

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD May 2009

REPORT OF HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: PERFORMANCE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide the Board with information about performance against key performance indicators and targets for children looked after.

2. Background

2.1 The numbers in this report relate to the end of May 2009. Appendix 1 contains information about performance against key indicators and targets for young people in care, and provides a basis for monitoring performance over time, and for comparison with performance nationally (banding).

3. Summary of Key Points

3.1 Appendix 1 provides information about performance against key indicators (Best Value and Performance Assessment Framework Indicators) for young people in care and care leavers and shows how the Council's performance compares with local authorities nationally.

3.2 Areas of Good Performance

- The number of young people in care has been stable for the last year at 390 - 400. At the end of May there was a reduction to 388 young people in care, so for every 10,000 children in Sunderland, around 57 of them are Looked, this is in line with other local authorities. We are on target for 2009/10.

The number of young people in residential care has remained stable, with 50 young people in residential care at the end of May.

- At the end of May 09, 34 young people had been in care for 12 months or more and had experienced three or more placements during the year. These young people represent 8.8% of the looked after population. Included in this figure are children who go missing from care. If the missing episodes were not counted the percentage would fall by around two percent to 7.1% young people.

- At the end of May 09, 161 young people under 16 had been in care for at least 2.5 years. Out of these 161 young 104 of them had been in the same placement continuously for 2 years, in other words or 64.6%. This figure has fallen since the beginning of the year, largely due to the high number of adoptions.

Placement stability is closely associated with the achievement of good outcomes for young people and so this area has a priority for improvement. The number of missing episodes has fallen in the last 2 years both in the number of young people and the number of incidences.

- There are only a small group of care leavers. Out of this group we monitor who were in education, employment or training on the 19th birthday. At the end of March 09, 85% were in EET compared to those in EET in the local community. 88% were in suitable accommodation

- At the end of May 09 all of young people over 4 years communicated their views to meetings held to review their plans, either in person, in writing or through another person of their choice.

- The percentage of children with a current PEP at the end of May is 97%. The process of recording PEPs has changed and the figure reported previously had underestimated the actual percentage. The 97% is based on figures from the virtual Headmaster.

- Comparison with other local authorities

The following table is taken from the Local authority data matrix (May 2009) and is based on the OC2 return in September 2008. Sunderland has achieved the top ranking in three of the six categories. This is dramatic improvement as shown in the previous year's rankings

Looked after Children Attainment	2004 /05	Rank	2005 /06	Rank	2006 /07	Rank	2007 /08	Rank	Latest England Ave
NI 99 - Children looked after Key Stage 2 - English (Level 4 and above)	36.0	73	52.0	19	41.0	63	79.0	3	46.0
NI 100 - Children looked after Key Stage 2 - Maths (Level 4 and above)	40.0	44	32.0	77	31.0	77	93.0	1	44.0
Children looked after Key Stage 2 - Science (Level 4 and above)	56.0	47	56.0	60	48.0	82	86.0	1	60.0
Looked After Children GCSE results 5+ A*-C	-	-	38.9	1	21.0	7	19.0	14	13.9
Children Looked After GCSE results 1+ A*-G (No. looked after in Y11 old enough to sit GCSE or GNVQ exams in brackets) (CF/A2)**	65.6 (30)	46	66.7 (20)	54	68 (40)	43	75 (30)	26	65.6

** March 2008

Percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with five or more GCSEs at grade A*- C or GNVQs equivalent to grades A*- C.). This has risen from 6% in 2007/8 to 29% (9/31) at the end of March 2009. This is a very volatile indicator because it often deals with quite small numbers of

young people. Small changes can have large consequences for the resulting indicator values.

3.3 Priorities for Improvement

- In the year ending March 2009, 37 CLA offended from the 207 young people looked after aged 10-17 years old who had been looked after for 1 or more years. The 37 young people had 37 court appearances relating to 119 offences (Assault (34%), Criminal Damage (17%) and Theft (13%) accounted for 64% of offences committed).

The number of children who offend has remained high over the last 2 years, however there has been a slight fall year of year from 46 in September 2008 to 37 in March 2009

- Currently there are two groups involved in helping improve this indicator, the Children Looked After Operational Group and the Children Looked After Strategy Group. The latter group had been working with an officer from the Audit Commission to identify action which can be taken to improve this indicator.

May 09

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

		Current Status																		07/08 Outturn
Code	Indicator Description	May-09	08/09 Target	Banding	Achieved Target?	Distance From Target	Direction	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09		
PAF A1 2043SC NIS DSO2	BVPI 49 CLA with 3 or more placements - end period	8.8%	10.5%	5	✓	1.7%	↑	10.5%	9.4%	10.0%	9.7%	10.5%	10.3%	10.0%	9.0%	8.7%	8.9%	9.1%	10.5%	
PAF A2 3072SC	BVPI 50 % of Care Leavers 16+ with 1+ GCSE A*-G/GNVQ	N/A	67.0%	5	✓	#####	→	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	76.7%	
PAF A4 161 CYPP Priority 10	BVPI Employment, education or training for care leavers on their 19th Birthday expressed as a ratio of all children in the community in EET (CLA on 16th Birthday)	0.68	0.76	5	✗	-0.08	→	0.29	0.67	0.85	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.71	0.71	0.68	0.68	0.90	
PAF B7 2056SC	% of CLA (exc with parent) in family places - end pd	83.6%	82.0%	4	✓	1.6%	↓	81.5%	82.1%	81.8%	82.4%	82.4%	82.7%	84.1%	85.4%	84.3%	84.4%	84.2%	84.3%	
PAF B79 2068SC	% of CLA (exc with parent) in family places - end pd aged between 10 & 15 – end pd.	81.8%	82.0%	-	✗	-0.2%	↓	79.5%	79.8%	79.0%	79.0%	79.0%	79.0%	83.2%	83.2%	83.2%	82.6%	81.9%	82.5%	
PAF C18	CLA 1+ yrs - Conviction/Final Warning rate (10-17 yrs): Offences whilst looked after - expressed as a ratio of the percentage of all children aged 10-17 given a final warning/reprimand or convicted for an offence in the police force area	0.0	2.4	2	✓	2.4	→	3.0	N/A	N/A	3.1	oc2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	
PAF C19 1037SC	Of CLA for 1+ yrs, % with Health Check/Assessments completed during year (Annual: OC2)	0.0%	92.0%	5	✗	-92.0%	→	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	91.3%	oc2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	91.5%	
PAF C23 Revised 2059SC LAA9 NIS DSO2	BVPI 163 Annual Adoption Rate: Annual No. of Adoptions/Guardianship as % of CLA continuously for 6 months	15.3%	8.6%	5	✓	6.7%	↑	8.1%	8.2%	8.9%	8.9%	10.8%	9.2%	11.3%	11.5%	11.4%	14.1%	15.3%	9.0%	
SS(LAC) 11	% of CLA aged <10 years placed for adoption	16.9%	17.6%		✗	-0.7%	↓	23.8%	24.2%	23.6%	25.6%	28.5%	28.5%	25.6%	25.5%	23.9%	18.8%	18.6%	19.1%	
PAF C24	Children Looked After, Absent from School (Annual: OC2)	0.0%	11.0%	3	✓	11.0%	→	N/A	N/A	0.0%	15.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	
PAF D35 2044SC	CLA LA for 4+ yrs, same place 2+ yrs - end pd (no longer a PAF Indicator)	49.5%	-	-	-	-	→	50.6%	49.7%	50.3%	50.9%	48.5%	47.4%	47.8%	48.6%	49.7%	49.5%	49.5%	54.4%	

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PAF C63 4016SC	% of children and young people looked after who communicated their views specifically for each of their statutory reviews	100.0%	100.0%	5	✓	0.0%	→	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
NI 66 PAF C68 2064SC	Timeliness of Reviews for Children Looked After	98.2%	100.0%	5	✗	-1.8%	→	96.0%	94.8%	95.2%	95.4%	95.9%	95.5%	93.4%	95.4%	95.1%	98.5%	98.2%	96.0%		
NI 63 PAF D78 (SS (LAC)24) 2067SC	CLA<16 yrs LA for 2.5+ yrs,same place 2+ yrs - end pd	64.6%	73.0%	-	✗	-8.4%	↓	74.6%	73.0%	72.6%	75.3%	72.3%	70.6%	70.9%	71.3%	70.0%	67.3%	70.3%	71.9%		
CLA Personal Education Plans	% CLA who have a current PEP	97.0%	100.0%	-	✗	-3.0%	↑	78.9%	79.8%	79.3%	72.9%	64.3%	54.5%	49.5%	94.0%	94.0%	0.0%	0.0%	82.7%		
NI 58	The emotional and behavioural health of children and young people in care will be assessed through the use of a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). The SDQ is a short behavioural screening questionnaire.	0.0	-	-	-	-	→	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	new	
NI 61 SS (LAC) 18 2058SC	% of children adopted who were placed for adoption within 12 months of best interest decision being made	0.0%	80.0%	-	✗	-80.0%	→	N/A	N/A	N/A	69.0%	69.0%	0.0%	81.8%	0.0%	82.1%	N/A	0.0%			
Children with Private Fostering arrangement	The number of children with Private Fostering arrangements	0	-	-	-	-	→	6	8	11	11	11	12	13	16	16	0	0	8		