is a higher proportion than in some previous years; less than half of children adopted were placed within a year during 2010/11 (45.8%). This indicator is now in-line with the local 2011/12 target of 84%.

**“The Whole Journey” - Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (days)**

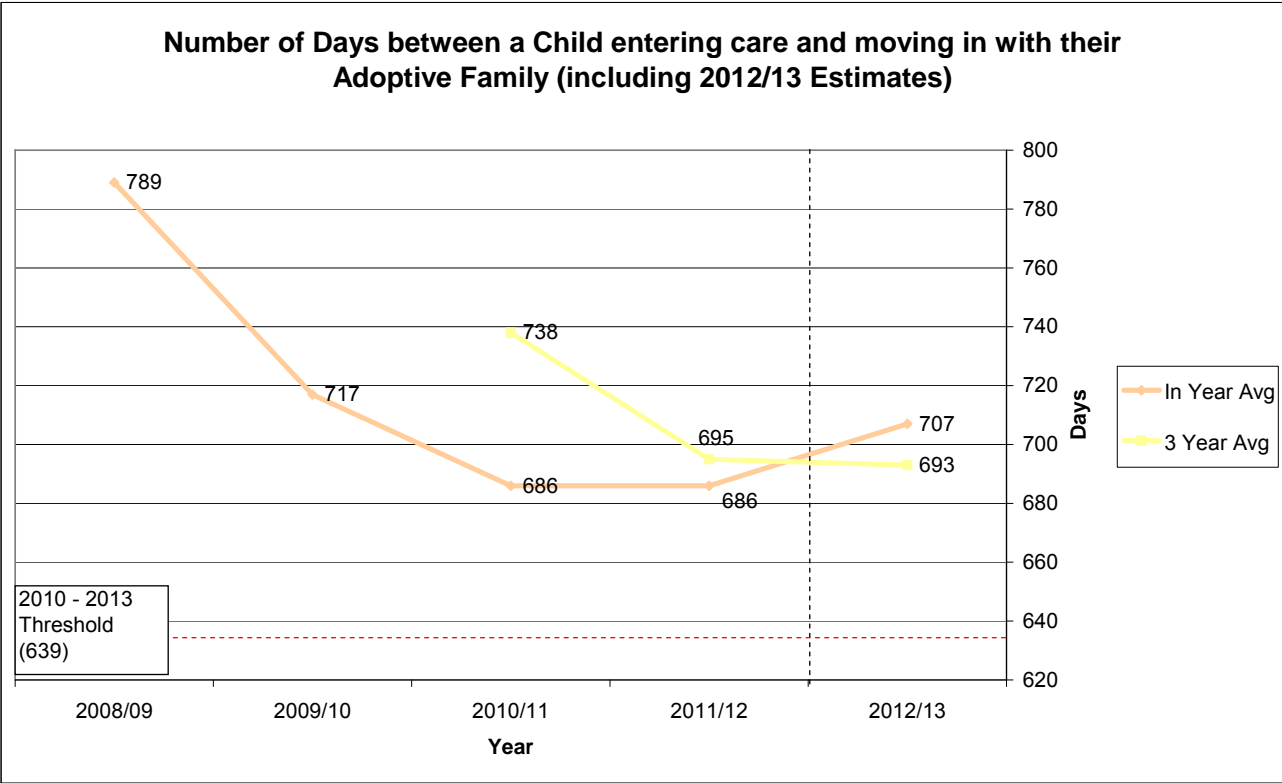
The average number of days between entering care and being placed for adoption remained stable in Sunderland at 686 days for 2011/12 compared to the same figure for 2010/11. However twice as many children were adopted in the last year (48 compared to 24), meaning that the efficiency of the child’s journey through the system improved.

This performance for the last year improved the three year average from 738 days for 2008-11, to 695 days for 2009-12. However, this is still significantly higher than the DFE

established threshold of 639 days, and the national average of 625 days.

The children who were placed for adoption on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, and who are likely to form the cohort of adopted children for 2012/13, have an average of 707 days between the time they entered care and the time they were placed for adoption. This would mean only a slight improvement in the indicator for the 2010-13 average, with a figure of 693 days. If the threshold is to be achieved for 2010-13 then the average length of the “whole journey” for children who are adopted in the next year must be no greater than 503 days.

The below chart shows the trend for this indicator, along with the estimated 2012/13 figures based upon the children currently placed for adoption.



**“Family Finding” - Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)**

Family Finding Timescale		
	In Year Avg	3 Year Avg
2012/13	172*	213
2011/12	236	229
2010/11	231	226
2009/10	221	-
2008/09	225	-
*Required to achieve 213 days threshold		

The time taken for matching a child to an adoptive family after the court has granted a Placement Order for the child has remained relatively stable over the last four years, and in fact there has been a slight lengthening of the process in 2011/12.

Although the DFE threshold for 2010-13 is only 16 days shorter than the current outturn, there would need to be a sharp reduction in the process length to 172 days in order to meet the threshold. Although this seems a challenging target, the current national average rate is similar to this at 171 days.

**Putting the Adoption Timescales into Context – mitigating factors for longer adoption timescales**

The DFE Adoption action Plan makes it clear that although the new performance indicators that make up the Adoption Scorecard will be used to better judge the performance of local authorities on delivering a timely outcome for the children who it adopts, they will also look at the contextual information that may explain some of the higher than threshold timescales.

In Sunderland the strategies followed when looking to find a permanent family for the authorities looked after children mean that the “whole journey” and “family finding” procedures could be longer than other authorities.

For example, the national average for the proportion of children aged over 5 year old who are adopted is 5%; in Sunderland this figure was 12.5% for 2009-12, with a 15.5% total for 2011/12. In total 17 children over the age of five were adopted, including two children who were over the age of 10.

Age Range	Adopted Children
0 - 4	31
5 - 9	15
10 +	2

It is to be expected that older children’s proceedings on average take longer, and the family finding task is also more taxing and therefore more prolonged. This in turn will negatively affect the indicators on the Adoption Performance Scorecard.

The length of care proceedings can also influence the length of the child’s journey through the adoption process, and in Sunderland the average length was 48 weeks in 2010/11. This was with 24 children being adopted, and therefore it is expected to be longer for the 48 children adopted during 2011/12 (data supplied by CAFCASS and therefore unavailable at the time of report).

### 3.5 Children and Young People Leaving the Care of the Local Authority

**Fewer Young People left care this year after the age of 16, although a greater proportion stayed in care up to their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Three year average of those staying in care until 18 slightly decreased for 2009-12; likely to be in low position nationally**

**Nine out of ten children said they were involved in their Pathway Plan; the quality of the plans were mostly rated well**

**Most under 16 year olds who were not adopted, returned to live with their parents or family member/connected person**

124 Children and Young People left the care of the local authority between April 2011 and March 2012 without going through the adoption process. Children can stay looked after until their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday, however most children who experience care leave before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Young People who stay in care until their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

The DfE performance tables included the proportion of children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. In 2011/12 there were 43 young people who left care over the age of 16, and 28 of them remained looked after up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This gives an outturn of 65.1% for this indicator, an increase on the previous year and similar to the totals for 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Year	Children Leaving Care Aged Over 16	Children Leaving Care Aged 18 OR the day before their 18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	Percentage
2011/12	43	28	65.1%
2010/11	55	30	54.5%
2009/10	48	32	66.7%
2008/09	33	23	69.7%

The 2009-12 three year average is 62.1%, a reduction on the 2008-11 figure of 62.5% due to lower performance this year than in 2008/09. This change is only slight, and would not change the 85<sup>th</sup> position which Sunderland were placed in the last published Performance Tables.

The young people who leave care over the age of 16 are supported in their route from the care system with a Pathway Plan. The Care Evaluation Survey asked care leavers about their Pathway Plans, and 91% said they were involved in the process of that plan. The quality of these plans was generally regarded in a positive light, with comments such as:

“Good, it helps you to plan for your future. Chance to express my opinions.”

“Helps as it sets out targets and goals to strive towards.”

When asked to rate the Pathway Plan process, young people gave an average score of 4.3 out of 6

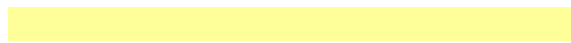
*Leaving care under the age of 16*

From the beginning of April 2011 until the end of March 2012, 81 children left care before reaching the age of 16 (excluding those adopted).



55 children were discharged after being returned to the care of their parents. A further 20 children were either granted a Special Guardianship Order or a Residence Order.

This means that 92.6% of those children who were not adopted, and who did not leave care under a Pathway Plan, were placed back with their family or a connected person with parental responsibility.





### 3.6 Receiving a Good Education

#### Improving Key Stage 1 results

#### Decline in Key Stage 2 but cohort included more children with SEN

#### Decline in children achieving 5 GCSE A\*-G and A\*-C but high proportion with special educational needs

#### Improved school attendance

#### Number of children with fixed term exclusions has reduced

#### 73% of school age children have a special educational need

#### Looked after children are nearly ten times more likely to have a statement of special educational needs

Education performance is measured in relation to children who have been in care for at least 12 months at 31<sup>st</sup> March; in 2011 190 were of school age.

The DfE have recently released new outcomes concerning absences, exclusions and special educational needs. Absences and special educational needs relate to the 2011 cohort, exclusions relate to the 2010.

#### Key Stage 1

- 7 children in cohort
- Improvements in reading, writing and mathematics
- 86% achieved at least Level 2 in reading compared to 84% of all Sunderland pupils
- 71% achieved at least Level 2 in writing from 50% in 2010
- 86% achieved at least Level 2 in mathematics from 50% in 2010.

#### Key Stage 2

- 12 children in cohort
- 17% with SEN Statements, 33% with School Action Plus
- 17% achieved both English and Maths at Level 4 or above
- 42% achieved Level 4 or above in English, 64% in 2010
- 25% achieved Level 4 or above in Maths, 64% in 2010
- 7 did not achieve Level 4 in English, of these four made progress of 2 levels
- 9 did not achieve Level 4 in Maths, of these 5 made two levels of progress

#### Key Stage 4 / GCSE's

- 31 children in cohort
- 21 achieved at least one GCSE pass (71%)
- 35% had SEN Statements compared to 3% of all Sunderland Year 11 children
- 31% have SEN assessed at School Action Plus
- 29% attended special schools
- 52% achieved at least 5 A\*-G
- 36% achieved at least 5 A\*-C, above the national average for Looked After Children of 31%
- 7% achieved 5 A\*-C including English and Mathematics

#### Absences

Sunderland has seen an improvement in authorised and unauthorised absences for children looked after for more than 12 months in 2011.

Authorised absences decreased from 3.9% (sessions lost) in 2010 to 2.9%. This compares to 5.1% of sessions for all Sunderland pupils. Unauthorised absences decreased from 1.0% in 2010 to 0.9% in 2011, compared to 1.1% sessions lost for all Sunderland pupils.

Overall absences decreased from 4.9% in 2010 to 3.8% in 2011, compared to 6.2% of all Sunderland pupils.

In 2011 the DfE released a new definition of persistent absenteeism. A persistent absentee is now defined as having 15% or more sessions of absence. In 2011 the percentage of school age Looked After Children who were defined as persistent absentees was 5.6%, lower than that of all Sunderland pupils (7.2%).

In the DfE performance tables, Sunderland was placed 17<sup>th</sup> with a three year average of 5% of sessions missed due to overall absences (authorised and unauthorised) for children who have been looked after for at least 12 months.

The Care Evaluation Survey asked care leavers if they received any awards while at school, two young people said they had received Attendance Awards for 100% attendance over 5 years.

#### *Exclusions*

Exclusions are subject to an appeals process which means data on exclusions has a two term delay, therefore data from the DfE relates to 2010.

In 2010 13.8% of looked after children of statutory school age had a least one fixed term exclusion, this is an improvement from 15.5% in 2009. This is based on 195 children who were eligible for full time schooling in 2010. The percentage of children in Sunderland schools with at least one fixed exclusion in 2010 was 4.9%, this is only slightly higher than the national figure of 4.5%

#### *Special Educational Needs*

Using the National Pupil Database the DfE have matched looked after children data with school data to identify how many children have Special Educational Needs.

In 2011, 24.2% of children of statutory school age (looked after for 12 months or more on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011) had Special Educational Needs with a Statement. This is lower than the England figure of 28.2% for looked after children, 2.6% of all Sunderland pupils have a Statement.

	SEN With Statement	SEN Without Statement
<b>Sunderland LAC</b>	24.2%	48.9%
<b>Sunderland Pupils</b>	2.6%	19.1%
<b>National</b>	2.8%	17.8%

48.9% had Special Educational Needs without a Statement, including children with School Action and School Action Plus, above the England figure of 41.7%. 19.1% of all Sunderland pupils have SEN without a Statement which is higher than the national 17.8%.

In total 73% of all looked after children of school age had Special Educational Needs in 2011.

#### *Children and Young People's Views about their Education*

As part of the Viewpoint process, children aged 4 to 9 were asked if they were happy at school. 62% of children said yes, they were happy in school, and 33% said they were happy sometimes. Only 5% said they weren't happy at school, this was one child aged 7 to 9 years.

Children and young people aged 7 – 15 were asked if their Foster Carer or Key/Link Worker helped with school work, 78% said yes they received help, another 8% said sometimes. 10.2%

said they did not receive help and 4% said not really.

Children and young people aged 4 to 16 were asked if anyone has hurt, upset or bullied them. 9% said yes someone had and 31% said sometimes someone hurt, upset or bullied them.

The Care Evaluation Survey asked what advice young people would give themselves if they were starting school now, most advised to 'stick in' or study harder.

### **3.7 Staying out of Trouble – results of offending analysis for children who are looked after**

**One in seven young people in care for more than a year have offended since April, twice as many as in the general population**

#### **Increased offending rate to last year**

At the end of quarter 3 the offending ratio for children aged 10 and over who have been looked after for 12 months or more was 2.4. This equates to 25 young people receiving substantive outcomes between April and December 2011 from a cohort of 184 (13.6%). The percentage is expressed as a ratio to the Northumbria offending figure for the same age group of 5.66%. At quarter 2 2010/11 the ratio was 1.8 and 19 young people had received outcomes, 10.1% of the 2011 cohort.

Of the 25 who received outcomes in the first nine months of the year, nine were also in the 2010/11 cohort. Two young people received outcomes in all three quarters. Four young people entered the 2011/12 cohort for the first time in Quarter 3.

The 25 young people received 54 outcomes, which were the result of 81 offences. The most common substantive outcome was the Youth Rehabilitation Order (50%). The Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) is a generic community sentence for young offenders and combines a number of sentences. It is the standard community sentence used for the majority of children and young people who offend. It simplifies sentencing for young people, while improving the flexibility of interventions.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Total</b>
Absolute Discharge	2
Conditional Discharge	7
Final Warning	5
Referral Order	8
Reparation added to YRO	1
Reprimand	4
Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO)	23
YRO & Football Banning Order	1
YRO with ISS	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

The Youth Rehabilitation Orders received between April and December ranged from six months to 12 months, one order also included a football banning order, and three included Intensive Supervision and Surveillance. 15% of outcomes were Referral Orders and 13% were Conditional Discharges.

Common assault was the most common offence (22%) and criminal damage accounted for 18.5% of offences. 11 offences were for theft, including theft of a motor vehicle.

### **3.8 Moving On - How well do young people who grow up within the care system fair as young adults**

**Almost all Care Leavers turning 19 have been in contact with Leaving Care Services around their birthday**

**All young people who got in touch were in suitable accommodation**

**A significant majority of young people were satisfied with the support they were given to live independently**

**Over two thirds of 19 year olds are EET, an increase on last year**

The Leaving Care Service in Sunderland work with young people in care from the age of 15, supporting them for leaving care and living independently. This support continues once the young person has left care, up to the age of 21. Around the young persons 19<sup>th</sup> birthday the service gets in contact with the young person to ask where they are living, and if they are in education, employment, or training.

The Leaving Care service also asks young people who have left care to complete a questionnaire called the Care Evaluation Survey. This shows important information about the young person's outcomes, outside of the Suitable Accommodation and EET categories.

*Young people who had left care and had turned 19 since April 2011*

At the end of March 2012 there were 42 young people in the 19<sup>th</sup> birthday cohort. Six young people who entered the cohort were currently supported by the Learning Disabilities team, the rest were open to Leaving Care. During the 4 month window around their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday 97.6% (41 young people)

were in contact with the Leaving Care Service or with their Learning Disabilities Social Worker. This exceeds the target of 90%.

#### *Suitable Accommodation*

Of the young people who were in contact, all were living in suitable accommodation at the time of their contact (97.6%). Twelve young people were living in semi-independent or supported lodgings and two young people with learning disabilities were living in community homes. Eight young people were living with parents or relatives and 3 with former foster carers. One young person has joined the army and is living in barracks. Fifteen young people had successfully moved to independent living with the support of the Leaving Care Service.

The performance of Local Authorities for 2010/11 was ranked by the DfE for the proportion of young people aged 19 who were looked after age 16 who were in suitable accommodation. Sunderland placed 68<sup>th</sup> with a three year average of 92% (with 11 other LAs), against an England average of 90%.

The 2011/12 outturn of 97.6% would place Sunderland in 12<sup>th</sup> position if taken in isolation, however when included in a three year average of 93.8% Sunderland would achieve the position of 38<sup>th</sup>.

As part of the Care Evaluation Survey young people were asked about the help and support they were given to live independently. When asked how prepared young people felt they were to leave care they gave an average score of 5 out of 6.

89% of young people knew where they were going to live when they left care. In 94% of these cases, young people

indicated the place they moved on to was where they wanted to live.

Comments from the survey about help and support from Leaving Care to live independently include:

"I was given lots of assistance and support from [Leaving Care Worker] with information but I had in my own mind from the start what I wanted."

*"With my plan going to university, my Leaving Care Worker helped me look at student accommodation and the logistics of securing a place."*

Young people were asked to rate the support they were given to help them live independently, young people gave an average score of 4.9 out of 6.

#### *Employment, Education or Training at 19*

Of the 42 young people in the cohort at the end of 2011/12 one was not in contact, therefore their EET situation cannot be counted. Twenty nine (69%) of the full cohort were in employment, education or training, including 11 young people who were in full time training or employment and four who were working or in training on a part time basis.

Ten young people were currently in full time education other than higher education and one was in part time education. Three young people were continuing their studies at university.

There were twelve young people who were not in education, employment or training on or around their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Of these three were NEET due to illness or disability and one is a full time parent.

<b>EET Situation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Full time higher education	3
Full time education other than higher	10
Part time education other than higher	1
Full time training or employment	11
Part time in training or employment	4
NEET due to illness or disability	3
NEET other circumstances	9
Unknown/Not in Contact	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>

Performance was ranked by the DfE for all Local Authorities over a three year average for 2009, 2010 and 2011. For the proportion of young people who were not in employment, education or training Sunderland ranked 18<sup>th</sup> with a three year average of 22% (with Camden, Newcastle, North Lincolnshire and Southend-on-Sea), against an England average of 32%. The percentage for 2010/11 alone was 36.1%.

The performance for 2011/12 of 28.6% NEET if taken in isolation would place Sunderland 52<sup>nd</sup> in the table, however, the three year average would of 25.1%, would place Sunderland at 28<sup>th</sup> in the table.



### 3.9 Being Healthy

**All children aged 5 and under had their development assessments up to date**

**Almost all children had their immunisations up to date**

**Improvement in the number of children seeing a dentist**

**The average score for emotional and behavioural health is judged to be in the normal banding**

**All children identified with a substance misuse problem in 2011 received intervention**

Health performance is measured in relation to children who have been in care for at least 12 months at 31<sup>st</sup> March; 288 children and young people in 2011.

#### *Health Assessments*

Development Health Assessments should be completed for all looked after children aged 5 and under. 100% of children had their development assessments up to date by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, compared to 76.4% nationally. This is also an improvement on the 2010 figure of 97.8%.

All looked after children should have an annual health assessment, for those under 5 the assessment should be every 6 months. 85.8% of children and young people had their health assessments in timescale, an improvement on 82.8% in 2010.

Young people who have declined a health assessment are treated as not having their assessment. Of those who did not have an assessment, 68.3% were aged 14 and over.

#### *Health Care*

The immunisations of children and young people are monitored to establish if they are up to date on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

95.8% of all looked after children had their immunisations up to date at the end of March 2011, this is slight decline from 96.6% in 2010.

Where children have not received their immunisations because of parental refusal, for health reasons, or because the young person refuses, they are counted as not being up to date. 50% of those who were not up to date were aged 16 and over.

All children and young people should have their teeth checked by a dentist during the year. 88.5% of looked after children and young people had their teeth checked, an improvement on 81.0% in 2010. It is also higher than the national figure of 82.4%.

Of those who had not had their teeth checked in the year, 66.7% were aged 14 and over.

#### *Emotional & Behavioural Health*

The white paper Care Matters: Time for Change highlighted the need to improve the mental health of children and young people in care. Evidence suggests that mental health problems are over four times more likely for looked after children compared to their peers.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a screening tool to assess the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children aged between 4 and 16 years, as recorded by the child's main carer.

The questionnaire returns a single 'Total Difficulties Score' ranging from 0 to 40. The average score of all looked



after children aged 4 to 16 who have been looked after for 12 months or more is also calculated. On an individual basis a score of 13 or below is normal, a score between 14 and 16 is borderline. A score of 17 or above is cause for concern.

The overall average score gives an indication of the level of concern for looked after children. In 2011, the average score for looked after children was 13.1, this is an improvement on the 2010 score of 13.4. The 2011 score is lower than the England average of 13.9.

Of those children and young people who had a score reported, 28% had a score of 17 or above – a cause for concern.

#### *Substance Misuse*

During the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, 26 young people were identified as having a substance misuse problem, 9.1% of all children looked after for 12 months or more. The young people ranged in age from 13 to 17. This is a slight increase from 2010 when 8.3% were identified with a substance misuse problem (24 young people aged between 12 and 17).

All children identified with a substance misuse problem were offered an intervention compared to 92% in 2010. 61.5% received an intervention, compared to 92% in 2010. 38.5% were offered an intervention but refused it during the year.

#### *Children and Young People's Views about their Health*

As part of the Viewpoint process, young people aged 10 – 15 were asked how often they exercised or played sport. 3% said they exercised or played sport less than once a week. 44% said at least once a week, 53% said three times a week or more.

## 4 - Looked After Children Dataset

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12
Number of Children Looked After at the End of the Month	411	398	402	400	405	407	408	412	403	398	390	379	392
Number of Children Looked After at the End of the Month per 10,000 population	72.2	69.9	70.7	70.3	71.2	71.5	71.7	72.4	70.8	69.9	68.5	66.6	68.9
Number of Females Looked After at the end of the month	41.4%	41.0%	41.0%	41.0%	41.2%	42.0%	41.7%	42.2%	41.7%	41.5%	42.3%	44.3%	45.4%
Number of Males Looked After at the end of the month	58.6%	59.0%	59.0%	59.0%	58.8%	58.0%	58.1%	57.8%	58.3%	58.5%	59.7%	55.7%	54.6%
Children Looked After Age 0 at the end of the Month		21	20	23	27	24	23	25	22	23	24	22	28
Children Looked After Age 1 to 4 at the end of the Month		100	104	99	96	98	95	95	91	89	84	84	84
Children Looked After Age 5 to 9 at the end of the Month		69	69	72	74	75	79	77	73	70	70	66	71
Children Looked After Age 10 to 15 at the end of the Month		144	144	140	142	147	112	150	152	152	154	145	142
Children Looked After Age 16 to 17 at the end of the Month		64	65	66	66	63	99	65	65	64	58	62	67
<b>Placements - Foster Care</b>													
Number of Children in Foster Care Placements at the End of the Month	304	289	295	292	295	305	303	306	297	295	297	285	296
Foster Care Inside Authority Boundary	216	204	210	207	209	217	218	220	209	202	207	200	208
Foster Care Outside Authority Boundary	88	85	85	85	86	87	85	86	88	93	90	85	88
Foster Care in Internally Commissioned Placements		236	241	239	241	246	240	242	236	235	237	232	244
Foster Care in Externally Commissioned Placements		34	35	34	34	35	36	35	36	38	38	33	32
Foster Care in Friends or Family Placements		19	19	19	20	23	26	29	25	22	21	19	20
<b>Placements - Residential</b>													
Number of Children in Residential Placement at the End of the Month	45	44	47	44	48	46	45	46	46	46	44	43	45
Internally Commissioned Residential Placements	39	37	38	36	36	34	32	32	31	31	30	30	30
Externally Commissioned Residential Placements	6	7	9	8	12	12	13	14	15	15	14	13	15
Children Placed for Adoption at the End of the Month	39	43	41	42	42	37	38	32	31	30	29	26	30
<b>Placements - Placed With Parents</b>													
Children Placed with Parents at the End of the Month	14	14	12	14	14	14	14	17	20	20	18	16	15
Children Placed with Parents at the End of the Month Aged 10 to 15		4	4	4	4	4	3	3	6	7	4	3	4
<b>Placements - Independent Living</b>													
Young People in Independent Living Placements at the End of the Month	1	1	1	5	5	4	7	11	9	7	6	5	6
<b>Legal Status</b>													
Children with an Interim Care Order	57	65	67	69	68	69	75	67	67	59	60	56	64
Children with a Full Care Order	112	109	109	109	110	108	105	109	112	116	113	116	117
Children with a Freeing Order Granted	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Children with a Placement Order Granted	25	97	96	97	99	100	96	95	92	89	90	92	92
Children with a Section 20 Legal Status	135	117	119	114	117	120	124	131	121	123	118	105	109
<b>Legal Status - Under 10</b>													
Children Aged Under 10 with an Interim Care Order	41	49	51	54	55	55	55	46	46	44	45	42	49
Children Aged Under 10 with a Full Care Order	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	5	7	7	11	10
Children Aged Under 10 with a Freeing Order Granted	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0
Children Aged Under 10 with a Placement Order Granted	15	70	82	83	84	83	79	79	75	72	73	75	75
Children Aged Under 10 with a Section 20 Legal Status	68	52	55	53	54	55	61	67	58	58	53	44	49
<b>Placements</b>													
% of Children in Residential Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	11.3%	11.5%	12.1%	11.4%	12.3%	11.7%	11.4%	11.6%	12.0%	12.2%	11.8%	11.8%	11.9%
% of Children in Foster Care Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	76.6%	75.3%	75.6%	75.6%	75.4%	77.6%	76.9%	77.5%	77.5%	78.0%	79.8%	78.5%	78.5%
% of Children in Friends or Family Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	5.5%	5.7%	5.6%	5.7%	5.6%	5.6%	6.6%	7.3%	6.5%	5.8%	5.6%	5.2%	5.3%
% of Children in Family Placements at Month End (Excluding Placed with Parents)	86.4%	86.5%	86.2%	86.5%	86.2%	87.0%	86.5%	85.6%	85.6%	86.0%	87.6%	85.7%	86.5%
% of Children Looked After for More than 6 Months who are Placed for Adoption (excluding Placed with Parents)	11.9%	13.4%	12.8%	13.2%	12.9%	11.3%	11.3%	9.9%	9.9%	9.8%	9.5%	8.6%	9.7%
Number of Children Looked After for More than 6 Months at the End of the Month	343	336	333	333	339	342	351	340	334	326	323	318	325

<b>CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER</b>	<b>Mar-11</b>	<b>Apr-11</b>	<b>May-11</b>	<b>Jun-11</b>	<b>Jul-11</b>	<b>Aug-11</b>	<b>Sep-11</b>	<b>Oct-11</b>	<b>Nov-11</b>	<b>Dec-11</b>	<b>Jan-12</b>	<b>Feb-12</b>	<b>Mar-12</b>
% of Children in a Placement Outside of Sunderland (excluding Adoption and Placed with Parents)	23%	23%	23%	27%	28%	28%	28%	28%	29%	31%	30%	29%	30%
<b>Placements - Under 10</b>													
Number of Looked After Children Aged Under 10 Year Old at the End of the Month	199	187	193	194	197	197	197	197	186	182	178	172	183
Number of Children in Foster Care Placements Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	152	135	144	141	145	150	147	150	141	139	141	132	144
Number of Children in Residential Placements Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Number of Children Placed for Adoption Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	37	41	40	0	0	0	38	32	30	29	28	28	30
Number of Children Placed with Parents Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	9	10	8	10	10	10	11	14	14	13	14	11	9
% of Children in Foster Care Placements Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	76.4%	72.2%	74.6%	72.7%	73.6%	76.1%	74.6%	76.1%	75.8%	76.4%	79.2%	76.7%	78.7%
% of Children Placed with Parents Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	5.9%	7.4%	5.6%	7.1%	6.9%	6.7%	7.5%	9.3%	9.9%	9.4%	9.9%	8.3%	6.3%
% of Children Placed for Adoption Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	18.59%	21.93%	20.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	19.29%	16.24%	16.13%	15.93%	15.73%	16.28%	16.39%
% of Children In Family Placements (excluding Placed with Parents) Aged Under 10 at the End of the Month	99.5%	99.4%	99.5%	76.6%	77.5%	80.2%	99.5%	99.5%	99.4%	99.4%	103.0%	99.4%	100.0%
<b>Child Protection Plans</b>													
The Number of Looked After Children with an Open Child Protection Plan at the end of the Month	13	7	10	8	9	11	12	16	13	8	6	5	17
<b>Private Fostering</b>													
The number of children with Private Fostering arrangements		11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	11
<b>Placement Stability</b>													
NI62 - % Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months.	9.2%	10.1%	10.0%	8.8%	10.6%	10.6%	9.3%	9.2%	9.2%	9.3%	9.5%	10.6%	10.2%
Number of Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months.	38	40	40	35	43	43	38	38	37	37	37	40	40
Number of Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months - Excluding Missing Episodes.		34	32	29	37	38	31	31	28	28	30	31	31
NI62 - % Looked After Children at the End of the month who have had three or more Placements during the last 12 Months, Excluding Missing Episodes.	7.8%	8.5%	8.0%	7.3%	9.1%	9.3%	7.6%	7.5%	6.9%	7.0%	7.7%	8.2%	7.9%
Children under the Age of 16 who have been Looked After for more than 2 and a half years	131	130	131	129	130	129	129	128	127	124	123	114	112
Children Under the Age of 16 who have been in the same placement for more than 2 years	96	84	84	93	93	93	92	91	87	85	86	83	81
CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd	73.3%	64.6%	64.1%	72.1%	71.5%	72.1%	71.3%	71.1%	68.5%	68.5%	69.9%	72.8%	72.3%
Children aged 16 and over who have been Looked After for more than 2 and a half years	25	23	24	25	26	25	24	23	23	22	24	29	28
Children aged 16 and over who have been in the same placement for more than 2 years	54	48	50	52	51	48	48	49	48	48	44	49	54
CLA 16 yrs+ LA for 2.5+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd	46.3%	47.9%	48.0%	48.1%	51.0%	52.1%	50.0%	46.9%	47.9%	45.8%	54.5%	59.2%	51.9%
<b>Outcomes for Children Looked After - Offending Behaviour</b>													
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.	2.0			1.1			1.3			2.4			N/A
<b>Outcomes for Children Looked After - Reviews</b>													
% of Children looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews, in a rolling 12 months	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER</b>	<b>Mar-11</b>	<b>Apr-11</b>	<b>May-11</b>	<b>Jun-11</b>	<b>Jul-11</b>	<b>Aug-11</b>	<b>Sep-11</b>	<b>Oct-11</b>	<b>Nov-11</b>	<b>Dec-11</b>	<b>Jan-12</b>	<b>Feb-12</b>	<b>Mar-12</b>
% of Children Looked after who communicated their views specifically during statutory reviews since April	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.7%	99.5%	99.6%	99.8%	99.8%	99.7%	99.0%	99.0%	98.7%
NI66 - Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After, in a rolling 12 months	95.2%	94.0%	94.5%	96.3%	96.0%	95.0%	95.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NI66 - Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After, Since April	95.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	98.6%	98.1%	96.1%	97.2%	96.2%	95.4%
<b>Outcomes for Children Looked After - Education</b>													
% Children Looked After who have a current PEP	98.0%	94.8%	94.9%	95.0%	95.0%	95.8%	95.8%	95.5%	95.8%	94.3%	94.6%	94.0%	93.7%
<b>Adoptions/Permanency Planning</b>													
Number of Children Adopted in a Rolling 12 Months	24	26	27	25	27	31	32	32	35	39	43	45	48
Number of Children with a Special Guardianship Order from Care in a Rolling 12 Months	6	5	5	3	3	3	3	4	5	5	4	3	3
Annual Adoption Rate: Number of Children Adopted as % of Children Looked After continuously for 6 months	7.0%	7.7%	8.1%	7.5%	8.0%	9.1%	9.1%	9.4%	10.5%	12.0%	13.3%	14.2%	14.8%
Annual Adoption Rate including SGO: Number of Children Adopted/Guardianship Order as % of Children Looked After continuously for 6 months	8.7%	9.2%	9.6%	8.4%	8.8%	9.9%	10.0%	10.6%	12.0%	13.5%	14.6%	15.1%	15.7%
Number of Children Adopted per Month	0	4	2	2	3	5	5	6	7	4	5	2	3
Number of Children subject to a Special Guardianship Order from Care in the Month	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Number of Children Adopted Since April	24	4	6	8	11	16	21	27	34	38	43	45	48
Number of Children subject to a Special Guardianship Order from Care Since April	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	3	3
Adoption Rate Since April: Number of Adoptions/SGOs as % of Children Looked After continuously for 6 months	8.7%	1.2%	1.8%	2.4%	3.2%	4.7%	6.0%	8.2%	11.1%	12.6%	14.2%	15.1%	15.7%
<b>Care Leavers</b>													
16+ care leavers in contact with SSD	91%	100.0%	100.0%	90.0%	90.9%	93.8%	94.7%	95.8%	93.1%	93.8%	93.8%	95.0%	97.6%
16+ care leavers known to have suitable accommodation	84%	100.0%	100.0%	90.0%	90.9%	93.8%	94.7%	95.8%	93.1%	93.8%	93.8%	95.0%	97.6%
16+ care leavers in employment, education or training ( runs one month in arrears)	59%	66.7%	71.4%	70.0%	63.6%	62.5%	63.2%	70.8%	69.0%	68.8%	68.8%	67.5%	69.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>													
Ethnic Origin other than White British and White Irish	19	19	18	20	20	21	20	18	20	21	16	15	16
% of Looked After Children who are not White British or White Irish	4.6%	4.8%	4.5%	5.0%	4.9%	5.2%	4.9%	4.4%	5.0%	5.3%	4.1%	4.0%	4.1%