

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 2) on Monday 21 March 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Part I

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Minutes of Meeting held on 7 February 2011 (Copy herewith).	1
4.	Children Looked After : Performance Report Report of the Head of Safeguarding (copy herewith).	9
5.	Proposed Closure of Children's Homes Responses to Concerns raised by Change Council (copy herewith)	23

Part II

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

The following items are not for publication as the Board is likely to exclude the public during consideration thereof as they contain information relating to any individual, or information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1 and 2).

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 6. | Minutes – Part II | 25 |
| | Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 February 2011, Part II (copy herewith). | |
| 7. | Reports of Ofsted Inspections of Children’s Homes | - |
| | Report of the Executive Director of Children’s Services (copy to follow). | |
| 8. | Reg 33 Visits with Elected Member | 27 |
| | Report of the Head of Safeguarding (copy herewith) | |

ELAINE WAUGH
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
SUNDERLAND

11 March 2011.

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 February 2011 in
Committee Room No. 2, Civic Centre, Sunderland at 5.30 pm**

Present:

Councillor P. Smith (Chair)
Councillor Speding
Councillor Trueman
Councillor Gofton

Councillor A. Hall
Councillor Maddison
Councillor D. Smith

Members of the Board

Executive Member, Children and Learning City
Executive Member, Healthy City
Executive Member, Sustainable Communities
Executive Member, Responsive Services and
Customer Care
Coalfield
St Michael's
Copt Hill

Also in attendance:

Meg Boustead
John Arthurs
Janet Murray
Nick Murphy
Alyson Boucher
Jane Hedley
Debra Dorward

All Supporting Officers

Head of Safeguarding
Independent Reviewing Manager
Assistant Head, Sunderland Virtual School
Services for Looked After Children Manager
Children and Young People's Rights Officer
Senior Solicitor
Governance Services Officer

Young People

Konner McCully
Shanice Sykes
Tiffany Johnson
Craig Clifford
David Lamb
Kallam Addison
Daniel Bensley

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors
E. Ball, Walker and D. Wilson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of Meeting held on 13 September 2011

Councillor D. Smith in referring to the Children Looked After: Performance Report enquired why there were no statistics recorded under the category 'PN7 – Child does not attend nor are his or her views conveyed to the review – currently being monitored'. In response the Independent Review Manager stated that this was because there were no children in that category.

16. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

Children Looked After: Performance Report (1 April 2010 – 30 November 2010)

The Head of Safeguarding submitted a report providing Board Members with information about performance against key performance indicators and targets for Children Looked After.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Members were notified that the performance information contained within the report related to the 12-month period ending November 2010, with particular focus on the end of that period. The report also provided a detailed breakdown of the children Looked After performance indicators via a Performance Grid.

The Head of Safeguarding explained that she was interested in hearing the views of the young people regarding the way in which performance information was supplied, displayed and also if the length of the report was acceptable.

The young people were informed that the National Indicator Set for local authorities had been removed, which meant that the Council no longer received a direct response from Central Government. Consequentially, the Head of Safeguarding stated that she was about to begin some work alongside officers to explore putting in place some new performance indicators which would help the Council to measure performance, compare performance to previous periods and flag areas for improvement.

A summary of the key points taken from the report were then highlighted.

Councillor Trueman enquired why 2 of the 387 Children Looked After were unaccompanied asylum seekers and why the system did not automatically look after them. The Head of Safeguarding responded advising that there were many rules and regulations around who could be classified as seeking asylum and that in the last eighteen months Sunderland City Council had indeed accommodated two people seeking asylum in the appropriate way. She went on to explain that quite

often the age of young asylum seekers entering the UK Border could not be determined immediately. However she did confirm that until their age was established, young asylum seekers coming into Sunderland were looked after.

Councillor A. Hall commended the report stating that the information provided was useful and very interesting. She then went on to enquire if there was any mechanism in place for recording the number of failed adoptions.

In response, the Head of Safeguarding stated that 'failed adoptions' would be classified as those that did not proceed through to adoption stage. She explained the procedure leading up to adoption involves a matching process which was conducted at introduction stage, and stated that a couple of those had not proceeded through to adoption in the last year. However, she was able to confirm that there had not been any children placed in adoption that had not proved to be successful and this was thanks to the matching process. A lot of work goes into matching process to ensure that families were matched with children.

Councillor A. Hall went on to enquire if a child who did not proceed through to adoption would be included in the statistics within the report, to which she was advised indeed they would, once their legal status had been amended accordingly.

Councillor P. Smith then enquired of the young people if they would like to bring any items of discussion from their Change Council to the Corporate Parenting Board agenda. The young people unanimously thanked Councillor P. Smith stating that it would be something which they would consider at their next Change Council meeting.

The Head of Safeguarding also recommended that the young people come forward should they have any suggestions on how to improve the Performance Report or if they would like to identify any areas of performance that they would like the Council to measure.

Upon consideration, it was:-

17. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Independent Advocacy for Looked After Children

The Head of Safeguarding submitted a report concerning young people's access to Independent Advocacy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Independent Review Manager firstly updated the Committee on progress in relation to the renewal of its contractual arrangements for an independent service provider in accordance with the National Standards for the Provision of Children's Advocacy Services 2004. In doing so, he advised that following a Tender Evaluation process Action for Children had been announced as the successful bidder. He explained that the newly awarded contract would run from 1 February 2011, initially

for three years with subsequent extension options subject to continued quality and adequate funding provision.

The Committee were also informed that the new contract would enable cost-savings in the remainder of the financial year, and based on past usage would enable continued savings over the next three years.

The Independent Review Manager went on to outline the remainder of the report to the Committee and in doing so advised that whilst take up of the advocacy service had been lower in 2009-2010 than in previous years, eighteen referrals had been picked up in 2010-2011, two of which had been in the current quarter.

The number of referrals from children in foster care continued to exceed those from residential care, with more direct requests from children and young people or from carers on their behalf.

Members were informed that the Advocacy Service continued to record information regarding themes identified by young people, and feedback regarding responses.

In relation to themes, the Independent Review Manager was able to inform the Committee that these continued to relate to young people's uncertainty about their plans, or children seeking support to resolve difficulties regarding disagreements with the local authority and their parents. Some representations had been related to specific decisions about placement moves or school enrolment.

There had been six occasions when young people had requested that their representations be supported by the Children and Young People's Rights Officer without using the Advocacy Service.

Councillor P. Smith enquired how many young people in attendance at Committee had used the Advocacy Service, to which the young people responded that none of them had used it, however they felt reassured that the service was available. The Independent Review Manager reiterated to Members that the Young People's Rights Officer was usually the first port of call for the young people as she managed to deal with most of the issues that the young people tended to raise effectively.

Councillor D. Smith enquired if there was any possibility that a report could be obtained detailing past performance before the new Advocacy contract commenced. The Independent Review Manager stated that this would be expected and suggested that if it would be useful to Members a report detailing such performance could be submitted to the Corporate Parenting Board on an annual basis.

Upon consideration, it was:-

18. RESOLVED to note the report and the continuing development of the service and due arrangements for re-commissioning of the contract.

MALAP Strategy

The Services for Looked After Children Manager delivered a presentation to the Corporate Parenting Board on the Multi Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP) Strategy.

The Board was advised that the MALAP was made up of representatives from a range of services, directorates and partner agencies. The MALAP was Chaired by Head of Safeguarding and was made up of the following: -

- Services for Looked After Children;
- Case Management;
- Safeguarding Unit;
- Youth Offending Service;
- Young People's Services;
- Commissioning Unit;
- Performance and Information Team;
- Services for Disabled Children;
- The Virtual School for LAC;
- Workforce Development;
- Connexions; and
- Extended Services

The Board heard the Partners involved in the MALAP were as follows: -

- TPCT Children's Lead for Commissioning
- Designated Nurse for LAC
- Consultant Child Psychologist for LAC
- Sunderland College

The Services for Looked After Children Manager explained that in terms of governance arrangements the MALAP met on a bi-monthly basis and whilst it was not a formal sub-group of the Children's Trust, the frameworks developed by the Children's Trust helped to formulate the MALAP Strategy. What's more, the MALAP was identified in the Children and Young People's Delivery Plan 2010-2013 as the lead body for delivering improved outcomes for Looked After Children.

The purpose of the MALAP Strategy was to assist the MALAP identify existing services, strategies, and plans which impact on Looked After Children, in order that these could be considered for consolidation and development. The MALAP Strategy also provided a framework for future planning to ensure that Looked After Children are appropriately served within mainstream strategies, and that dedicated strategies are established and implemented where necessary.

The vision for the MALAP Strategy was as follows: -

“To ensure agencies work together to give all children and young people who are looked after or have been looked after, the best opportunities to do well in life.”

Members heard that although there had been several strategies for Looked After Children within Children's Services, there has never been a strategy developed and owned by partners as well as the Council, and the MALAP Strategy addressed this.

Priorities identified in the MALAP Strategy were being outlined as follows: -

- Improve access to emotional and mental health services for Looked After Children in short term placements
- Increase foster carer recruitment
- Improve long term placement stability

The Services for Looked After Children Manager explained that as an overarching driver to improve outcomes for Looked After Children, it was essential that the MALAP Strategy remained inextricably linked with the Corporate Parenting Board. He also took the opportunity to inform Members that the remit and process of the Corporate Parenting Board was currently being reviewed to ensure it fulfils its purpose of enabling Members and senior managers to be effective corporate parents.

Councillor P. Smith enquired of the Members if they would be interested in participating in a review of the Corporate Parenting Board or, if Members had any strong views on this.

Councillor A. Hall enquired if Member involvement in the review could be opened up to a wider range of Councillors. The Head of Safeguarding responded upon advice stating that indeed it could, and suggested that a future Corporate Parenting Board agenda could even be arranged especially for the topic of realising our responsibilities as corporate parents where other Councillors could be invited along to attend.

Upon Consideration, it was: -

19. RESOLVED to note the information contained within the presentation.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

20. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to an individual, or information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual (including the Authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1 and 2).

(Signed) P. SMITH,
Chairman.

Note:-

The above minutes relate only to items considered during the time which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD March 2011

REPORT OF: HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE (1st April 2010 to 31st January 2011)

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with performance information relating to Children Looked After (CLA) for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st January 2011, with a particular focus on the end of the period. It also gives a detailed breakdown of the Children Looked After performance indicators via a Performance Grid.

2.0 Background

2.1 The work of Children's Services Social Care in Sunderland is of critical importance to achieving good outcomes for the authority's CLA; to ensure that each and every child looked after is able to achieve their full potential.

2.2 Whilst the National Indicator Set for local authorities has now been removed, continued use of the indicators for the immediate future, provides a means by which Sunderland can (a) measure performance for its CLA, (b) compare performance to previous periods, and (c) flag areas for improvement.

2.3 The former National Indicator Set on which this report is based covers Placements, Placement Stability, Reviews, Care Leavers, Missing Children, Adoptions, Offending, Emotional and Behavioural Health, and Ethnicity.

3.0 Context

3.1 Final performance information is submitted to the DfE annually in June, and thereafter follows a period of validation. The data provided in this report and in the Performance Grid is therefore subject to finalisation and validation, which can cause changes to the outcome.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 This report and Performance Grid provides data on a cumulative basis from 01/04/10 where feasible, although some data is represented on a snapshot or rolling basis. The 'measure' is made explicit in each case, via the Performance Grid, to aid interpretation.

4.2 Colour-coding is used throughout the Performance Grid to indicate whether a target has been met or to indicate the direction of performance travel from the previous month. When colour-coding direction of travel, an interpretation has been made as to whether the move is positive, negative or neutral – the interpretation is entirely subjective and is open to further discussion. Green is positive, red is negative and grey is neutral.

5.0 Summary of Key Points

5.1 By the end of January 2011:

- 394 children were looked after (69.2 per 10,000 children in the local population) – following a peak of 400 in July 2010.
- 74.11% (292 of 394) of all CLA were placed in foster care, and of those, 72.60% (212 of 292) were placed within the local authority boundary.
- 83.69% (118 of 141) of CLA aged 10-15 were in a family placement, increasing to 99.44% (178 of 179) for the under-10's.
- 59.39% (234 of 394) of all CLA were male, and 40.61% (160 of 394) were female.

- 91.62% (361 of 394) of CLA were experiencing a stable placement (less than 3 placements) – continuing to remain within target.
- 64.12% (84 of 131) of long-term CLA were retaining a stable long-term placement – the second consecutive deterioration in monthly performance.
- 100% of CLA had participated in their reviews.
- 97.38% (335 of 344) of all CLA cases that should have been reviewed, were reviewed on time.
- 63.81% (67 of 105) of all Foster Carer cases that should have been reviewed, were reviewed on time.
- 72.50% (29 of 40) of care leavers were in suitable accommodation.
- 47.50% (19 of 40) of care leavers were in suitable Education, Training or Employment.
- The self-assessment for children missing from home/care remained at 12 with further work being needed across a number of areas. Following a period of improving missing numbers, there was an increase during January.
- 54.17% (13 of 24) of children adopted were adopted within 12-months of the best interest decision. Those not adopted in timescale were either aged 5 and over or had complex needs.
- 8.68% (29 of 334) of children looked after for over six-months had an Adoption Order or Guardianship Order.
- 1.78 CLA offended for every one 10-17-year-old offender in the general population (Quarter 3).
- 13.12 (low mental health concerns) was the average mental health score for children aged between 4 and 16 who had their mental health needs assessed (by the end of December 2010).
- 4.82% (19 of 394) of CLA belonged to an ethnic minority population.
- 0.51% (2 of 394) of CLA were unaccompanied asylum seekers.

6.0 Children Looked After (CLA) Performance

- 6.1 CLA numbers remained relatively stable from November to December, then experienced an increase of six during January to 394. **It is important to note that these figures reflect a snapshot in time and are subject to change on a daily basis.*
- 6.2 Foster care remains the most common placement for CLA, with 74.11% (292 of 394) in this type of placement (remaining comparative to the preceding months). 72.60% (212 of 292) of foster care placements were within the LA boundary – a level typical of the previous months.
- 6.2.1 76.15% of LA provided foster care in is the LA boundary and 44.3% of agency provided foster care is in the boundary (from levels of 25% in the summer). From December-10 to January-11, a slightly lower proportion of externally provided placements have been in the boundary but this appears to be due to two children leaving the cohort.
- 6.3 The remaining two family placement options have changed slightly since December:
- 6.3.1 One more child placed with parents at 4.06% (16 of 394). This is the third-consecutive increase and reflects the highest proportions placed with parents since May's outturn of 4.60%.
- 6.3.2 Three more placed for adoption at 8.38% (33 of 394). Following a peak of 36 during October, the numbers of children placed for adoption has been reducing, but with a slight increase in the last month to 33. Of the 33 children currently placed for adoption, 17 are aged-5 and over, and it is this age group are that traditionally harder to place within 12-months - thereby directly impacting on the future performance of NI61 (see below).
- 6.4 The numbers of children placed in residential care has remained relatively stable throughout the financial year, changing by just one or two children each month. At the end of January 2011, 45 children were in residential care, equating to 11.42% of all CLA.
- 6.5 One child under-10 continues to be placed in a residential setting, meaning performance remains under 100% at 99.44% for those under-10 in family placements. The child this relates to is aged-8 and continues to be in a residential placement outside the boundary due to their exceptionally complex needs.
- 6.6 Currently, two children under-12 are placed residentially (a reduction of one in the last month and including the 8-year-old noted above), equating to a 98.99% family placement performance at the

end of January 2011, for this age group. Sunderland's children's homes are registered to accommodate only children aged-12 and over, and it is exceptional for children under-12 to be placed in external residential placements.

- 6.7 As children get older, there is a higher possibility that they will be cared for in a residential setting. This is reflected in the 10-15 age group where 23 children are placed residentially, taking the family placement performance up to 83.69%. The current performance therefore is an improvement on the previous month, despite remaining marginally under target.
- 6.8 The proportion of children looked after with PEP's cannot be validated at this time due to lack of recording on ICS - following some delays it is now anticipated that the Sunderland Virtual School Team will make the data available on ICS by March. Recent provisional data received suggests that performance may not be at 98% as previously through - the Performance Grid has therefore been amended to reflect this.
- 6.9 (NI 62) The actual number of children that have experienced three or more placement moves has remained stable at 33 over the last two-months - the percentage however is better at the end of January due to the increase in total CLA number. At the end of January therefore 8.38% of CLA had experienced three or more placement moves. Despite remaining within target, current performance continues to reflect the high demand for placements and under-capacity within the system (the Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy is being developed to counteract the impact on this indicator).
- 6.10 (NI 63) For those children aged under-16 in long-term placements, 64.12% (84) continue to retain a stable long-term placement, which is the second-consecutive deterioration in monthly performance. The measure therefore remains under the 75% target.
- 6.10.1 For those aged-16 and over, the percentage decreased to 43.64% (24/55) at the end of January 2011. This reflects the second-consecutive decrease in performance for this age group.
- 6.10.2 Current performance reflects the high demand for placements and the under-capacity within the system - the Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy is being developed to counteract the impact on this indicator.
- 6.10.3 In Sunderland, a decision to move a child is taken on a case-by-case basis, and is made in line with the child's best interests (i.e. to bring siblings together) – such positive moves however do have a negative impact on this particular indicator, making it one of the most challenging indicators in the set.
- 6.10.4 A suggestion has been raised to develop a local indicator which could provide a better understanding of placement quality, and which could lend to better explain performance changes across NI63 – it is recommended that this is investigated as part of the wider outcomes framework.
- 6.11 There have been no recent school moves as a result of a placement (this measure excludes those that moved as a result of an adoption placement).
- 6.12 LA participation in reviews continues at 100% (777 of 777) for those eligible to participate. Since April, more than half (54.83% / 426) have physically attended their review. Breaking this down:
- 52.90% physically attended and spoke for themselves
 - 1.67% physically attended and had an advocate speak for them
 - 0.26% physically attended and conveyed their views symbolically (non-verbally)
 - 41.57% did not physically attend but briefed an advocate to speak for them
 - 3.60% did not physically attend but conveyed their feelings by a facilitative medium.
- * Figures include participation at each review that takes place, regardless of how many reviews a child has in the period.*
- 6.13 (NI 66) The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March 2011 that have been reviewed on time, has been improving monthly as more

children enter the denominator. There was a slight deterioration however by the end of January taking performance from 97.71% to 97.38% (335 of 344).

- 6.14 From April-10 to January-11, 63.81% (67 of 105) of Foster Carer Reviews took place within timescale (at least every 12-months). Of those that were outside of timescale, 20 had agreed extensions (most for less than 3-months) and 18 are awaiting completion/recording (more than half of the latter are less than three-months overdue, although one is nine-months overdue).
- 6.15 (NI 147 and NI 148) Performance for care leavers in suitable accommodation and EET are both under target at 72.50% and 47.50% respectively, and have both experienced a performance decrease on the previous month.
- 6.15.1 The situation remains that the individuals in this particular cohort have proven very difficult to engage, with several refusing contact. The small numbers within the cohort mean that an individual's failure to engage impacts greatly on the figures.
- 6.15.2 Care leavers over-18 are entitled to be offered a statutory Leaving Care Service but it is not a statutory requirement that they maintain contact if they do not wish to do so.
- 6.15.3 There is also an issue with young people not involved with the Leaving Care Service but whom are included in the cohort i.e. one young person is in a psychiatric hospital and is no longer an open case, another young person has not been referred. This obviously has an impact on the figures which it is not possible to address.
- 6.15.4 There have been some positive outcomes of young people previously not in contact and NEET, making contact and engaging in training. Unfortunately this is not reflected within the figures due to their window closing prior to this.
- 6.16 (NI 71) The self-assessment at the end of January 2011 remains at 12 from a possible 15. To raise the rating, further work is needed in the areas of (i) Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways, (ii) Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals, and (iii) Local procedures including effective needs assessment protocols.
- 6.16.1 Work is ongoing to track those missing in order to offer them services - and the chart in the Performance Grid shows missing activity as defined by Northumbria Police for January 2011. The chart shows an increase in missing activity in January – 37 children went missing 54 times in total.
**Missing data is currently based on Police definitions and data has been provided by Northumbria Police.*
- 6.17 (NI 61) In the last month, one-additional child has been adopted in timescale, taking the percentage from 52.17% to 54.17%, and equating to 13 children adopted in timescale since April.
- 6.17.1 In the same period (since April), 11 children have been adopted outside of the 12-month best interest decision - and as previously explained, ten of those were aged-5 and over at the time of the adoption (seven were aged-7 and over) - and one was a child with complex disabilities placed at the age of 2-years.
- 6.17.2 With more than half of all children currently placed for adoption aged-5 and over, a continued performance under target could be experienced. However, it is predicated that more children aged under-one will enter the cohort before the end of the financial year.
- 6.18 8.68% (29 of 334) of children looked after for over six-months had an Adoption Order or Guardianship Order.
- 6.19 (Offending whilst Looked After) At the end of the period April to December there were 189 CLA for 12months+, of which 19 of them were offenders. This gives a cumulative offending rate of 10.05% for CLA, compared to 5.66% for the general 10-17 population in Northumbria. Thus, there were 1.78 CLA Offenders for every one 10-17-year-old offender at the end of the Quarter 3, compared to 1.21 and 1.15 in the two previous Quarters.
- 6.19.1 Figures are based on a potential cohort, which won't be finalised until March 2011.

- 6.19.1.1 This indicator is already worse than the outturn last year with one quarter to come. 15 of the 19 were living in children's homes at the time of the offence though the majority of the offences took place outside the home and were not reported by staff.
- 6.19.2 A recent Freedom of Information Request revealed that between 2003 and 2011, 931 individual children became looked after (on one or more occasion) and 217 of those had been convicted of a crime. Of the 217 with a criminal record, 37% (81) gained their first conviction after they became looked after and, of these, 38.3% gained that conviction during the first 6 months of being in care.
- 6.20 Emotional and Behavioural Health of CLA) - Performance at the end of Quarter 3 remained relatively stable at 13.12, indicating low mental health needs of CLA on average (72.25% had low mental health needs scoring 0-16, 12.04% had borderline mental health needs scoring 17-20 and 15.71% had higher than average mental health needs scoring 21+).
 - 6.20.1 A score above 16 indicates the beginning of mental health concerns). Those scoring 17+ (borderline mental health needs) are offered a mental health appointment.
 - 6.20.2 The score is derived from an average of completed questionnaires, each containing 25 questions rated relating to Emotions, Conduct, Hyperactivity, Peer Problems and Pro-social Behaviour – the total of which gives a score of 0-40.
- 6.21 At the end of January 2011, there were two CLA who were unaccompanied asylum seekers - an increase of one child since December.
- 6.22 19 of 394 (4.82%) of children looked after are from an ethnic minority.

7.0 Performance Grid

- 7.1 See attached - separated by Placements, Placement Stability, Reviews, Care Leavers, Missing Children, Adoptions, Offending, Emotional and Behavioural Health, and Ethnicity.

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative																
CLA Overview																															
□	CLA per 10,000 under 18 population	Snapshot	Data	Data	Data	68.8	69.9	69.4	68.0	68.2	69.2	□	□	□	CLA numbers remained relatively stable from November to December, then experienced an increase of six during January to 394. It is important to note that these figures reflect a snapshot in time and are subject to change on a daily basis.																
□	Numbers of CLA....	Snapshot				396	398	395	387	388	394																				
Placements																															
□	...Placed with Parent	Snapshot				13/396	13/398	11/395	13/387	15/388	16/394	□	□	□	16 children were placed with parents as at the end of January, equating to 4.06% of all CLA. This is the third-consecutive increase and reflects the highest proportions placed with parents since May's outturn of 4.60%																
						3.28%	3.27%	2.79%	3.36%	3.87%	4.06%																				
□	...Placed in Residential Care	Snapshot				46/396	46/398	46/395	45/387	44/388	45/394	□	□	□	The numbers of children placed in residential care has remained relatively stable throughout the financial year, changing by just one or two children each month. At the end of January 2011, 45 children were in residential care, equating to 11.42% of all CLA.																
						12%	11.56%	11.65%	11.63%	11.34%	11.42%																				
□	...Placed for Adoption	Snapshot				33/396	31/398	36/395	32/387	30/388	33/394	□	□	↑ (neutral)	Following a peak of 36 during October, the numbers of children placed for adoption have been reducing, but with a slight increase in the last month to 33. This equates to a current performance of 8.38%. Of the 33 children currently placed for adoption, 17 are aged-5 and over, and it is this age group are that traditionally harder to place within 12-months - thereby directly impacting on the future performance of NI61 (see below).																
						8.33%	7.79%	9.11%	8.27%	7.73%	8.38%																				
□	...Placed in Foster Care	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	297/396	302/398	296/395	291/387	291/388	292/394	□	□	□	As at the end of January 2011, 292 of 394 children were placed in foster care, which represents 74.11% of the total CLA population. Averaging at three-quarters of all CLA, this outturn does not deviate significantly from any of the preceding months. The table below shows those placed in and out of the area, according to placement provider. 72.60% (212 of 292) of foster care placements are within the LA boundary - a level typical of previous months. 76.15% of LA provided foster care in is the boundary and 44.33% of agency provided foster care is in the boundary (from levels of 25% in the summer). In the last month therefore, a slightly lower proportion of externally provided placements have been in the boundary but this appears to be due to two children leaving the cohort.																
						75.00%	75.88%	74.94%	75.19%	75.00%	74.11%																				
						<table border="1"> <caption>Foster Care Placements as at 31st January 2011</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Placement Provider</th> <th>Inside LA Boundary</th> <th>Outside LA Boundary</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Relative/Friend Carer</td> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LA Provided Foster Care</td> <td>182</td> <td>67</td> <td>249</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agency Provided Foster Care</td> <td>13</td> <td>17</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>										Placement Provider	Inside LA Boundary	Outside LA Boundary	Total	Relative/Friend Carer	17	17	34	LA Provided Foster Care	182	67	249	Agency Provided Foster Care	13	17	30
Placement Provider	Inside LA Boundary	Outside LA Boundary	Total																												
Relative/Friend Carer	17	17	34																												
LA Provided Foster Care	182	67	249																												
Agency Provided Foster Care	13	17	30																												
□	...Female	Snapshot				163/396	163/398	163/395	159/387	157/388	160/394	□	□	□	Females continue to account for less than half of all CLA, at 40.61% (160 of 394).																
						41.16%	40.95%	41.27%	41.09%	40.46%	40.61%																				
□	...Male	Snapshot				233/396	235/398	232/395	228/387	231/388	234/394	□	□	□	Males continue to account for more than half of all CLA, at 59.39% (234 of 394).																
						58.84%	59.05%	58.73%	58.91%	59.54%	59.39%																				

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
□	Family Placements: Under 10's	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	170/170	173/173	173/174	169/170	169/170	178/179	100%	✘ (neutral)	➔ (neutral)	One child under-10 continues to be placed in a residential setting, meaning performance remains under 100% at 99.44% for those under-10 in family placements. The child this relates to is aged-8 and continues to be in a residential placement outside the boundary due to their exceptionally complex needs.
							100%	100%	99.43%	99.41%	99.41%	99.44%				
□	Family Placements: Under 12 (excluding those placed with parents)	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	196/198	200/202	201/204	193/196	190/193	197/199	100%	✘ (neutral)	⬆ (neutral)	Currently, two children under-12 are placed residentially (a reduction of one in the last month and including the 8-year-old noted above), equating to a 98.99% performance at the end of January 2011. Sunderland's children's homes are registered to accommodate only children aged-12 and over, and it is exceptional for children under-12 to be placed in external residential placements.
							98.99%	99.01%	98.53%	98.47%	98.45%	98.99%				
□	Family Placements: 10-15 inclusive	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	123/145	123/146	120/146	118/143	120/145	118/141	84%	✘ (neutral)	⬆ (neutral)	As children get older, there is a higher possibility that they will be cared for in a residential setting. This is reflected in the 10-15 age group where 23 children are placed residentially, taking the family placement performance to 83.69%. The current performance therefore is an improvement on the previous month, despite remaining marginally under target.
							84.83%	84.25%	82.19%	82.52%	82.76%	83.69%				
□	School age CLA with a PEP (age 4-16)	Snapshot					□	□	□	□	□	□	100%	□	□	The proportion of children looked after with PEP's cannot be validated at this time due to lack of recording on ICS - following some delays it is now anticipated that the Sunderland Virtual Schools Team will make the data available by March. Recent provisional data received suggests that performance may not be at 98% as previously through - the Performance Grid has therefore been amended to reflect this.

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

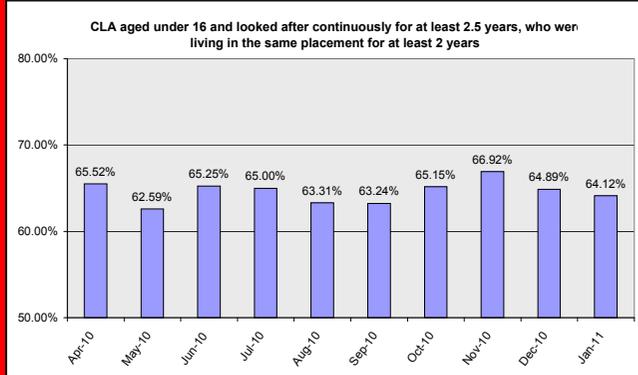
CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative																																																							
Placement Stability																																																																							
NI62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements 3+	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	29/396	31/398	33/395	31/387	33/388	33/394	<10%	✓ (green)	↓ (green)	<p>The actual number of children that have experienced three or more placement moves has remained stable at 33 over the last two-months - the percentage however is better at the end of January due to the increase in total CLA number. At the end of January therefore 8.38% of CLA had experienced three or more placement moves. Despite remaining within target, current performance continues to reflect the high demand for placements and under-capacity within the system (the Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy is being developed to counteract the impact on this indicator). The tables below shows the trend in placement stability, and uncovers the activity across admissions and discharges that is currently masked in the figures.</p>																																																							
							7.32%	7.79%	8.35%	8.01%	8.51%	8.38%				<p>Percentage of children experiencing less than 3 placements</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of children experiencing less than 3 placements</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr-10</td><td>92.25%</td></tr> <tr><td>May-10</td><td>93.08%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-10</td><td>92.05%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-10</td><td>92.77%</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-10</td><td>92.68%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-10</td><td>92.21%</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-10</td><td>91.65%</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-10</td><td>91.99%</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-10</td><td>91.49%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-11</td><td>91.62%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Monthly Admissions and Discharges</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Monthly Admissions and Discharges</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Admissions</th> <th>Discharges</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr-10</td><td>12</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>May-10</td><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun-10</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-10</td><td>20</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-10</td><td>11</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-10</td><td>17</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-10</td><td>17</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-10</td><td>9</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-10</td><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-11</td><td>23</td><td>16</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Percentage	Apr-10	92.25%	May-10	93.08%	Jun-10	92.05%	Jul-10	92.77%	Aug-10	92.68%	Sep-10	92.21%	Oct-10	91.65%	Nov-10	91.99%	Dec-10	91.49%	Jan-11	91.62%	Month	Admissions	Discharges	Apr-10	12	16	May-10	8	6	Jun-10	10	11	Jul-10	20	8	Aug-10	11	19	Sep-10	17	14	Oct-10	17	21	Nov-10	9	17	Dec-10	9	7	Jan-11	23	16
Month	Percentage																																																																						
Apr-10	92.25%																																																																						
May-10	93.08%																																																																						
Jun-10	92.05%																																																																						
Jul-10	92.77%																																																																						
Aug-10	92.68%																																																																						
Sep-10	92.21%																																																																						
Oct-10	91.65%																																																																						
Nov-10	91.99%																																																																						
Dec-10	91.49%																																																																						
Jan-11	91.62%																																																																						
Month	Admissions	Discharges																																																																					
Apr-10	12	16																																																																					
May-10	8	6																																																																					
Jun-10	10	11																																																																					
Jul-10	20	8																																																																					
Aug-10	11	19																																																																					
Sep-10	17	14																																																																					
Oct-10	17	21																																																																					
Nov-10	9	17																																																																					
Dec-10	9	7																																																																					
Jan-11	23	16																																																																					

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
NI63	The percentage of looked after children aged under 16, who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	88/139	86/136	86/132	87/130	85/131	84/131	75%	✘ (red)	↓ (red)	<p>For those children aged under-16 in long-term placements, 64.12% (84) continue to retain a stable long-term placement, which is the second-consecutive deterioration in monthly performance. The measure therefore remains under the 75% target. This reflects the high demand for placements and under-capacity within the system - the Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy is being developed to counteract the impact on this indicator. In Sunderland, a decision to move a child is taken on a case-by-case basis, and is made in line with the child's best interests (i.e. to bring siblings together) – such positive moves however do have a negative impact on this particular indicator, making it one of the most challenging indicators in the set.</p> <p>A suggestion has been raised to develop a local indicator which could provide a better understanding of placement quality, and which could lead to better explain performance changes across NI63 - it is recommended that this is investigated as part of the wider outcomes framework.</p>
			63.31%	63.24%	65.15%	66.92%	64.89%	64.12%							
□	The percentage of looked after children 16 and over , who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years	Snapshot	25/57	28/56	30/62	31/60	28/58	24/55	tbc	tbc	↓ (red)	↓ (red)	<p>For those aged-16 and over, the percentage decreases to 43.64% (24/55) at the end of January 2011. This reflects the second-consecutive decrease in performance for this age group.</p>		
			43.86%	50.00%	48.39%	51.67%	48.28%	43.64%							
□	School moves as a result of a placement	Cumulative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	□	□	→ (green)	<p>There have been no recent school moves as a result of a placement (this measure excludes those that moved as a result of an adoption placement)</p>



CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

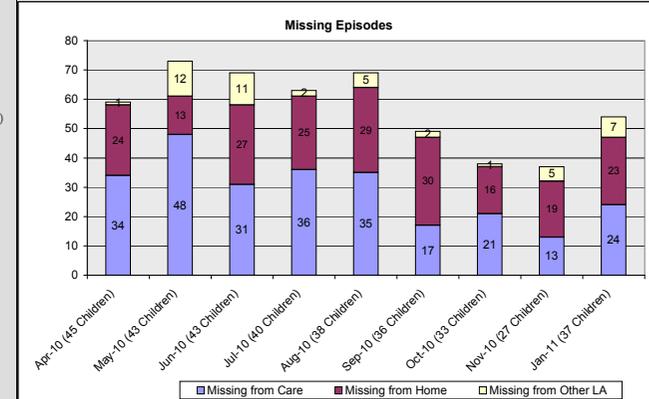
CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
Reviews																
PAF C63	Participation of CLA in Reviews (excluding those aged under 4)	Cumulative	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	100%	100%	540/540	620/620	704/704	777/777	100%	✓ (green)	➔ (green)	<p>CLA participation in reviews continues at 100%. The chart below shows a further breakdown, demonstrating that 54.83% (426) physically attended their review in the period (figures include participation at each review that takes place, regardless of how many reviews a child has in the period).</p> <p>CLA Participation in Reviews by Type (for those aged-4 and over)</p> <p>■ PN1 - Child physically attends and speaks for him or herself ■ PN2 - Child physically attends and an advocate speaks on his or her behalf □ PN3 - Child attends and conveys his or her view symbolically (non-verbally) □ PN4 - Child physically attends but does not speak for him or herself, does not convey his or her view symbolically (non-verbally) and does not ask an advocate to speak for him or her. ■ PN5 - Child does not attend physically but briefs an advocate to speak for him or her □ PN6 - Child does not attend but conveys his or her feelings to the review by a facilitative medium</p>
			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%								
NI66	The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March 2011 that were reviewed on time during the year.	Cumulative	285/354	334/355	325/345	341/349	341/349	335/344	100%	n/a until year-end.	↓ (red)	As the is a cumulative measure, performance has been improving monthly as more children enter the denominator. There was a slight deterioration however by the end of January taking performance from 97.71% to 97.38% (335 of 344).				
			80.51%	93.52%	94.20%	97.71%	97.71%	97.38%								
o	Percentage of Foster Carer Reviews that were completed within timescale	Cumulative	32/52	44/69	46/73	56/82	61/92	67/105	100%	x (red)	↓ (red)	From April-10 to January-11, 63.81% (67 of 105) of Foster Carer Reviews took place within timescale (at least every 12-months). Of those that were outside of timescale, 20 had agreed extensions (most for less than 3-months) and 18 are awaiting completion/recording (more than half of the latter are less than three-months overdue, although one is nine-months overdue).				
			61.54%	63.77%	63.01%	68.29%	66.30%	63.81%								

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
Care Leavers																
NI147	Former care leavers aged 19 in suitable accommodation	Rolling	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	15/21	15/22	23/27	27/30	28/35	29/40	86%	✘ (red)	↓ (red)	Performance for care leavers in suitable accommodation and EET are both under target and have both experienced a performance decrease on the previous month (72.50% and 47.50% respectively). i. The situation remains that the individuals in this particular cohort have proven very difficult to engage, with several refusing contact. The small numbers within the cohort mean that an individuals failure to engage impacts greatly on the figures. ii. Care leavers over-18 are entitled to be offered a statutory Leaving Care Service but it is not a statutory requirement that they maintain contact if they do not wish to do so. iii. There is also an issue with young people not involved with the Leaving Care Service but whom are included in the cohort i.e. one young person is in a psychiatric hospital and is no longer an open case, another young person has not been referred. This obviously has an impact on the figures which it is not possible to address. iv. Due to the 'window' closing, some positive outcomes of young people in NEET, are not reflected.
							71.43%	68.18%	85.19%	90.00%	80.00%	72.50%				
NI148	Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training at the age of 19	Rolling	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	11/21	11/22	13/27	15/30	17/35	19/40	67%	✘ (red)	↓ (red)	
							52.38%	50%	48.15%	50.00%	48.57%	47.50%				
Missing CLA																
NI71	CLA missing from home/care	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	12	12	12	12	12	12	15	✘ (red)	→ (neutral)	The self-assessment at the end of December 2010 remains at 12 from a possible 15. To raise the rating, further work is needed in the areas of (i) Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways, (ii) Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals, and (iii) Local procedures including effective needs assessment protocols. Work is ongoing to track those missing in order to offer them services - and the following chart shows missing activity as defined by Northumbria Police for January 2011. The chart shows an increase in missing activity in January - both in terms of episodes and children, with 81.48% of missing episodes for under 24hours.



CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative
Adoptions																
NI61	Percentage of children adopted who were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision being made	Cumulative	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	4/7	10/16	10/17	10/21	12/23	13/24	82%	✗ (red)	↑ (green)	<p>In the last month, one-additional child has been adopted in timescale, taking the percentage from 52.17% to 54.17%, and equating to 13 children adopted in timescale since April.</p> <p>- In the same period (since April), 11 children have been adopted outside of the 12-month best interest decision - and as previously explained, ten of those were aged-5 and over at the time of the adoption (seven were aged-7 and over) - and one was a boy with complex disabilities placed at the age of 2-years.</p> <p>-With more than half of all children currently placed for adoption aged-5 and over, a continued performance under target could be experienced. However, it is predicated that more children aged under-one will enter the cohort before the end of the financial year.</p>
			57.14%	62.50%	58.82%	47.62%	52.17%	54.17%								
PAF C23	Annual No. of Adoptions/Guardianship Orders as a percentage of CLA continuously for 6 months	Cumulative	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	12/333	16/336	20/329	25/326	27/330	29/334	9%	n/a until year-end.	↑ (green)	<p>As this is a cumulative indicator, performance will and has been, increasing month-by-month, currently standing at 8.88%.</p>
			3.60%	4.76%	6.08%	7.67%	8.18%	8.68%								
Offending																
PAF C18	Offending whilst looked after	Cumulative	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	n/a	6.50% (S'Land) / 5.66% (N'bria)	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.05% (S'Land) / 5.66% (N'bria)	<2.4	✓ (green)	↑ (red)	<p>At the end of the period April to December there were 189 CLA for 12months+, of which 19 of them were offenders. This gives a cumulative offending rate of 10.05% for CLA, compared to 5.66% for the general 10-17 population in Northumbria. Thus, there were 1.78 CLA Offenders for every one 10-17-year-old offender at the end of the Quarter 3, compared to 1.21 and 1.15 in the two previous Quarters.</p> <p>- Figures are based on a potential cohort, which won't be finalised until March 2011.</p> <p>- This indicator is already worse than the outturn last year with one Quarter to come. 15 of the 19 were living in children's homes at the time of the offence though the majority of the offences took place outside the home and were not reported by staff.</p> <p>- A recent Freedom of Information Request revealed that between 2003 and 2011, 931 individual children became looked after (on one or more occasion) and 217 of those had been convicted of a crime. Of the 217 with a criminal record, 37% (81) gained their first conviction after they became looked after and, of these, 38.3% gained that conviction during the first 6 months of being in care.</p>
			n/a	1.15	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.78								
Emotional and Behavioural Health																
NI58	Emotional and Behavioural Health of CLA	Rolling	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	n/a	13.3	n/a	n/a	13.12	n/a	<16	✓ (green)	↓ (neutral)	<p>Performance at the end of Quarter 3 remained relatively stable at 13.12, indicating low mental health needs of CLA on average (72.25% had low mental health needs scoring 0-16, 12.04% had borderline mental health needs scoring 17-20 and 15.71% had higher than average mental health needs scoring 21+). Those scoring 17+ (borderline mental health needs) are offered a mental health appointment. The score is derived from an average of completed questionnaires, each containing 25 questions rated relating to Emotions, Conduct, Hyperactivity, Peer Problems and Pro-social Behaviour – the total of which gives a score of 0-40.</p>

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Ref	Definition	Measure	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Target 10/11	Target Met?	Direction of Travel from previous month (%)	Monthly Narrative																				
Disabilities																																				
□	□	□	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	□	□	□	□	□	□	tbc	tbc	tbc	Replacement indicators are currently being sought and developed for children with disabilities.																				
Ethnicity																																				
□	Unaccompanied asylum seekers	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	□	□	2 0.51%	2 0.52%	1 0.26%	2 0.51%	□	□	↑ (neutral)	At the end of January 2011, there were two CLA who were unaccompanied asylum seekers - an increase of one child since December.																				
□	Ethnic origin other than White British or White Irish	Snapshot	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	Data suppressed	16/396	20/398	19/395	19/387	19/388	19/394	□	□	↓ (neutral)	19 of 394 (4.82%) of children looked after are from an ethnic minority. The split of ethnic origin is represented below:																				
<table border="1"> <caption>CLA Ethnicity as at 31st January 2011</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnic Group</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Asian or Asian British (Any Other Asian)</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian or Asian British (Indian)</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black or Black British (Any Other Black)</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Any Other Mixed Background (...)</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed White & Asian</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Ethnic Group - Chinese</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Ethnic Group - Other</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White Irish</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White British</td> <td>374</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>																	Ethnic Group	Count	Asian or Asian British (Any Other Asian)	2	Asian or Asian British (Indian)	1	Black or Black British (Any Other Black)	1	Mixed Any Other Mixed Background (...)	4	Mixed White & Asian	6	Other Ethnic Group - Chinese	4	Other Ethnic Group - Other	1	White Irish	1	White British	374
Ethnic Group	Count																																			
Asian or Asian British (Any Other Asian)	2																																			
Asian or Asian British (Indian)	1																																			
Black or Black British (Any Other Black)	1																																			
Mixed Any Other Mixed Background (...)	4																																			
Mixed White & Asian	6																																			
Other Ethnic Group - Chinese	4																																			
Other Ethnic Group - Other	1																																			
White Irish	1																																			
White British	374																																			

Corporate Parenting Board – 21 March 2011

Responses to Concerns raised by Change Council

Proposed Closure of Children's Homes

Care Plans for young people will 'go to pot' If Children's homes get shut

- Young people's care plans will be carefully considered and there will be a different plan in place for each young person. The home will not close until all the plans for the young people can be properly put in place

Being a carer shouldn't be about money and nor should be shutting the homes

- The decision to close a children's home is not taken lightly, and is not just about money. It is also about making sure that each young person is offered the right placement for him or her, and about placement choice

Foster care does not suit all young people

- We know that foster care doesn't suit everyone, and there will always be Children's Homes for those young people who need them

Foster care should be for all ages, instead of just young children

- Foster care is for children and young people of all ages, not just young children. Lots of teenagers live in foster care

Some foster carers are "mint", but some carers are awful and treat young people badly

- As in all walks of life, people are different. If any young person feels he or she is being treated badly they need to tell their social worker, or Alyson, or someone else they trust, so that this can be looked into. We do not want any young person to be badly treated

You should match Young Persons to Foster Carers so they have something in common; for example if a young person like football, they should be placed with a foster family that like the same things

- As far as possible we do try to match young people with carers on the basis of mutual interests, but this is not always possible

Homes should not "be closed off" or "out of the way" – young people need to learn to be part of a community, they can't do that if they are isolated

- We all agree that children's homes need to be part of the community.

Leaving Care / Housing

If young people are capable, they should be able to go straight in to their own flat instead of supported accommodation

- Sometimes young people can be supported to move into their own accommodation direct from care, but we find that for most young people a gradual transition to independence through supported accommodation works best

There needs to be more 'types' of supported accommodation

- We would like there to be more choices of accommodation for young people leaving care, and actively try to extend the range of available options

There should be better on-going support for people in care and foster care when they leave care

- The Leaving Care Service will continue to support young people when they leave care – this support is now being extended to age 25 for young people in full-time education.

EMA / Pocket Money

EMA :- different treatment in different homes

- EMA is now coming to an end. We are looking into how EMA is currently treated in the different homes to make sure that this is fair across the homes.

Miscellaneous

Rules are not clear or fair – different homes have different rules, then rules are different again if you are in Foster care

- Rules are never exactly the same in 2 foster homes, or even in children's homes, but they should be fair. If young people feel they are not being treated fairly they need to talk to their social worker, or Aly, or someone else they trust

Schools

Some schools are still embarrassing young people"your home is here for you"!

- We have passed on to the Virtual School the concern about schools embarrassing young people – but they need to know which school said this so that we can talk to the school about it.