

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on Thursday, 29th November, 2018 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

Cllr Bell, Francis (Vice-Chairman), Hunt, F. Miller, O'Neil, Rowntree, Samuels, Scullion, P. Smith (Chairman), Tye and K. Wood

Coopted Members – Mrs. A. Blakey and Ms. J. Graham

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	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
4.	Access to Mental Health Services – Update	9
	Report of the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (copy attached)	

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Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats on request

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E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance,
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

21st November, 2018

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 4th OCTOBER, 2018 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor B. Francis in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Hunt, Miller, F., O'Neil, Rowntree, Samuels, Scullion, and K. Wood together with Mrs A. Blakey

Also in attendance:-

Ms. Jill Colbert, Chief Executive, Together for Children and Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Joshua McKeith, Sunderland Youth Parliament

Mr. Thomas Newton, Sunderland Youth Parliament

Ms. Kim Roberts, Independent Reviewing Officer Manager, Together for Children

Ms. Gillian Robinson, Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Gavin Taylor, Independent Reviewing Officer Manager, Together for Children

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed introductions.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Smith, P. and Tye and on behalf of Ms. J. Graham

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 6th September, 2018

Councillor Bell asked that his concerns be recorded over the Members access lift which had been out of order and had prevented him from attending the last meeting of the Committee, whereby he had to submit his apologies, and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 6th September, 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Councillors O'Neil and Rowntree made open declarations as they were both members of the Foster Panel which were referred to in items for consideration on the agenda.

Change in Order of Business

The Chairman advised that with Members agreement he would re-order the agenda to allow Officers to leave once they had presented their report and answered Members' questions. Therefore, the items would now be considered in the order of Item 6 – Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Team, Item 5 – Annual Report of the Designated Officer and then Item 4 – Together for Children Performance Monitoring Update.

Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Team 2017/18

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which asked the Committee to consider the progress and performance of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 and highlighted future action for the year ahead.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Taylor and Ms. Roberts, Independent Reviewing Officer Managers, presented the report advising the Committee of the wide range of key statutory roles and functions that the Children's Independent Review Team (CIRT) undertook and the impact that work had upon the children and young people in the city. The annual report included areas of service improvement, emerging themes, examples of good practice and the priorities for the service for the next twelve months.

Mr. Taylor referred Members to the pie chart at paragraph 9.7 of the report which set out the child protection dispute resolution procedure (DRP) themes for conferences not going ahead and advised that 32% were due to no Social Worker, issues with the Social Worker Report or a Late Social Worker Report. Mr. Taylor explained that the conference panel had to ensure they had all of the correct information to consider before they could proceed in putting a plan in place for a child; although he explained that they could always hit potential difficulties on the day the conference met as there could always be unknown factors that could become apparent on the day, e.g. if the case was dealing with an unborn baby then the parent could go into labour or have emergency appointments on the same day or they had incidents in the past where family members had passed away.

Mr. Newton referred to the 32% identified in the pie chart as being in relation to issues with either the Social Worker or their report and asked why this was not split down further to clearly identify what the issue had been. Mr. Taylor commented that this information was readily available and they could look at the way in which they report the information in the next annual report to allow Members to clearly see the more specific issues and any trends.

Councillor Scullion referred to the reasons Mr Taylor had given as examples as to why the conference may not have gone ahead and commented that these must not

by typical occurrences and were more likely to be in the minority. Mr. Taylor explained that the service dealt with a high proportion of unborn baby cases so they did find themselves in the situation where the baby may have been born early, or there were appointment clashes which arose at the last minute but agreed that these were more monthly, rather than daily, occurrences.

Councillor Wood referred to the increase in numbers of children and young people looked after and commented that this could be a knock on effect as to why Social Worker reports may have been late or not complete and asked if the increase in demand on services had identified a need in an increase in the workforce to support that. Mr. Taylor commented that in relation to CIRT there had been a definite increase on demand for the services and when requests had been made for extra resources this had been accommodated. He advised that he was aware that partner agencies were also suffering the same issue of increased demand on services with limited capacity and resources.

Councillor Bell commented on the impact the changes in the benefits system and the introduction of Universal Credit could be having on family groups; causing possible increases in incidents of domestic violence and volatilities and raised concerns as to how long services could continue to cope with the pressure and demands put upon them.

Councillor Hunt commented that it was apparent from the statistical data contained within the report that there were capacity issues in relation to the resource of Social Workers, Ms. Colbert commented that she would look to respond to this issue during consideration of her performance monitoring update later on the agenda.

Councillor Hunt also commented on the level of support being offered to children, perpetrators and / or victims of domestic violence. She referred to a visit Committee Members had undertaken with the Early Intervention Team where they had discussed the gap in support being offered to children who were the victim of; or had witnessed, domestic violence. Ms. Colbert advised that the domestic abuse intervention service came under the Council remit and not Together for Children but agreed that there was a greater level of provision needed and they would help in influencing the support being offered across the city.

Councillor O'Neill referred back to the pie chart on page 72 and commented that she was unable to identify what the 20% related to. Mr. Taylor commented that the chart appeared to have removed some of the table, possibly due to the pdf converting, and advised he would send copies of the original to Members directly.

Councillor Francis referred to the pie chart on page 73 of the agenda identifying the children looked after DRP themes and issues and asked if there could be more than one theme identified for an individual child and was informed that this could be the case, with a number of themes relating to a child or young person.

In response to a question from Councillor Bell regarding the placing of children and young people from Sunderland in secure accommodation in Scotland, and the legal implications due to the differences in legislation between countries, Ms. Colbert advised that cases had to be put before a national gateway who would allocate placements for young people requiring secure accommodation. There was a significant and constant pressure on secure accommodation places and they were always subject to direction from a Judge but they had to comply with the placement

they were allocated. Mr. Taylor commented that it was an absolute last resort to make the decision through the IRO panel to place a child in secure accommodation but at times it was the right and necessary action to take.

When asked by Mr. Newton if Officers would prefer to have children and young people from the city placed in secure accommodation closer to home, Ms. Colbert agreed that it would be preferable but explained that Officers had no say in where allocations were made and there were very limited beds available overall so they had to accept the places which were allocated to them.

Councillor Bell asked what education provision was given to young people whilst in secure accommodation placements and was advised that they would be provided with education services on site and that they would be taught at the relevant level to them individually. The provisions within placements were regulated by Ofsted in the same way as any other educational establishment.

Councillor Rowntree asked how much family contact the children and young people would have when placed in secure accommodation facilities and was advised by Mr. Taylor that it would be considered as part of the review process and they would consider the best way for the individual as to how family contact should be arranged. The decision could be determined by the parental request but the service looked to facilitate and offer contact with family and helped them to access this. This could be by providing overnight accommodation close to the placement site so that the family could get the best quality of contact possible or offering transport solutions to the venue.

There being no further questions or comments the Chairman thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Roberts for their report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - i) the information contained within the report be received and noted; and
 - ii) the Independent Reviewing Officer Manager provide Members with copies of the pie charts contained within the Annual Report directly.

Annual Report of the Designated Officer 2017-18

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which asked the Committee to consider the progress and performance of the Designated Service Officer (DO) service between April 2017 – March 2018 and highlighted future action for the year ahead.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Taylor and Ms. Roberts, Independent Reviewing Officer Managers, took Members through the annual report advising that it set out key findings from the Designated Officer activity through data analysis and commentary and explaining that case studies had been used to provide an illustration of the complex and diverse nature of the role. Mr. Taylor advised that since the production of the last annual report there had been a change in personnel and a new Designated Officer had been appointed and that they continued to promote the service which continued to see an increase in referrals being made.

Councillor Miller referred to the use of the Leisurewatch scheme in the Gateshead area, where she worked, and asked if Sunderland were a member of the scheme or used anything similar. Officers advised that they were not aware of leisure facilities in Sunderland using the scheme but that they could have conversations with colleagues in the arm's length leisure company to follow this up further.

Councillor Francis commented that it was important to have a central hub, linking organisations together and being able to share information and Ms. Roberts advised that in some respects that was the role of the Designated Officer. Recently they had developed a quite robust system that identifies when a referral has been made in relation to an individual on more than one occasion. Any use of leisurewatch or a similar scheme would need to be heavily managed due to privacy laws, etc whereas the Designated Officer was very clear in their role as to what they could and could not legally do. Officers agreed to happily pick up the comments around the leisurewatch scheme and ask the Designated Officer to look at the possibilities with leisure colleagues. Ms. Roberts advised that she was aware that the Designated Officer presently offered training to colleagues in leisure in identifying risks to young people using their facilities.

Councillor Wood commented that she felt that the increase in the number of referrals being made was a positive thing as it showed that more people were aware of the service. She was pleased to see that of the 406 enquiries made, 226 did not meet the threshold and were given advice and guidance, and only 60 of the remainder were substantiated.

Councillor Hunt commented that it was really important for Members to have further information as to why the 60 cases had been substantiated and what the breakdown of reasons for each was so that they could identify any areas of concern. Councillor Scullion also commented that it would be beneficial for Members to be given information as to which referral enquiries were progressed through for further action so that they could see cases complete the whole process.

Councillor Rowntree referred to paragraph 8.4 of the report and the referral from education which often involved the use of Team Teach, a method of physical restraint, she understood the model was used to minimise the use of physical restraint and asked what services were doing in partnership. Ms. Roberts advised that the Designated Officer was intending to sit a Team Teach course and then work alongside two schools to look at the way in which they manage referrals so that they would have a slightly different impact on the numbers of referrals being made through the way in which they were recorded. This would not necessarily see any reduction in the number of referrals but ensure they were recorded with more information; such as how many people were present at the incident, and gathering more detail so that they could make sure they could assess referrals in the best way.

Mr. Taylor also advised that within schools where it was identified that there may be issues in the number of referrals being made they would be giving advice and guidance support to them.

There being no further questions or comments the Chairman thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Roberts for their report and attendance and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the information contained within the report be received and noted.

Together for Children Performance Update

The Executive Director of People's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with performance information in relation to Together for Children and the commissioning arrangement in the Council, offering assurance over progress and any issues that had arose, in the context of the scope of service and performance indicators as set out in the service contract.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Jill Colbert, Chief Executive of Together for Children and Director of Children's Services, presented the report advising that she was currently in discussions around how the performance update report should be presented in the future and what information should be included. The report in this format provided a lot of data for Members but she felt it was important that they had the narrative behind the data to give a clear picture. Negotiations were ongoing around a new data set of targets and once agreed they would be addressed in future reports.

Ms. Colbert then took Members through the report picking out the key messages and advising that overall there was a significantly improving picture across the Key Performance Indicators and invited questions from Members.

Councillor Wood referred to County Lines criminal activity and asked if training was provided for social work staff who may have to work with a family at threat of or being involved in activity. She referred to families who may have been exploited and commented that she had seen them offered support from Northumbria Police services but not necessarily from Together for Children. Ms. Colbert commented that they did have some members of staff who were worked at a much higher level and were more experienced in areas such as this than others and advised that training was being offered through regional resources, namely, by the Home Office and Organised Crime Units. Ms. Colbert explained that the remit of safeguarding adults in the city would fall under the Council and Adult Services but advised that she could look to have discussions with them to raise the Committee's concerns and as it could be such a large issue, look at ways in which Members could be provided with wider reaching briefings in the future.

Councillor Samuels referred to the case file audits and commented that she was shocked that there were only thirteen audits completed in total and asked how many this was out of? Ms. Colbert commented that the thirteen would be proportionate to where work was with particular families and explained that there was a limited audit resource so they had invited in internal auditors to progress audits. Numbers of audits were quite small as they involved a lot of detailed work and they were looking to bring in external agencies so that actions could be followed and monitored to ensure the findings of audits were acted upon.

Ms. Colbert explained that there was an ongoing national debate around audits as they could be a quite critical merit of case files and workloads. Within the quality assessment framework there would be a column which shows the outcome of audits undertaken. The quality assessment framework would allow all information to be in

one dashboard and therefore information would not be considered in isolation. Improvement in audit findings was increasing but the service would rather know where there were any issues than to see a false picture of quality. Progressing the outcome of audits was a priority for the service but the information needed to be seen in its entirety and this meant that partners needed to be brought in to share information also.

Councillor Francis commented that he appreciated the format of the performance reports but felt it would be helpful for Members if tables and graphs had the population or the number of people involved shown so that they could better understand the information.

In response to a comment from Councillor Bell regarding the numbers of referrals into the system and where services were being overwhelmed, Ms. Colbert advised that trends showed that the number of open children with plans was reducing, and to have a successful children's service they had to be just as good as stepping children down through the system at the appropriate times also. Ms. Colbert advised Members that the numbers of looked after children were stabilising and although there were still a large number of children in the system, data was showing that growth was stable.

Councillor Rowntree stated that it was notable the number of case file audit which required improvement and asked if there were any particular themes pinpointed, such as timeliness, which had been identified. Ms. Colbert advised that she had not seen the audits at that time but commented that she would be happy to look into the matter further and provide information back to Members.

Councillor Francis asked if Social Workers were learning from case file audits where they had been found that they required improvement or were inadequate and Ms. Colbert informed the Committee that an implicit part of the process was working with staff so that they could understand what a case file with a rating of good looked like. Exemplar copies of what good and outstanding assessments of case files were available and shared with social workers to take away and understand how those reports were wrote and what they could take from them within their own workloads. Staff had lost a lot of confidence from previous outcomes and they were continuing to work with staff who needed to improve case files further.

Councillor Hunt referred to the percentage of children looked after who were adopted being at 10% and asked if this meant that the other 90% were waiting to be adopted or if some children were in care and hoping to return to the family home or another permanent placement and Ms. Colbert explained that reporting on adoptions contained rolling data so it would be dependent upon where any child was on the route to adoption. She confirmed that it would be children who were either waiting for the final steps in the process to be completed or with a matched placement.

In response to further comments from Councillor Hunt that only 10% of looked after children had been adopted, Ms. Colbert commented that there would be a combination of factors that would have to be looked into for each individual child. What was important to note was the decrease in the number of carers available, for example, it could be difficult to place larger sibling groups and keep them together.

There being no further questions or comments for Ms. Colbert the Chairman thanked her attendance and her report, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2018/19

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work for the 2018/19 municipal year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Members were advised that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee had been rearranged due to member commitments and would now be held on 5th November, 2018. Unfortunately, representatives from mental health services who were scheduled for the original meeting date would not be available on the new date and therefore there would need to be some discussions around the agenda content for the next meeting with the Chairman.

Councillor Bell referred to previous comments he had made regarding nursery provision in the city for two year olds and how the offer differed between providers in the city. Ms. Colbert commented that she could discuss the best way to provide information to the Committee, as all providers recorded data in differing ways, but advised that they would aim to bring a report back to Committee in 2019 at a time deemed suitable following conversations with the Chairman.

5. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted and that the items as discussed be included following discussion with the Chairman.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 18th September, 2018.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) B. FRANCIS,
Chairman.

29th NOVEMBER 2018

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - UPDATE

Report of the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the access to mental health services for children and young people.

2. Background

- 2.1 The publication of Future in Mind in March 2015 set out the national ambition to transform the design and delivery of local services for children and young people with mental health needs and the requirement for local areas to develop publicly available agreed Local Transformational Plans for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- 2.2 In line with national requirements, the Sunderland Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformational Plan was developed for the period 2015-2020.
- 2.3 The Committee has received previously received update reports on the provision of mental health services for children and young people on 28 June 2016 and 2 February 2017.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 Representatives from partner organisations will be in attendance to provide a presentation on the current position and answer any queries from members.
- 3.2 A copy of the presentation is attached as an appendix to this report.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Committee considers and comments on the report.

Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee

29th November 2018



Better health for Sunderland

Partner involvement



Current service provision



Access Rates for mental health services for children and young people – regional comparisons July 2018

	Jul-18	<div> <div>↑</div> = value is higher than previous month <div>→</div> = value is the same as previous month <div>↓</div> = value is lower than previous month </div>			
	Total number of CYP with a diagnosable mental health condition (prevalence)	Access Rate (Annual YTD Forecast)			
Area	2017-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18
#N/A	-				
Cumbria and North East STP	17,657	22.0% ↓	20.9% ↑	21.8% ↑	23.9%
NHS Darlington CCG	2,201	61.3% ↑	63.0% ↑	64.2% ↓	63.4%
NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG	5,718	81.4% ↓	75.0% ↓	73.3% ↑	74.5%
NHS North Durham CCG	4,372	73.6% ↓	69.6% ↑	71.3% ↑	74.2%
NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG	6,281	86.0% ↓	82.7% ↓	77.1% ↓	75.6%
NHS Northumberland CCG	5,583	68.4% ↑	69.9% ↓	66.3% ↓	66.2%
NHS South Tees CCG	6,232	76.6% ↓	71.6% ↓	66.5% ↓	65.4%
NHS South Tyneside CCG	2,919	43.3% ↑	43.7% ↓	41.5% ↑	42.2%
NHS Sunderland CCG	5,629	42.9% ↑	44.2% ↓	42.6% ↑	42.8%
NHS North Cumbria CCG	5,351	28.4% ↓	27.7% ↓	27.1% ↓	27.2%
NHS Newcastle Gateshead CCG	9,711	61.8% ↑	66.8% ↑	66.3% ↑	65.2%
NHS North Tyneside CCG	3,844	50.1% ↑	58.0% ↑	58.6% ↑	60.1%

Warning: issues with data flowing into the national Mental Health Data Set



Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust



Referrals accepted from:

- **individuals**
- **professionals**



Referrals in 2017/18:

- **2411 individuals**



Waiting time in 2017/18:

- **19 weeks average**



Children's mental health services at the Emergency Department



Number of children and young people seen in ED in 2017/18:

- **362**



Average waiting time to be seen:

- **1 hour** (from the time a referral is received, not the total wait in the ED)



South Tyneside Foundation Trust (inc. Sunderland Counselling Services)



Referrals accepted from:

- **Professionals**



Referrals in 2017/18:

- **1121 individuals**



Waiting time in 2017/18:

- **13 weeks average**



Washington Mind



Referrals accepted from:

- **individuals**
- **professionals**



Referrals in 2017/18:

- **591 individuals**



Waiting time in 2017/18:

- **9.3 weeks average**



Waiting list figures

Organisation	Number of CYP on waiting list	Number of CYP on waiting list who have waited longer than 18 weeks
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear FT	729	303
South Tyneside FT	63	0
Washington Mind	105	8

Data correct as of 07/11/18



Tackling the issues as a whole system



Sunderland Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformational Plan 2015 - 2020



Underpinning principles

- Whole system approach
- Joint working between Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group and Together for Children
- Co-production of improved services with children, young people and their families
- Implementing evidence based interventions
- Evaluation through outcome and satisfaction measures



Priorities across the city

- Mental health promotion and prevention
 - Prevention for child health
- Early identification and intervention
 - Trailblazer bid
- Northumberland Tyne and Wear service improvement

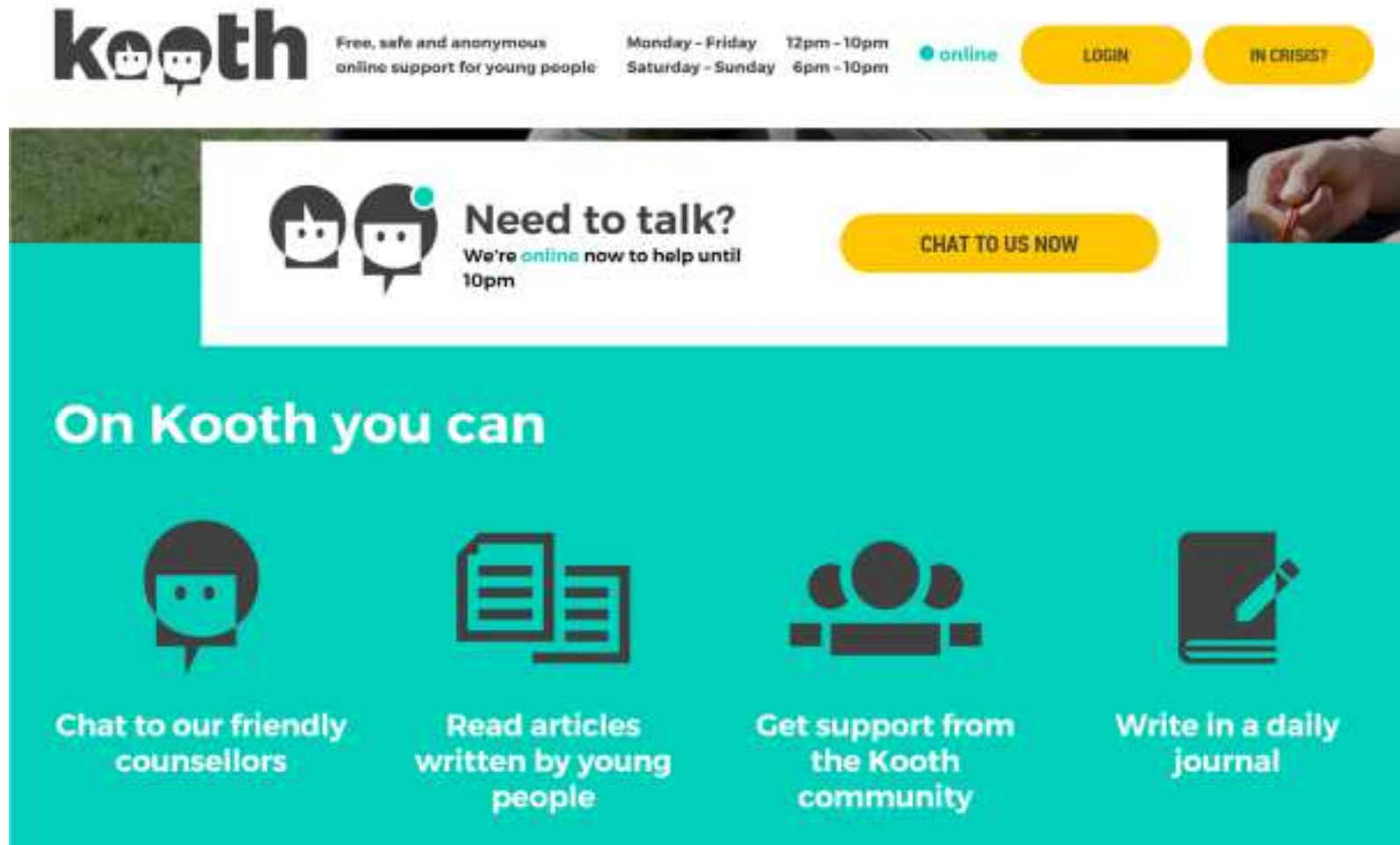


Continuous improvement

- Single point of access
- Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner role
- Review and reform NTW clinical pathways
 - include young people and their families/carers
- Address current high levels of Did Not Attends (DNAs) at NTW
- Analyse referrals to NTW
- Review administration processes and establish 'standard work'



Other opportunities



The screenshot shows the Kooth website homepage. At the top, the Kooth logo is on the left, followed by the text "Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people". To the right, the operating hours are listed: "Monday - Friday 12pm - 10pm" and "Saturday - Sunday 6pm - 10pm". Further right, there is a status indicator "online" with a green dot, a "LOGIN" button, and an "IN CRISIS?" button. Below this is a large banner with a white background. On the left of the banner are two stylized icons of people talking. To their right, the text reads "Need to talk? We're online now to help until 10pm". On the far right of the banner is a yellow button that says "CHAT TO US NOW". Below the banner is a teal section titled "On Kooth you can". This section contains four icons and their corresponding descriptions: 1. A speech bubble icon with a person inside, labeled "Chat to our friendly counsellors". 2. A document icon, labeled "Read articles written by young people". 3. A group of three people icon, labeled "Get support from the Kooth community". 4. A notebook and pen icon, labeled "Write in a daily journal".

kooth Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people

Monday - Friday 12pm - 10pm
Saturday - Sunday 6pm - 10pm

online LOGIN IN CRISIS?

Need to talk?
We're online now to help until 10pm

CHAT TO US NOW

On Kooth you can

- Chat to our friendly counsellors
- Read articles written by young people
- Get support from the Kooth community
- Write in a daily journal

Any questions?



**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN PERFORMANCE UPDATE****1. Purpose of the Report**

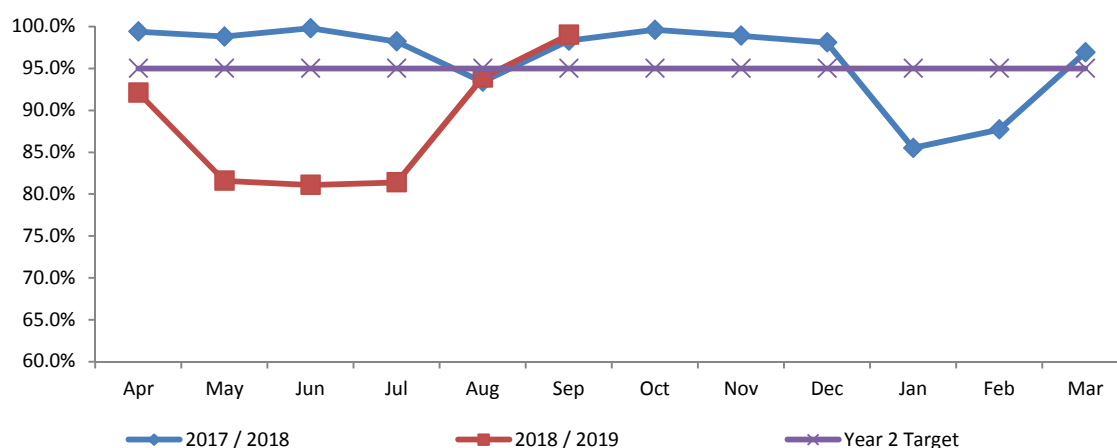
- 1.1 To provide performance information in relation to Together for Children and the commissioning arrangements in the Council, offer assurance over progress and any issues that arise, in the context of the scope of service and performance indicators set out in the service contract.
- 1.2 To provide performance information in relation to the retained services within the Council relating to children and education.

2. Background

- 2.1 The contractual and performance of Together for Children is monitored on a monthly basis through the Operational Commissioning Group and the Chief Executives Performance Clinic.
- 2.2 The performance information relating to retained functions is also monitored on a monthly basis subject to the information being available due to the termly and annual nature of the information through DMT and the Chief Executives Performance Clinic.

3. Current Position

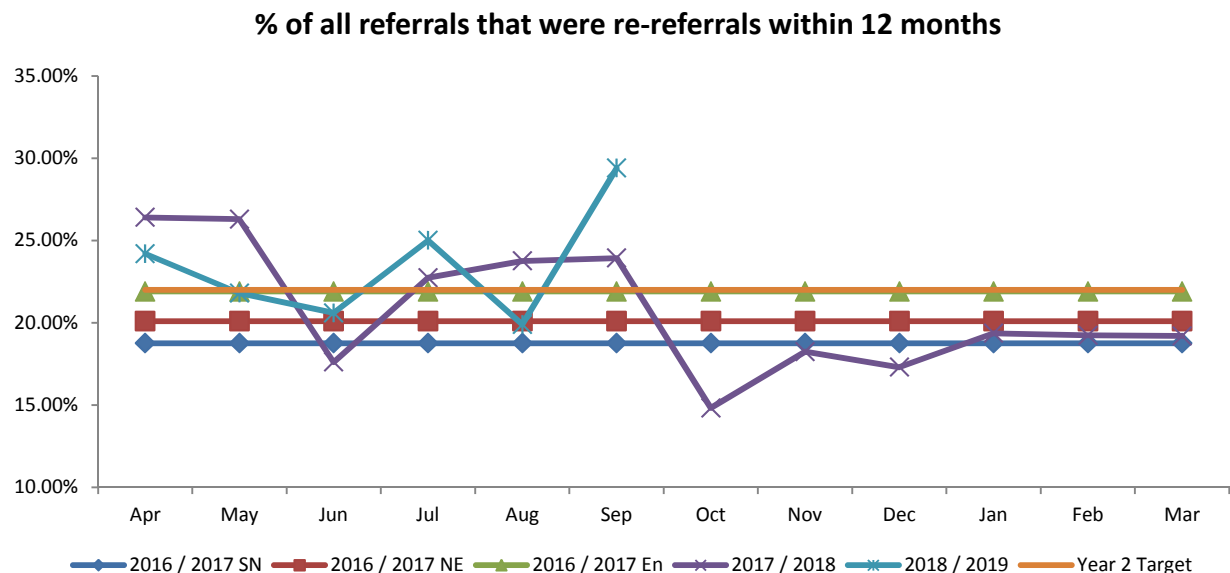
- 3.1 The Operational Commissioning Group, People DMT and Chief Officers Group are meeting on a monthly basis to consider information and progress made.
- 3.2 Information contained within this report will include all of the Key Performance Indicators and Supporting Measures for Together for Children. The tolerance levels for each of the measures will be included within the report.
- 3.3 Information on retained services will include key areas of performance for consideration.
- 3.4 **Key Performance Indicator 1 - % of referrals with a decision within 24 hours**
Tolerance 90 – 94.9%

% of all referrals with a decision within 24 hours.

The timeliness of decision making within 24 hours as for the period of September 2018 is 99%.

Performance against this measure is exceeding target.

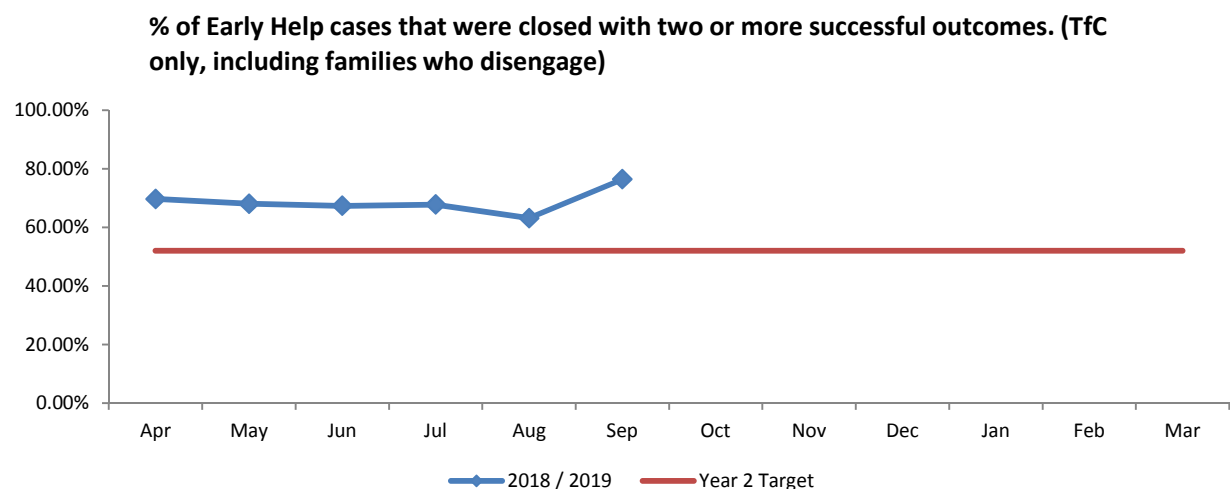
3.5 **Supporting Measure 1.1 - % of all referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months** **Target 22%** **Tolerance 22.1 – 28.9%**



The percentage of all referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months in September 2018 is 29.4%.

Performance against this measure is not meeting target of 22% and is outside of tolerance range.

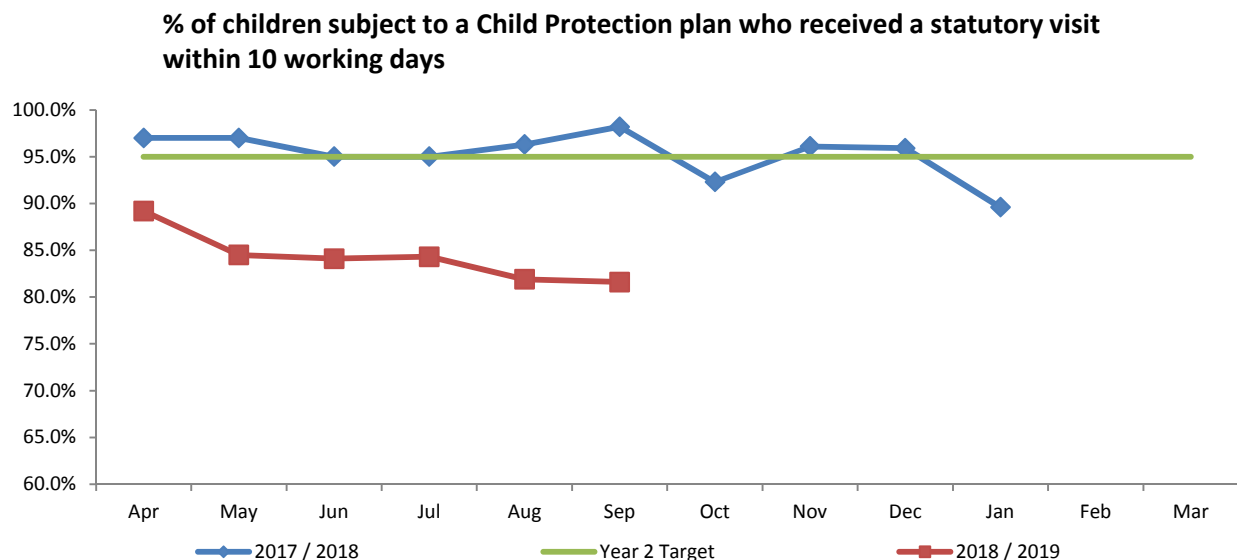
3.6 **Supporting Measure 1.2 - % of all early help cases closed in the period with two or more successful outcomes (TfC only including those families that disengage)** **Target 52%** **Tolerance 45 – 51.9%**



The percentage of all early help cases closed in September 2018 with two or more successful outcomes (TfC only) has increased to 76.5%.

Performance is exceeding target.

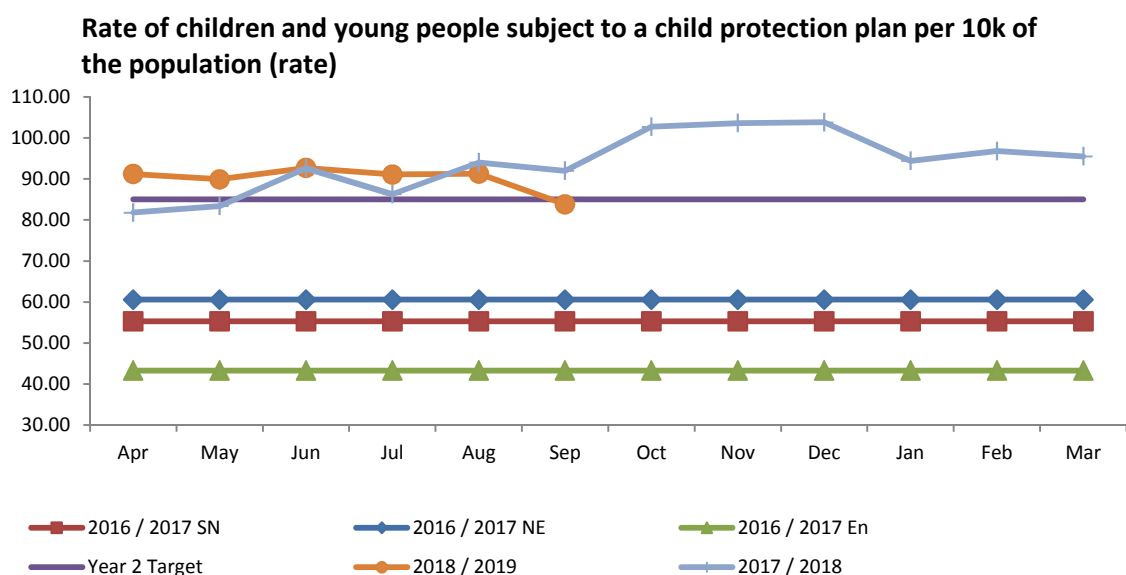
3.7 Key Performance Indicator 2 - % of Children and Young People subject to Child Protection plan who received a statutory visit within 10 working days
Target 70%
Tolerance 85 – 100%



The % of children subject to a child protection plan who have received a statutory visit within timescales (10 working days) in September 2018 was 81.6%.

Performance against this measure is below target and outside of tolerance.

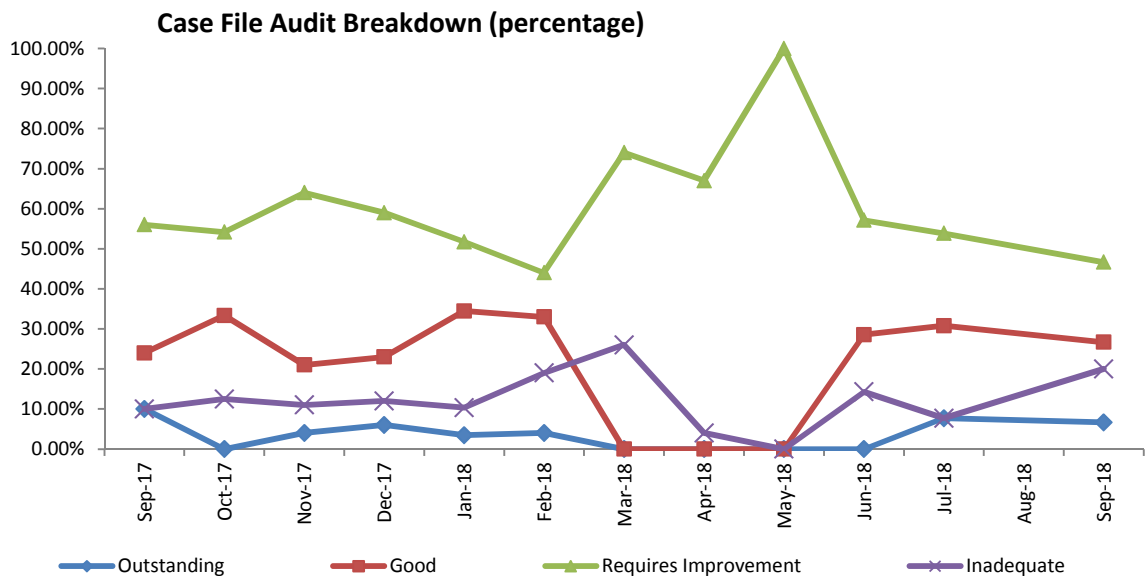
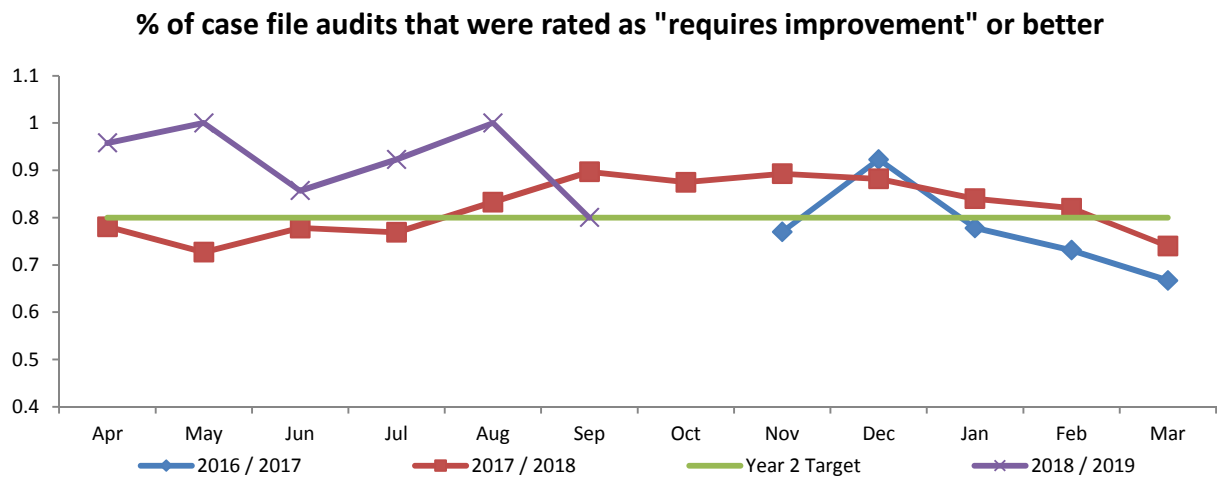
3.8 Supporting Measure 2.1 - Rate of CYP subject to CP plan per 10k of the population
Target 85
Tolerance 86-95



The rate of children and young people subject to child protection plan per 10k of the population has decreased to 83.8 (456) in September 2018.

Performance is achieving target.

3.9 Key Performance Indicator 3 - % of case file audits that were rated as 'requires improvement' or better
Target 80%
Tolerance 80 – 84.9%



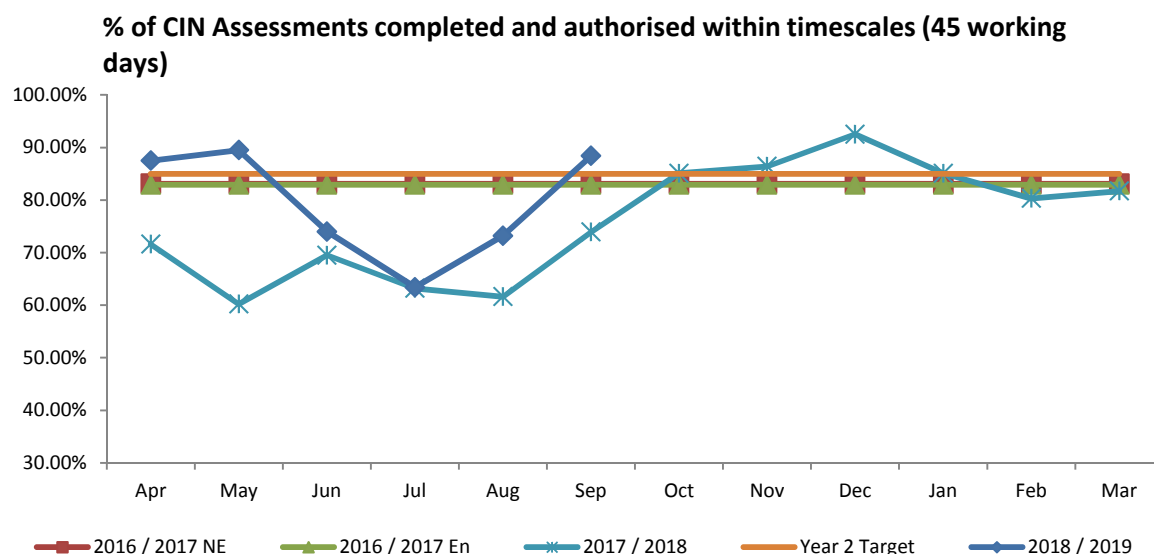
The percentage of case files audits that were rated as 'requires improvement' or better in September 2018 is 80%. 15 audits were completed in total, of which 6.67% (1 case) was graded as outstanding, 26.67% (4 cases) were graded good, 46.67% (7 cases) were judged to be requiring improvement and 20% (3 cases) was found to be inadequate.

Performance is exceeding target.

3.10 Supporting Measure 3.1: % of CIN assessments completed and authorised in timescales within 45 wds

Target 85%

Tolerance 80 – 84.9%

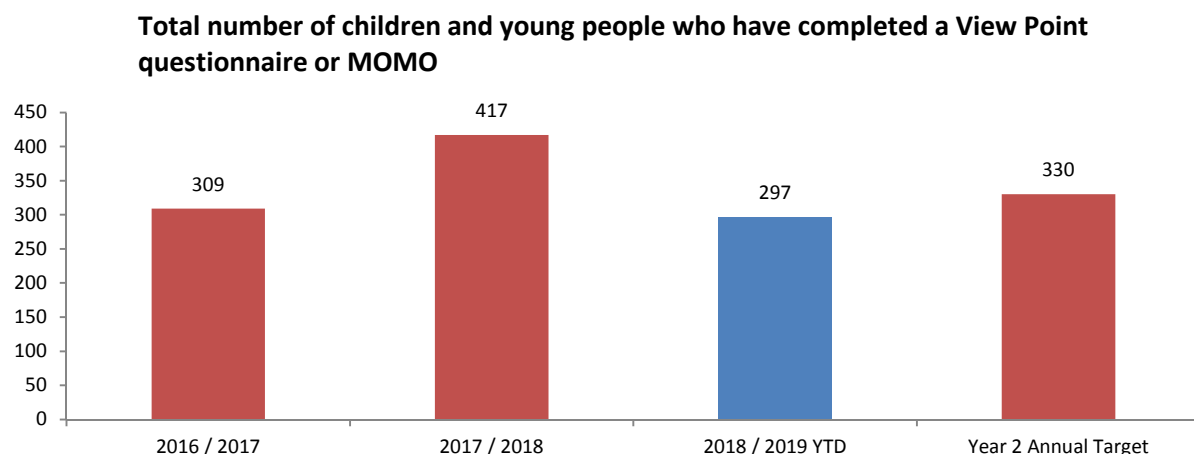


The percentage of Child in Need assessments completed and authorised in timescales within 45 working days has improved to 88.4% in September 2018.

Performance is exceeding target.

3.11 Supporting Measure 3.2 - Total number of children and young people who have completed a View point or questionnaire or MOMO

Target 300

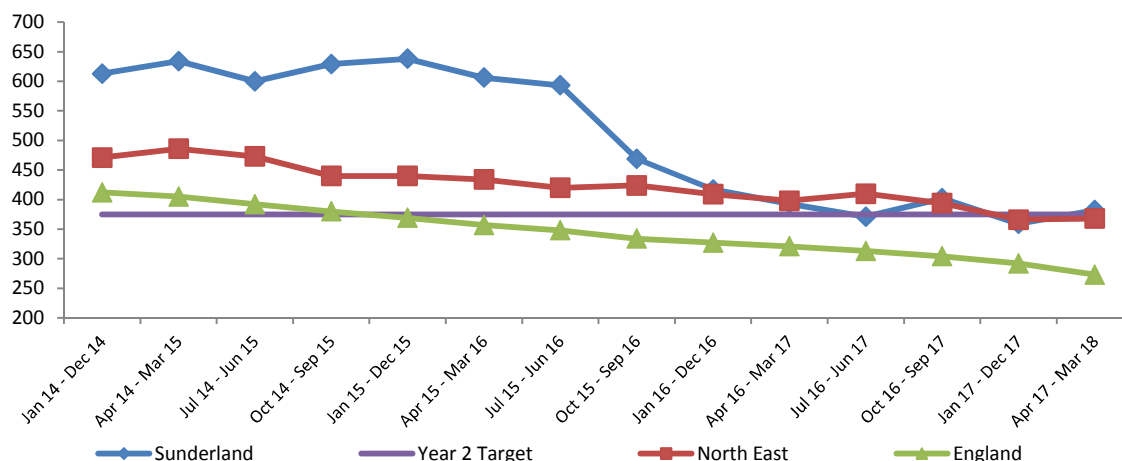


There have been 297 questionnaires completed in the period April – September 2018. Given the target is 330 based on current performance it is anticipated the target would be met by year end.

Performance against this measure is on track to meet target.

3.12 Key Performance Indicator 4 - Rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system (per 100k) of 10-17 population
Tolerance 375
Tolerance target up to 402.9

Rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system (per 100k of the 10-17 year old population)



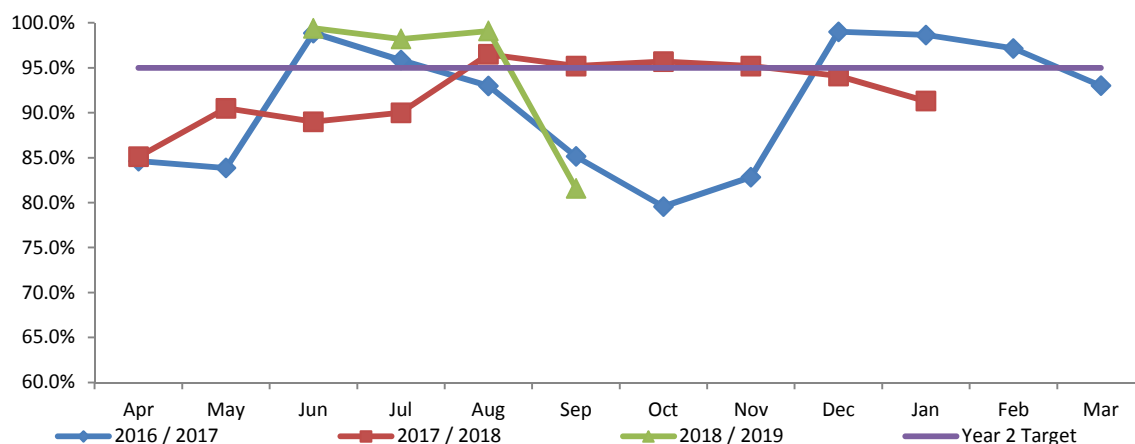
There is a data lag on the data metrics as the data source used is the Police National Computer; data reflects the most recent publication.

The rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system (per 10k) of 10 -17 population is 382.

Performance against this measure is below target but within tolerance range.

3.13 Key Performance Indicator 5: % of CLA with an up to date care plan within 6 months
Target 95%
Tolerance 90 – 94.9%

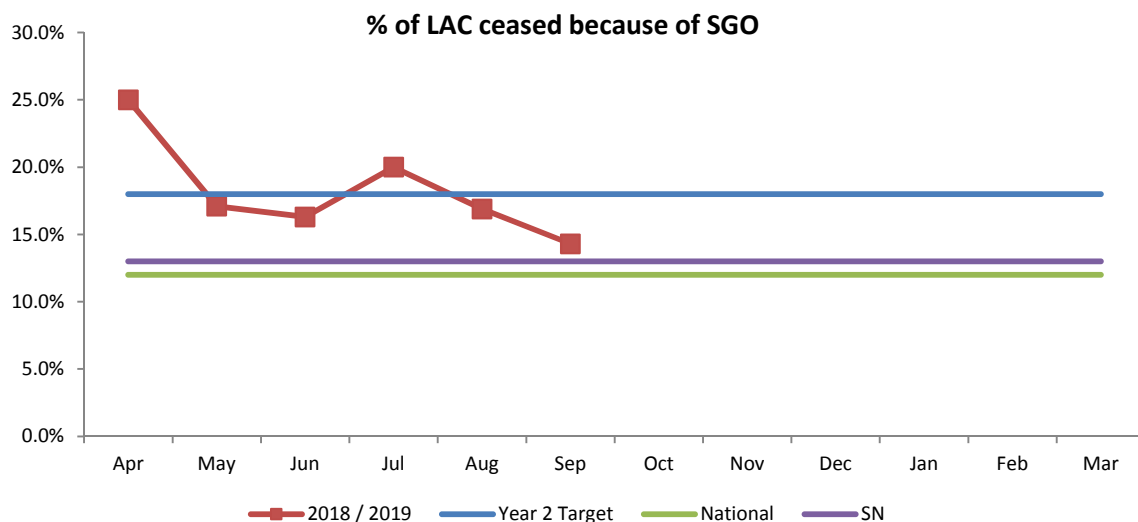
% of Looked After Children with an up to date care plan (reviewed within last 6 months)



The percentage of Children Looked After with an up to date care plan within 6 months has decreased to 81.6% in September 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance range.

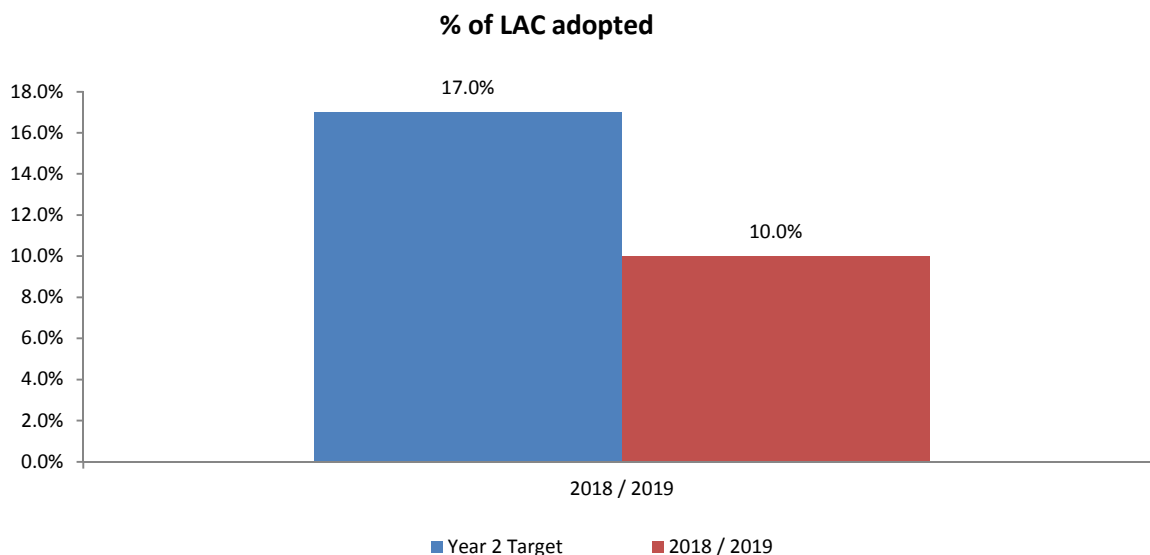
3.14 Supporting Measure 5.1: % of children looked after that have ceased being looked after because of special guardianship order
Target 18%
Tolerance 15 – 17.9%



The percentage of children looked after that has ceased being looked after due to special guardianship order has decreased to 14.3% in September 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance range.

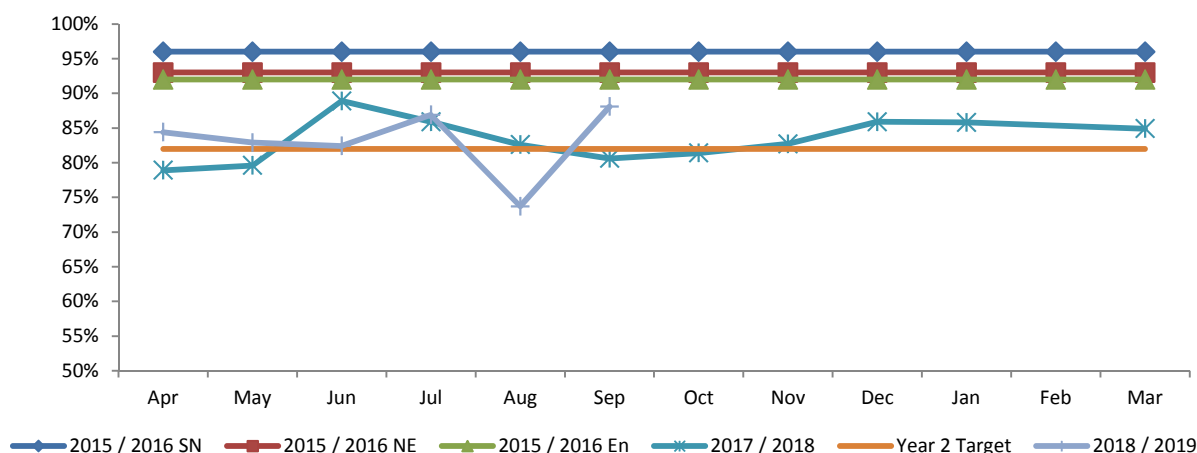
3.15 Supporting Measure 5.2: % of children looked after who are adopted
Target: 17%
Tolerance down to 13%



The percentage of children looked after who are adopted is a cumulative figure and the final figure will be known in March 2019. The year to date position shows performance at 10%.

3.16 Key Performance Indicator 6 - % of care leavers in touch with Together for Children within 8 weeks of the previous contact age 17 – 21
Target 82%
Tolerance 78 – 82.9%

% of care leavers in touch with the authority (17 - 21 year olds) within 8 weeks of previous contact

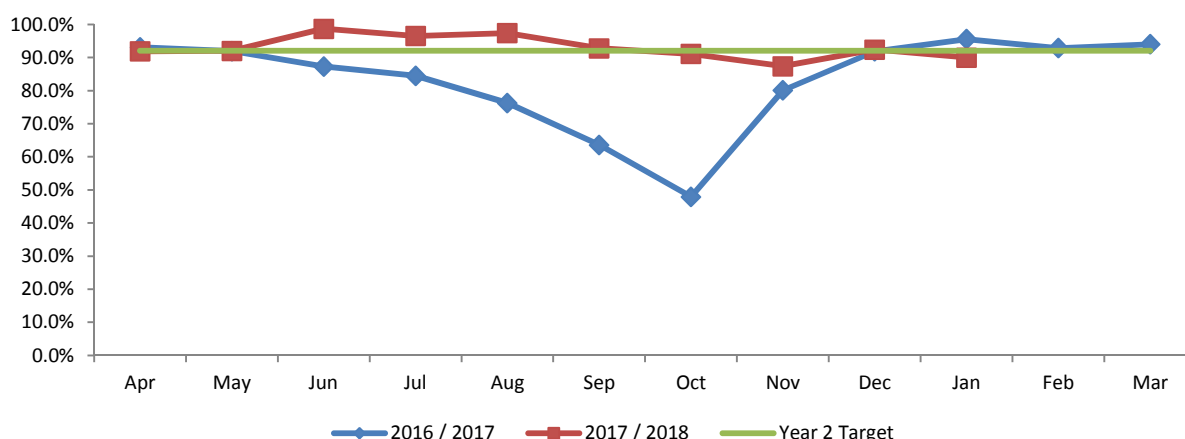


The % of care leavers in touch with Together for Children in September 2018 has continued to exceed target and performance shows 88.1% of care leavers being in touch within 8 weeks of a previous contact. Whilst comparators are included in the graph within the report, they cannot be directly compared as published information is based upon a contact with Care Leavers within the 'birthday window' whereas TfC contact Care Leavers every 8 weeks which is a much more frequent contact.

Current performance is exceeding target of 82%.

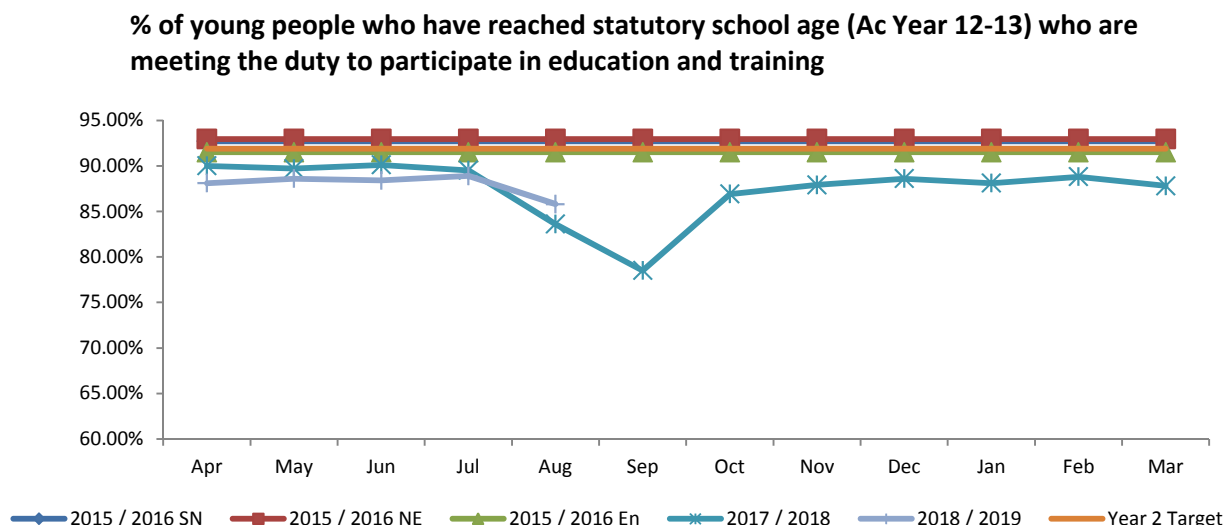
3.17 Supporting Measure 6.1: LAC with an up to date pathway plan (within 6 months)
Target 92%
Tolerance 88 – 91.9%

% LAC with up to date Pathway Plan



TfC are unable to report this indicator until all pathway plans have been added onto the system with the review dates.

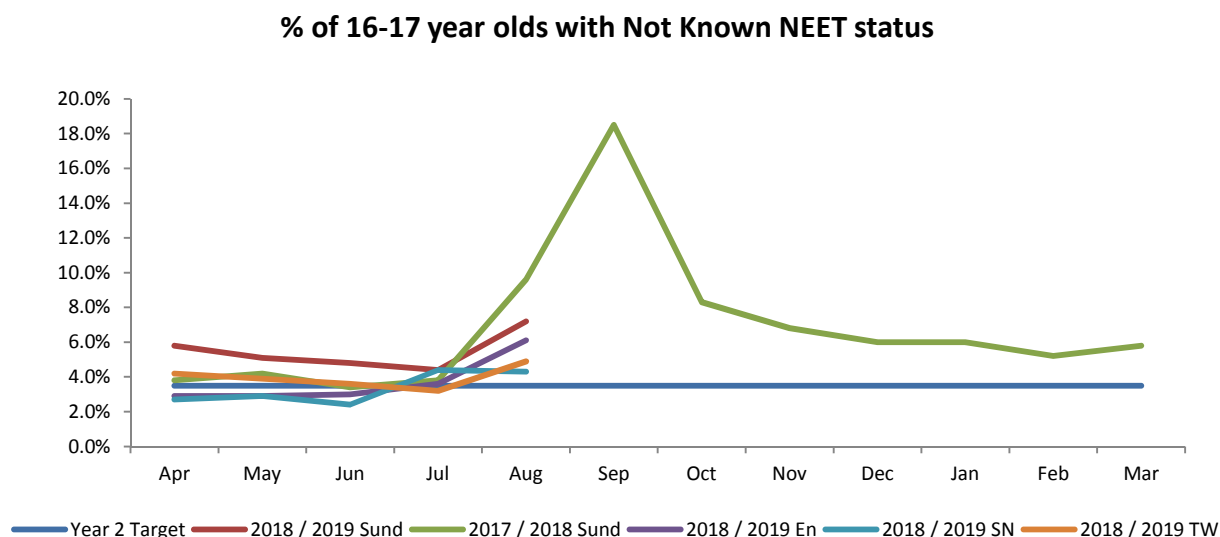
3.18 Key Performance Indicator 7 - % of young people who have reached statutory school age (academic year 12 – 13) who are meeting the duty to participate
Target 91.9%
Tolerance 88 – 91.8%



The percentage of young people who have reached statutory school age (ac yr. 12-13) who are meeting the duty to participate in education and training' has decreased to 85.8% in August 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance range.

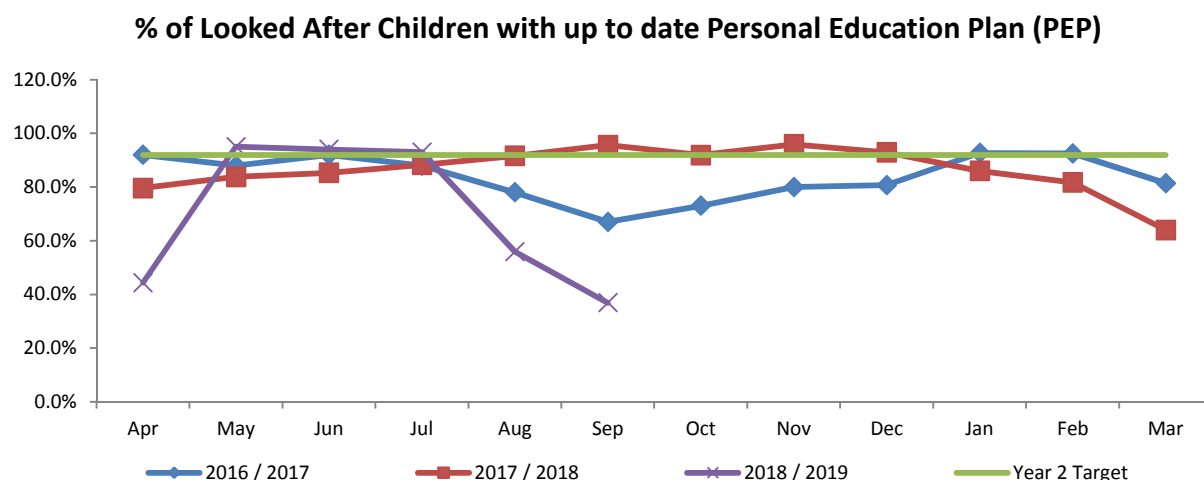
3.19 Supporting Measure 7.1 - % of young people who have reached statutory school age (ac yr. 12-13) whose status is unknown
Target 3.5%
Tolerance 3.51– 4.4%



The percentage of young people who have reached statutory school age (ac yr 12-13) whose status is unknown has increased to 7.2% in August 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance range..

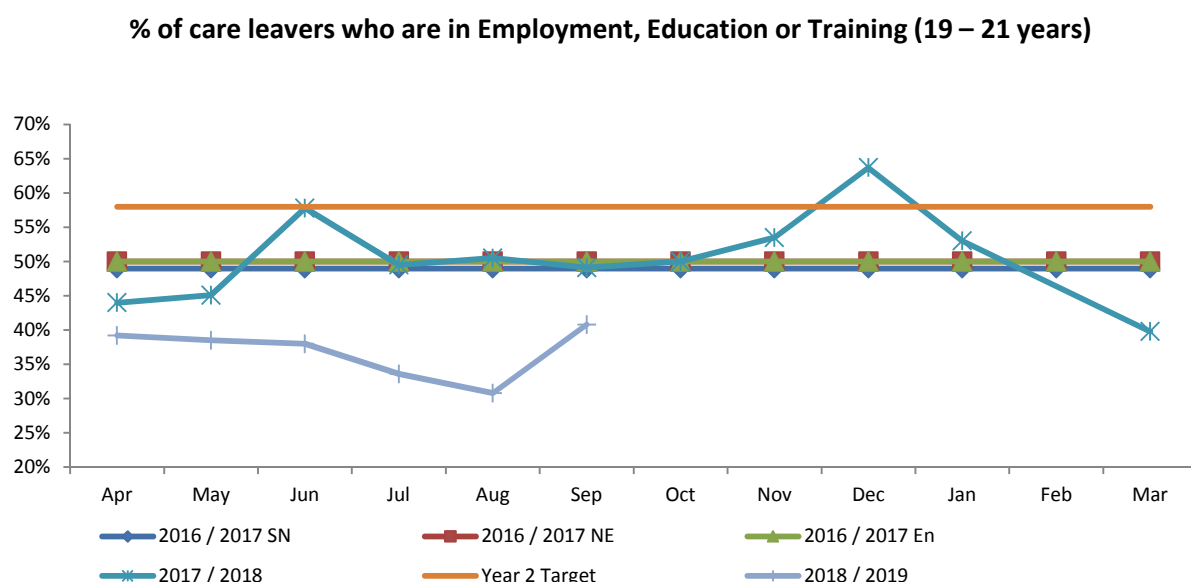
3.20 Key Performance Indicator 8 - % of Looked After Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan
Target 92%
Tolerance 88 – 91.9%



The percentage of children looked after with an up to date PEP has decreased to 36.9% using the Liquid Logic reporting in September 2018. However the virtual school's manual records show 78% as Liquid Logic requires updating.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance range.

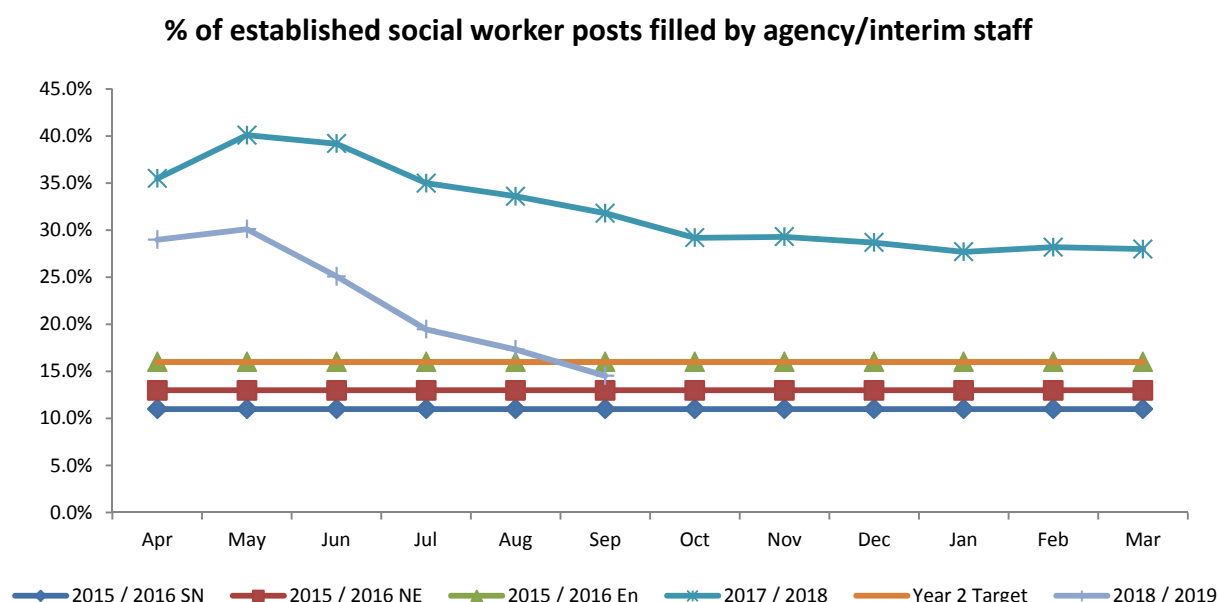
3.21 Supporting Measure - 8.1 % of care leavers (aged 19-21) who are in Employment, Education or Training
Target 58%
Tolerance 53 – 57.9%



The percentage of care leavers who are in employment, education or training (19-21 yrs) has increased to 40.8% in September 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance.

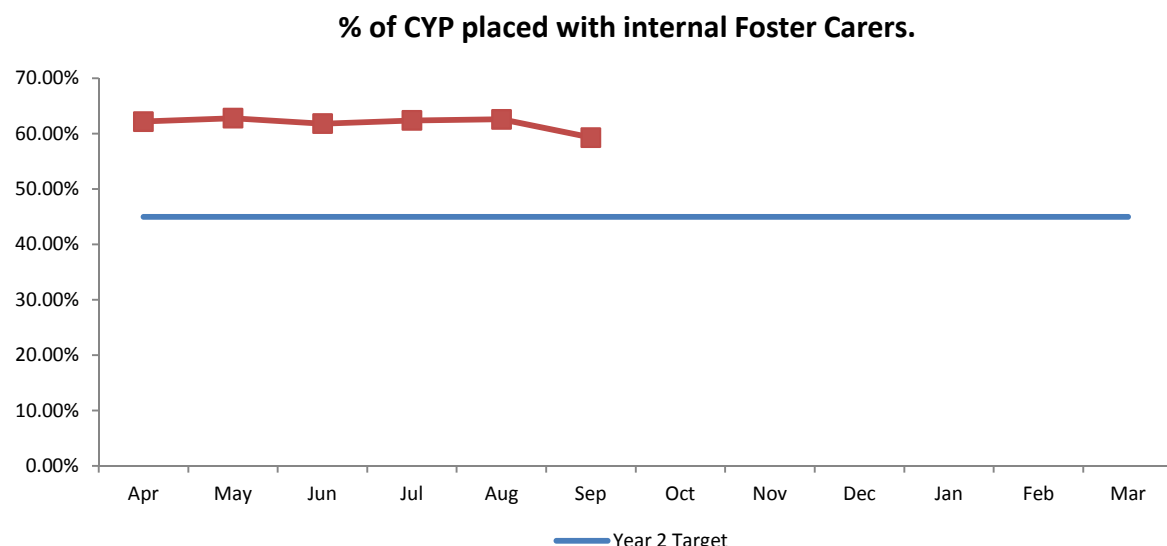
3.22 Key Performance Indicator 9 - % of established Social Work posts filled by agency/interim staff
Target 16%
Tolerance 16.1 - 20%



The percentage of established Social Worker posts filled by agency or interim staff has decreased to 14.55% in September 2018.

This measure is now achieving target.

3.23 Supporting Measure 9.1: % of children and young people placed with internal foster carers



The % of children placed with internal foster carers (including connected carers) has decreased in September to 59.3%.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the performance to date.

5. Background Papers

Guide to Governance and Contractual Arrangements

Item 6

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive a report on the on the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Learning and Improvement Plan 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 A Learning and Improvement Plan has developed in response to the areas of improvement highlighted by the recent Ofsted Inspection Report (July 2018). A copy of the Plan is attached as an appendix.
- 2.2 The Learning and Improvement Plan has been developed around 15 key priorities for improvement. Specific actions to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people are set out under each of the recommendations. Each action includes the timescales by which the improvement should be delivered alongside a lead. For each recommendation there is a clear indication of how success will be measured and evidenced. Progress against each action will be RAG-rated.
- 2.3 The Learning and Improvement Plan will be overseen by the Quality and Improvement Committee, a sub group to the TfC board. The Committee will meet bi-monthly and will monitor the delivery of actions and success measures to demonstrate improvement to the Department for Education, the Council and the wider community. The Committee will be chaired by the TfC Board Chair. Monitoring updates will be provided to the Children, Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee as part of the 2018/19 work programme

3. Progress on priorities of the Learning and Improvement Plan

- 3.1 Jill Colbert (Chief Executive - Sunderland Director of Children Services) will be in attendance to introduce and answer questions on the Improvement Plan.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Improvement Plan.

Together for Children

Learning and Improvement Plan 2018



INTRODUCTION

The Ofsted inspection of Sunderland's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked-after and care leavers was carried out between 23rd April and 18th May 2018. The report was published on 25th July 2018. The inspection team found children's services in Sunderland to be inadequate with the following judgements:

1. Children who need help and protection	Inadequate
2. Children looked after and achieving permanence	Requires Improvement
– Adoption	Good
– Experiences and progress of care leavers	requires improvement
3. Leadership, management and governance	Inadequate

This Learning and Improvement Plan has been developed in response to the Ofsted inspection report. The report requires the local authority and Together for Children to respond to the following 15 areas for improvement.

1. Urgently review ICRT and take action to ensure that risks to children are identified, that thresholds are applied appropriately to support effective decision-making, and that actions taken are timely and compliant with statutory guidance.
2. Ensure that children at risk of child sexual exploitation and those that go missing have an up-to-date assessment of risks that informs a comprehensive response to keep them safe.
3. Ensure that governance and scrutiny arrangements are rigorous and challenging and that there is an accurate understanding of the quality of practice, to enable the council to hold TfC to account and to ensure that progress is made, that children are protected, and that their experiences improve.
4. Improve the training and development offer for social workers and managers to ensure that all staff have the right skills and knowledge for their role.
5. Ensure that managers provide reflective and directive supervision for all workers, with additional challenge from IROs and conference chairs, in order to improve the quality of practice and planning for all children.
6. Improve the timeliness of services to children and families, including the early help response, and the access to services to support victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.
7. Ensure that children's records are kept up to date and contain clear child-focused information so that children's histories and progress can be clearly evaluated to inform decisions.
8. Ensure that all assessments are appropriately updated, that they evaluate individual risk, need and the experience of children, and that the resultant plans are outcome-focused, are meaningful to children and families, and are regularly reviewed.
9. Ensure that applications to court are timely and of good quality, and that no children are left in situations of ongoing risk due to delay.

10. Ensure that children who present as homeless fully understand their rights to become looked after under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, and the benefits this brings.
11. Ensure that practice for children who are subject to private fostering arrangements meets statutory requirements.
12. When children come into care or need an alternative home, ensure that they are provided with a placement that meet their needs and offers stability through more proactive matching.
13. Ensure the timely completion of life-story work for all children looked after so that they can understand their life history.
14. Improve timely access to appropriate mental health services for children looked after and care leavers and develop a clear transition pathway for those care leavers who do not have an EHCP.
15. Improve access to vocational, training and employment opportunities for care leavers and particularly for those who have been not in education, employment or training (NEET) for long periods.

The Learning and Improvement Plan has been developed around the above 15 recommendations. A number of other improvement actions have also been identified from the narrative report and these are also included in the plan. Specific actions to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people are set out under each of the recommendations. Each action includes the timescales by which the improvement should be delivered alongside a lead. For each recommendation there is a clear indication of how success will be measured and evidenced. Progress against each action will be RAG-rated.

The Learning and Improvement Plan has been aligned with the TfC Quality Assurance framework which draws information from a range of quality assurance activities to give a triangulated view of assurance. The framework monitors key performance indicators and captures quality assurance work undertaken by TfC and external sources such as peer reviews, sector led improvement and inspections.

The Learning and Improvement Plan will be overseen by the Quality and Improvement Committee, a sub group to the TfC board. The Committee will meet bi-monthly and will monitor the delivery of actions and success measures to demonstrate improvement to the Department for Education, the Council and the wider community. The Committee will be chaired by the TfC Board Chair.

PROGRESS TRACKER

All actions in the Learning and Improvement Plan are RAG-rated. A key to the RAG-rating system is below.

RECOMMENDATIONS															
CURRENT RAG RATINGS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Red															
Amber															
Green															
Completed															
New Actions															
Total															

RAG RATINGS	NOV 2018	DEC 2018	JAN 2019	FEB 2019	MAR 2019
Red					
Amber					
Green					
Completed					
New Actions					
Total					

RED	The action has not yet started or there is significant delay in implementation.
AMBER	The action has started but there is some delay in implementation.
GREEN	The action is on track to be completed by the agreed date.
COMPLETED	The action has been completed and evidenced.

*Numbers at the end of each recommendation within the plan relate to the appropriate noted paragraphs in the report

CHILDREN WHO NEED HELP AND PROTECTION - THE EXPERIENCES AND PROGRESS OF CHILDREN WHO NEED HELP AND PROTECTION

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 1: Urgently review ICRT and take action to ensure that risks to children are identified, that thresholds are applied appropriately to support effective decision-making, and that actions are timely and compliant with statutory guidance. (para 21, 23, 78) (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thresholds are at the appropriate level. Thresholds are understood and applied consistently across the partnership and in ICRT. Risk is always identified and responded to. Statutory guidance and regulations are followed to deliver prompt action to safeguard children. The impact of cumulative risk and where children exposed to multiple risk factors is sufficiently understood or evaluated including the consideration of additional vulnerabilities such as disability. Management decision making is clear and based on full information. 	1.1 Commission an independent review of ICRT (21) (78).	Director of Quality Assurance & Performance	01/09/18	Independent review of ICRT and repeat contacts concluded. Report presented to Senior Leadership Team. Recommendations contained within this plan.	
		1.2 Agree and implement new ICRT model	Director of Children's Social Care	31/10/18	Process and flowchart agreed and circulated to staff. Best practice file in place and new team structures implemented.	
		1.3 Put in place multi-agency strategic and operational task groups to identify and tackle improvements within the ICRT process.	Director of Children's Social Care	30/09/18	First meeting of Strategic Task Group took place on 01/10/18 and is chaired by the Director of Social Care. The group oversees the implementation of the ICRT recommendations. The first meeting of the Operational Task Group took place mid-September and is chaired the Police. The operational group reports to the Strategic Group. A performance and quality assurance framework is in development.	
		1.4 Review and improve process for recording and screening of contacts in ICRT (21) (78)	Service Manager - ICRT	31/12/18	Following a review of current processes, a revised flowchart has been agreed and is being implemented. Themes are now analysed summarised before passing to assessment CSN are now screening calls to ensure that social care receive relevant contacts. Triage now comprises Health, Education, Early Help, DA worker and CSE MSET co-ordinator. Improved case discussion/dialogue between ICRT and Assessment team.	
		1.5 Police screen referrals to refer only those where there is a safeguarding concern in DA incidents	Northumbria Police Safeguarding MASH Manager	31/05/19		
		1.6 Partners to ensure consent is gained prior to contact	Chair of SSCB	31/01/19	Referral form is being developed and revised to ensure that partners can fully record consent. Consent is always requested prior to work commencing.	
		1.7 Move the collation of history checks and entering of data to the business support	Director of Children's Social Care	28/02/19		

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
		team by training the staff in safeguarding				
		1.8 Commission a bespoke electronic referral form linked to the new threshold document that clarifies risk identified to levels of intervention with clearly defined agency pathways for intervention.	Director of Early Help	31/05/19	Referral form is being developed and discussions are being held with LCS and ICT.	
		1.9 Partner agencies to adopt and implement the new referral form.	Chair of SSCB	30/06/19		
		1.10 Northumbria police to screen the CNF's and quality assure referrals. This will also require prior screening of domestic abuse referrals	Northumbria Police Safeguarding MASH Manager	31/05/19		
		1.11 Review and improve the process for the management and of referrals between social care and Early help.	Director of Early Help	31/03/19	New electronic Referral form in development to streamline referrals to ICRT and ensure that the correct process is adhered to. An Early Help worker is located in ICRT to provide Early Help input into triage. Multi-agency approach for screening of overnight referrals to EDT has commenced.	
		1.12 Partners to agree a new threshold document that clearly identifies agency responsibility for intervention at levels 1 – 4. Document to linked to the Council and TFC website, with clear referral pathways and signposting to services at the appropriate levels (21) (78).	Chair of SSCB Learning and Workforce Development Group	31/05/19	Sessions with partners held to develop new guidance and to review the referral form. The guidance for thresholds is due to be completed by the end of October with training commencing in November.	
		1.13 Formalise the process for planning child protection	Service Manager -	31/12/18	Processes have been strengthened so that all strategy meetings can take place within 24 hours. The Section 47	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
		enquiries including visiting children and families, full analysis of risk, interim safety planning and conformance to statutory guidance (23).	ICRT		process is being monitored and followed.	
		1.14 Strengthen processes for auditing and management oversight of decision-making and application of thresholds.	Service Manager	31/03/19		
		1.15 Assessments to fully evaluate the impact of cumulative risk and where children are exposed to multiple risk factors including the consideration of additional vulnerabilities such as disability.	Service Manager	31/03/19		
		1.16 Training plan to include the implementation of all changes associated with the review of ICRT and training recommendations following the Independent review.	Workforce Development Manager	31/05/19	Training plan to include joint training with partners.	

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of all contacts that have received a decision within 24 hrs	
% of all referrals that have received a decision within 24 hrs	
% of all referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months	
% of S47s are on-going and out of timescale	
% of social worker open cases with a supervision recorded within 9 weeks of the previous one	
Average social worker caseload in Assessment Teams & ICRT	
Number of unallocated cases	

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Professionals are applying threshold criteria to access appropriate help and support for children	
Risk is identified, responded to and reduced in a timely way	
Safety plans are robust and timely	
The impact of cumulative risk and where children are exposed to multiple risk factors is sufficiently understood or evaluated.	
Management decision making is clear and based on full information.	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 2: Ensure that children at risk of child sexual exploitation and those that go missing have an up to date assessment of risks that informs a comprehensive response to keep them safe". (30) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 2)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who go missing from home or care and those vulnerable to criminal or sexual exploitation are risk assessed and appropriate strategies put in place to keep them adequately protected. Leaders and Managers have appropriate grip on the front line for vulnerable children, including those who go missing and who are at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation. 	2.1 Review and improve operational response for children who go missing from home or care and for those vulnerable to criminal or sexual exploitation (30).	Director of Social Care	30/06/19	Proposal to allocate CSE/MSET worker within ICRT. Undertaking work with the police to focus on long-term missing and to address the quality of recording. EDT receive notifications of children who have gone missing during the day allowing for more timely responses and for children to receive a service from TFC outside of daytime hours. EDT will request a strategy meeting if there is a risk of going over the required timescale. EDT are undertaking strategy meetings as required.	
		2.2 Align the work of MSET to operational activities so that the package of support to children is clear at MSET meetings (30).	Chair of MSET	31/03/19	Training to re-launch the new tool and MSET process will focus on the responsibilities of practitioners for safeguarding procedures. Disruption planning will be improved through this training. Clear packages of support are to be presented to MSET so all agencies are clear about what actions need to be taken to improve the operational response for children who go missing. Police are leading a review of MSET model.	
		2.3 Review joint protocol for Missing and deliver required training.	Chair of MSET	31/03/19	Police are leading a review of MSET model and it will be part of the regional CSE/Missing review work.	
		2.4 Implement Liquid Logic workspace for Missing and CSE.	Service Manager	31/03/19	SSCB Business Unit to support with the development of the workspace.	
		2.5 Implement a regular reporting cycle from MSET to SLT which provides assurance as to whether children are receiving an appropriate and timely response to keep them safe.	MSET Co-ordinator	31/03/19	Bi monthly performance report to be produced by MSET Operational Group from November 2018.	
		2.6 Review the risk assessment tool for children at risk of CSE, criminal exploitation and those that go missing.	ICRT Manager and MSET Coordinator	31/03/19	Assessment Tool has been reviewed by MSET.	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
		2.7 Escalation process for missing, criminal exploitation and CSE to be reviewed and training to be delivered	SSCB Business Manager	31/03/19	MSET escalation process is in place and is being utilised.	
		2.8 Training for Missing, criminal exploitation, CSE awareness, Risk Assessment Tools and Out of Area Procedures to be commissioned and delivered.	SSCB Learning and Workforce Development Programme Board Officer	30/06/19	Training will commence in November 2018.	

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of CLA return interviews completed (of total episodes in the period)	
% of children identified at risk who have a CSE completed risk matrix assessment	

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Children who go missing and those at risk of CSE or criminal exploitation are receiving an appropriate and timely response and risk is reduced	
Records of children who go missing and those at risk of CSE or criminal exploitation are clear and up-to date	
Management on the front line have appropriate grip for those who go missing and who are at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 3: Improve the timeliness of services to children and families, including the early help response, and the access to services to support victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse" (17, 18) (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early help planning has sufficient focus on the child's needs and experiences. • Children and their families have access to services for victims of domestic abuse at the time when they need it most. 	3.1 Implement practice standards for Early Help and associated training (17).	Director of Early Help	31/07/18	Practice standard launched and timeliness improved following the launch.	
		3.2 Monitor the timeliness of early help response through application of practice standards.	Director of Early Help	01/09/18		
		3.3 Monitor, audit and review operational response from partners to provide the earliest help and intervention.	Chair of SSCB	31/03/19		
		3.4 Improve the quality of early help plans and record more descriptive updates that explain what is happening more clearly.	Director of Early Help	31/03/19		
		3.5 Link strategic planning and accessibility of services taking account of the high numbers of children exposed to domestic abuse in Sunderland (18).	Director of Public Health	30/09/19		
		3.6 Undertake a review of resources supporting domestic abuse work within TfC.	Service Manager - ICRT	31/03/19	Domestic Abuse worker and Early Help worker are located in ICRT and are holding caseloads. A proposal to allocate a CSE worker is also being considered. Consideration to be given on having a second DA worker in TfC to ensure that the volume of cases can be processed efficiently.	
		3.7 Identify resources for schools including a training offer and designated domestic abuse leads within each school	Chair of Safer Sunderland Partnership	31/03/19		
		3.8 Undertake process	Head of	31/12/18	A Northumbria-wide bid was submitted in September for	

		mapping of referrals of DA and routes to interventions to further identify any gaps in provision to be addressed.	Safeguarding Sunderland NHS Clinical Commissioning Group		<p>Home Office funding to support children affected by Domestic Abuse – expected date of notification of any success end Oct/Nov. Proposal builds on Operation Encompass so that there is a service, or a range of services options available for partners to refer children into for support. There are some providers in the North East who the consortium could partner up with should the bid be successful to ensure delivery can be localised and so that there is choice.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategic Project Group have commissioned Imkaan to undertake further stakeholder engagement work with survivors/victims to support the focus of our joint strategy for tackling Domestic Abuse. This work has been funded by the Safer Sunderland Partnership, the CCG and Public Health and started this month, this is due to be completed end of February 2019.</p>	
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Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of early help plans carried by external agencies	
% of Early Help assessments that have progressed to a plan within 8 weeks	
% of children on Child Protection plans for longer than 2 years	

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Early Help practice standards are being adhered to	
Early help response is timely from partners and TfC	
Early help plans address original key presenting factor sufficiently focus on the child's needs and experiences and contain descriptive updates	
Children and their families have timely access to services for victims of domestic abuse	
All schools and academies have domestic abuse leads who have accessed appropriate training	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 4: Ensure that children's records are kept up to date and contain clear child focussed information so that children's histories and progress can be clearly evaluated to inform decisions". (79) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 7)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key events are clear on children's files and not lost in detail. Children's records are of good quality, providing practitioners with a full understanding of children's experiences in order to help situations improve. 	4.1 Practice standards to include the requirement and timescales (three months) for case summaries to be included in all children's files so key events are clear and not lost in the detail.	Service Manager & Principal Social Worker	31/03/19	Case summaries to be included on children's front page in general notes so key events /updates are clear to all. All Team Managers/ATM's will be undertaking dip sampling of cases.	
		4.2 Case recording to be clear so it contributes to a clear understanding of each case.	Service Manager	31/03/19		
		4.3 Record keeping protocols to be clear and consistently followed.	Service Manager	31/03/19		
		4.4 Develop a format for chronologies in Liquid Logic that is fit for purpose	Service Manager	30/06/19		
		4.5 Chronologies to consistently identify key past events in children's lives and patterns of risk to be fully considered (24)	Service Manager	31/03/19		
		4.6 Utilise data and quality reports to challenge weaknesses at a team and individual level (79).	Director of Children's Social Care	30/06/19		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Case summaries are consistently included in all children's files and detail key events	
Chronologies consistently identify key past events in children's lives and are up-to-date using a standard template	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 5: Ensure that all assessments are appropriately updated, that they evaluate individual risk, need and the experience of children, and that the resultant plans are outcome-focussed, are meaningful to children and families, and are regularly reviewed". (24, 28, 64, 79) (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments have a clear purpose, adequate analysis and use evidence-based approaches. Children's identity is explored and understood. Patterns of risk are considered. Changes to children's circumstances, or escalation of concerns is recognised and responded to in a timely way. Disabled children are safeguarded and their well-being is sufficiently promoted. Action plans include relevant information, with all areas completed and clearly detail key events. Leads and timescales are clear for all actions. 	5.1 Review the assessment process including guidance, best practice examples and training needs (24).			Once transferred from ICRT, all assessments will be allocated within 24 hours following a full case discussion between the Team Manager, Assistant Team Manager (TM) and Social Worker. TM to give guidance on projected timescale for assessment to be completed and place a TM Note on LL highlighting the agreement that has taken place. TM to make decisions on who else needs to be at the allocation Meetings including the DA Worker and CFW's. Assessment Team Managers to complete checkpoint reviews if the assessment is open after 10, 25 and 40 days on each case and highlight this review on LL. Any assessments that go over 45 days must be brought to the attention of the SSM by the TM so an agreement can be reached for an extension and a note added on LL by the SSM explaining the reasons why an extension was agreed.	
		5.2 Strengthen management oversight and decision making regarding the most vulnerable children including the reviews of assessments for children with disabilities.	Service Manager - ICRT	31/03/19		
		5.3 Introduce quality assurance checks for the assessment process	Service Manager - ICRT	30/09/18	The quality of assessments is being regularly checked and quality assured by the Team Manager via regular dip sampling and audits. ATM's to guide all SW's and quality assure their work.	
		5.4 'Good Practice' files that include examples of plans and assessments to be placed within all teams	Service Manager - ICRT	30/11/18	All managers are collating good examples of pieces of work to place in the good practice files. 1 Minute Guides for Practice within ICRT and Assessment Teams are being produced.	
		5.5 Good practice workshops to be rolled out so that workers know what constitutes a good assessment and action plan	Principal Social Worker	31/03/19	Expectations of all agencies to be included in workshops, guidance and training materials. Workshops to cover how to write analytically and to cover safety planning.	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
		5.6 Principal social worker to hold meetings to share best practice and improve quality of the service	Principal Social Worker	31/03/19		
		5.7 Disabled children's needs to be reassessed to ensure that children are safe and their parents are adequately supported to meet children's additional needs (28)	Children with Disabilities Team Manager	30/11/18	At the time of inspection there were 40 children with care packages that needed to be reassessed. A monitoring spreadsheet has been developed for all children who are receiving care packages and cases have been reassessed.	
		5.8 Identify a solution in liquid logic for recording children with disabilities who are not CIN, but who are receiving a care package	Service Manager	30/06/19	A Liquid Logic solution is currently being tested.	
		5.9 IROs to effectively review and scrutinise plans to ensure they are linked to updated assessments (38).	IRO Managers	31/03/19		
		5.10 Contingency planning to be consistently considered, reflective of permanency and specific to the child's needs, rather than generic (64).	Service Managers	31/03/19		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:	
Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of CIN Assessments completed and authorised in timescale (45wds)	
% of children subject to a CIN plan who received a visit within 20 working days	
Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Assessments have a clear purpose, adequate analysis and use evidence-based approaches	
Changes to children's circumstances, or escalation of concerns is recognised and responded to in a timely way	
Action plans include relevant information, clearly detail key events and have allocated leads and timescales	
Disabled children's needs assessments are up-to-date	
IROs are clearly recording and reporting challenge regarding the quality of children's plans to ensure they are linked to updated assessments or the specific needs of the child	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 6: Ensure that practice for children who are subject to private fostering arrangements meets statutory requirements (32). <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 11)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children living in private fostering arrangements have had their needs fully assessed and have been seen alone by social workers to ensure that they are safe. Increased notifications of private fostering arrangements 	6.1 Refine policies and procedures for children subject to private fostering arrangements (32).	Service Manager	31/03/19	Procedure will include a 1 minute guide for Private Fostering. Procedures and guides will be re-launched across all teams and partner agencies and will be included in induction and ASYE training.	
		6.2 Put in place a review process to undertake annual assessments of all adults who are private foster carers (32).	Service Manager – Private Fostering	31/03/19		
		6.3 Put in place separate files; one for foster carer and one for the child	Service Manager – Private Fostering	31/03/19		
		6.4 Deliver a programme of events and communications within the city to raise awareness around private fostering arrangements and how to access support.	Service Manager – Private Fostering	31/03/19	Events to be arranged for Police, Health and Housing Provider. As schools are vital and often the first to recognise children not living with family members, targeted training around private fostering will be arranged and information will be included in the School Governor's Handbook.	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
		6.5 Strengthen management oversight of the reviews and assessments of privately fostered children.	Service Manager – Private Fostering	31/03/19		
		6.6 Explore regional arrangements and groups	Service Manager – Private Fostering	31/01/20		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Key Performance Indicators	Current
Number of privately fostered children	

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Children living in private fostering arrangements have had their needs fully assessed and have been seen alone by social workers to ensure that they are safe	
Adults who are private foster carers are receiving annual reviews	
Increased notifications of private fostering arrangements	

2. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND ACHIEVING PERMANENCE

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 7: Ensure that applications to court are timely and of good quality, and that no children are left in situations of ongoing risk due to delay. (27, 36) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 9)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care proceedings are issued where and when this is needed following decision at PLO Panel Care proceeding are issued in a timely way. Reduced delays to progressing court applications Increased assertive action at pre-proceedings stage 	7.1 Restructure the Legal Team to ensure there is sufficient capacity and effective management of cases issued.	Service Manager - Business	31/03/19		
		7.2 Review gatekeeping process including timescales and the feedback processes between the Legal Team and Social Care Teams.	Service Manager – CP	31/03/19		
		7.3 Implement a revised management approach to tracking cases via the legal gateway process through to completion (27) (36).	Service Manager – CP	31/03/19		
		7.4 Implement a revised management approach for ensuring social work assessments and plans for court are timely and of good quality.	Service Manager – CP	31/03/19		
		7.5 Review allocations process for cases within legal team.	Service Manager - Business	31/12/18		
		7.6 Develop legal workspace within Liquid Logic to assist with effective case management and oversight of care proceedings.	Service Manager	30/09/19		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:	
Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of cases issued within 5 working days of PLO decision to proceed.	
% of Emergency Protection Order requests actioned within 1 working day.	
% of children in PLO that have been reviewed within last 12 weeks	
Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Children have court proceedings issued where and when this is needed and applications are timely and of good quality	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 8: Ensure that children who present as homeless fully understand their rights to become looked after under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, and the benefit this brings. (35) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 10)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children aged 16 and 17 who present as homeless are routinely informed of their right to be accommodated or helped and to understand how they could benefit from this. Children who choose to be accommodated receive support as a child looked after, irrespective of their family circumstances. 	8.1 Develop a leaflet for children aged 16 and 17 who present as homeless to inform them of their right to be accommodated or helped.	Service Manager - CLA	31/10/18	Draft leaflet has been sent out for consultation. Once returned the leaflet will be communicated.	
		8.2 For those children informed of their rights, formally record their decisions on a form and save a copy on their case record.	Service Manager - CLA	30/11/18		
		8.3 Deliver youth homelessness action plan developed in conjunction with the Homelessness Advice and Support Team (HAST) (part of Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).	Head of Commissioning in Sunderland Council	31/03/19		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Quality Measures:

Current Quality Assurance Rating

Children who present as homeless are routinely informed of their rights and decisions are recorded on their case file

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 9: When children come into care or need an alternative home, ensure that they are provided with a placement that meets their needs and offers stability through more proactive matching. (42, 38) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 12)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the numbers of children moving into appropriate permanence arrangements within placements. • Increased placement choice and early proactive matching • Reduced numbers of moves that children experience in the first 12 months of coming into care • Increased placement choice for children or young people with complex needs. • Assessments sufficiently identify children's needs to inform matching at the earliest opportunity • Permanence Panel is working at the highest level, ratifying matching at earliest stage to ensure decisions are made based on children's initial needs 	9.1 Increase placement choice to reduce the number of moves that children experience in the first 12 months of coming into care (42).	Director of Children's Social Care	31/03/19	The Sufficiency Strategy and Fostering Plan set out actions to increase placement choice.	
		9.2 Launch together and apart assessments and deliver associated training to effectively identify and assess brothers and sisters individual needs.	Service Manager - CLA	31/03/19		
		9.3 Undertake a review of the Permanence Panel to ensure clear processes and procedures are in place around family finding/matching and children's long term care. (42)	Director of Children's Social Care	31/08/19		
		9.4 Refresh the foster carer recruitment strategy to increase the number of in-house foster carers.	Service Manager - CLA	31/08/19		
		9.5 Training to be delivered to staff on permanence planning so that children's goals are more focussed to target interventions and ensure good outcomes in the child's timeframe (38).	Workforce Development Manager	31/08/19	Training to be delivered on permanence arrangements, timescales and how to progress plans.	
		9.6 Re-launch permanence planning strategy	Service Manager - CLA	31/08/19	Weekly accommodation panel has been re-introduced and is chaired by the Director of Children's Social Care.	
		9.7 Permanence plans to be in place by the 2 nd review and	Service Manager &	31/12/18		

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
		IRO challenge to be evident where this has not been achieved.	IRO Manager			
		9.8 Strengthen processes for recording and utilising children's views to influence care planning (38).	Service Managers	31/03/19		
		9.9 Strengthen processes to obtain child's views for those coming to MSET, external placement panel and conference (38).	Service Managers	31/03/19		
		9.10 TfC to develop a process and policy for the monitoring of children who are in unregulated placements.	Service Manager	31/12/18		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of CLA who have had 3 or more placements in last 12 months	
Number of CLA that have experienced unplanned placement moves	
% of children that have a plan of permanence in place at 2 nd review	

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Assessments sufficiently identify children's needs to inform matching at the earliest opportunity	
Together and apart assessments sufficiently identify and assess brothers and sisters individual needs	
Permanence plans are focussed on targeted interventions	
IROs are providing challenge at 2 nd review if a plan of permanence is not in place	
Children's views are captured, recorded and used to influence care planning	
The safety of children who are in unregulated placements has been independently reviewed.	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 10: Ensure the timely completion of life story work for all children looked after so that they can understand their life history. (39) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 13)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct work that social workers undertake with children is reflected in case recording • All children are assisted to understand their family histories through life-story work 	10.1 Develop process and procedures for direct work to be undertaken as soon as a child becomes looked after and reflect in case recording within liquid logic to inform ongoing life story work (39).	Service Manager - CLA	31/08/19	A process is being implemented for Team Managers to allocate Child & Family Workers to commence life story work at Allocation Meetings. Documents to be attached to child's file within liquid logic with corresponding case notes.	
		10.2 Develop a policy and procedure for life story work with clear expectations for every child that becomes looked after.	Service Manager - CLA	31/08/19		
		10.3 Plan and coordinate life story and direct work training.	Service Manager - CLA	31/08/19	Training already delivered by Adoption Team and workshops by the IRO service. Adoption team is revisiting each team to undertake workshops for life story work and to share the resource box.	

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Direct work that social workers undertake with children adheres with policy and procedure, is timely and is reflected in case recording	
Life story work adheres to policy and procedure and children are assisted to understand their families histories	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 11: Improve timely access to appropriate mental health services for children looked after and care leavers and develop a clear transition pathway for those care leavers who do not have an EHCP. (46, 68) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 14)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health services are accessible and timely • Children looked after and care leavers have a clear transition pathway • Agreed process in place for children transitioning to adult services. 	11.1 Put in place clear transition pathways for those care leavers that do not have an EHCP.	Service Manager - CLA	31/03/19		
		11.2 Increase the provision and timeliness of mental health services for children and young people	Director of Children's Social Care	31/03/19		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Children looked after and care leavers with complex emotional health needs are receiving timely access to appropriate mental health services	
All care leavers with complex emotional health needs and SEN have an EHCP	

Recommendation	Expected Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 12: Improve access to vocational, training and employment opportunities for care leavers and particularly for those who have been NEET for long periods. (68) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 15)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care leavers aged 18-21 to access training or employment opportunities. Increase the numbers of apprenticeships for young people Strategically drive opportunities in training and employment for care leavers 	12.1 Identify creative ways of driving opportunities in training and employment for care leavers, in particular 19-21 year olds (68).	Director of Education	31/03/19	There are currently fewer opportunities for 19-21 year olds as there is no virtual school for this age group. Visits are being arranged to look at good practice – first visit to be arranged with North Yorkshire to see how they have improved services.	
		12.2 Increase the number of apprenticeships for care leavers (68).	CEO of Sunderland Council	31/03/19	Discussions are taking place with NTW regarding apprenticeship opportunities and to identify how the Virtual School and Apprenticeship Board will increase numbers.	
		12.3 Review membership and increase engagement with ELEET Team who will target employment and education for the 19-21 group.	Service Manager - CLA	31/12/18		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of care leavers who are in Employment, Education or Training (19-21)	
% of care leavers who are in Employment, Education or Training (17-21)	

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Care leavers have better access to vocational, training and employment opportunities	
The ELEET Team are effective at targeting employment and education for care leavers aged 19-21.	

5. LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Recommendation	Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 13: Ensure that governance and scrutiny arrangements are rigorous and challenging and that there is an accurate understanding of the quality of practice, to enable the council to hold TfC to account and to ensure that progress is made, that children are protected, and that their experiences improve (81). <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 3)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality assurance framework supports managers to sufficiently improve the quality of social work practice to deliver positive outcomes for children Revised scheme of governance agreed between the Council and TfC Board that puts in place revised performance reporting, and accountability arrangements to create improved assurance around quality and outcomes. 	13.1 Review and agree performance and quality indicators with the Council to monitor compliance, performance targets and the quality of social care practice (81).	CEO of Sunderland Council	31/03/19		
		13.2 Short life task and finish group to consider existing scrutiny and reporting arrangements, the integration of the quality assurance framework and to devise a revised model to be agreed by the Council, TfC Board and the DfE.	CEO of TfC & Head of Contractual Relationships in Sunderland Council	31/01/19	Draft terms of reference for the review in development, to be signed off by mid-November.	
		13.3 Strengthen the quality assurance framework and effectively incorporate IRO challenge, findings and recommendations to support improved practice.	Service Manager – QA	31/03/19		
		13.4 Fully embed the quality assurance framework within TfC to support managers to improve the quality of social work practice.	Service Manager – QA	30/06/19		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Recommendations arising from quality assurance work are addressed and practice is improving as a result	

Recommendation	Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 14: Improve the training and development offer for social workers and managers to ensure that all staff have the right skills and knowledge for their role". (90) (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a comprehensive training and development offer for all children's service staff Children's services staff have the skills and knowledge required to fulfil their role TfC workforce receive training in the risks around CSE A bespoke learning and development programme is in place for the social care workforce that focuses on working with children and families around identity and diversity. 	14.1 Implement the training and development offer, including training and awareness briefings for team and senior management (88).	Workforce Development Manager & SSCB Workforce Lead	31/03/20	Training needs analysis undertaken and outcomes being presented to SLT on 25/09/18. Priorities identified include: Domestic Violence, Court Skills and Management and Leadership, & PAMS.	
		14.2 TfC workforce including team and senior management to receive training in the risks around CSE (88).	Workforce Development Manager & SSCB Workforce Lead	31/03/19	Included in priorities.	
		14.3 Principal Social Worker and workforce development colleagues to develop a programme of training on equality, diversity and identity - Community Care Live to be invited to improve their current offer to address the learning needs.	Principal Social Worker	31/01/19	General enquiries regarding potential courses underway.	
		14.4 Identify and implement a model of social care practice.	Director of Children's Social Care	31/12/19	Meetings held with Centre for Systemic Social Work Practice, Strengthening Practice and Signs of Safety. Signs of Safety is used widespread across the region.	

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:

Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Social workers are accessing training required to undertake their role	

Recommendation	Outcomes	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Progress Update	RAG
Priority 15: Ensure that managers provide reflective and direct supervision for all workers, with additional challenge from IRO's and conference chairs, to improve the quality of practice and planning for all children". (38, 79) <i>(Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 5)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front line managers and IROs adequately scrutinise and challenge the quality of social work practice, children's assessments and plans (38, 79). • Improved quality of supervisions (79). 	15.1 Supervision training to be rolled out to all managers to focus on reflective supervision practices (79)	Workforce Development Manager	30/06/19	Training to standardise the recording of reflective supervision discussions. Consider further training/workshops with social workers and managers in devising action plans.	
		15.2 Develop a programme for Service Managers to review team managers supervision files aligned to the Quality Assurance Framework and Plan.	Service Managers & Quality and Performance Manager	31/03/19	Service managers to audit/review team manager supervision files	
		15.3 Managers to ensure that any challenges raised by IROs are discussed in supervision and resolutions are sought and responded to (38, 79)	Director of Children's Social Care	31/03/19		
		15.4 Front line managers to utilise performance and quality reports to effectively scrutinise and challenge the quality of social work practice, children's assessments and plans (79).	Director of Children's Social Care	31/12/18		

Success Measures & Key Performance Indicators:	
Key Performance Indicators	Current
% of social worker open cases that have had a supervision discussion recorded within 9 weeks of the previous one	
Average social worker caseload	
Total number of working days lost to sickness (Social Worker)	
Total number of working days lost to sickness (Social Care Team Managers)	
% of IRO case escalations responded to within timescale.	
Quality Measures:	Current Quality Assurance Rating
Supervision is reflective and addresses the quality of practice, assessments and planning	
DRPs/IRO concerns are discussed/addressed in social worker supervisions	
IROs are challenging the quality of social work practice, children's assessments and plans	
Feedback from children and young people and their families is being responded to	

Item 7

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER

2018

EARLY HELP UPDATE

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a second update on the Early Help Service since its launch on 1 April 2017. The first update was provided in March 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The new Early Help Service was established on 1 April 2017, to replace the previous arrangements which were known as 'Strengthening Families'. It was recognised that the Strengthening Families model had become inefficient and was not working in the way it was originally set up, and the new service was developed to address this.

3. Current Position – an update since March 2018.

- 3.1 The three Early Help Locality Teams are now well-established in a) Washington/North; b) East/West and c) Coalfields.
- 3.2 Since March 2018, the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) Team has moved into the Early Help Service from Children's Social Care. This service supports an extended-family approach to support for parents with complex issues. The rationale for moving the service into the Early Help Teams was to allow for much earlier, planned intervention rather than crisis support. A review of the impact of FGC will be conducted in the New Year.
- 3.3 A pilot between Northumbria Police and the Early Help Service saw three Police Community Support Officers (CSOs) join the locality teams for an eight month period to the end of November 2018. The input of the CSOs was of great benefit to the Early Help Service and to families requiring co-ordinated support. Following a review of this pilot and a similar pilot in Northumberland from a Police perspective, the Force has decided to return the CSOs to the neighbourhood policing teams. Further work is being undertaken to determine how police support can be provided directly into Early Help Services force-wide in future.
- 3.4 As previously, further information about the Early Help Service, including referral forms and a leaflet for parents, the Early Help Strategy and a range of services available to support families can be found on the Together for Children website at: <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/families/early-help> and <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/professionals/early-help>

4. Progress to date

- 4.1 The number of Early Help Plans rose steadily between April 2017 and May 2018 to 762. Of these 534 were being co-ordinated by the Early Help Service and 228 by the Universal Services. The majority of those registered by the Universal Services are being co-ordinated by schools, with increasing numbers from health visitors, although the delivery of Early Help by schools and health visitors is uneven across the localities.

Since May 2018 the number of open Early Help Plans has fallen slightly each month to 705 in September 2018. This is in part due to cases being closed to the universal services around the Summer break and in part because the Early Help Service is now regularly closing cases where 'outcomes met'.

In total 397 Early Help cases have been closed 'outcomes met' between April 2017 and September 2018.

To date, over 3,000 children and their families have been supported by the Early Help processes.

- 4.2 As in March 2018, just under half (43%) of the cases resulting in an open Early Help Plan since April have come to the Early Help Service via Children's Social Care.

Data from April 2017 to March 2018 showed that 94% of the children supported via the Early Help processes remained within the Early Help arena or stepped back down to universal services, an early indication that Early Help is an effective way of preventing families escalating to Children's Social Care. An update on this figure will not be available until March 2019.

- 4.3 In order to increase our capacity to support more families, the Early Help Service has recently employed eight additional fixed-term staff. The impact of these staff on outcomes for children and on the management of demand into Children's Social Care will not be measurable for several months.

- 4.4 We continue to develop the expertise of staff to support families with a range of issues and our most recent training has covered a wider range of parenting interventions, on-line grooming and safety and addressing sexually inappropriate behaviour.

A number of school staff, two health visitors and two school nurses were trained alongside the Early Help staff in the delivery of universal parenting support. The Early Help Service and three schools are now planning sessions for large numbers of parents from January 2019. Our aim is to de-stigmatise the offer of parenting support and make it something that all parents can access as a matter of course.

5. Future Plans

- 5.1 Sunderland is part of a regional pilot scheme (one of four nationally) to offer support to parents where there is discord in the home or between separated parents. This relationship support will be co-ordinated by the Early Help

Service and will run from April 2019 to March 2021. Through this pilot, eligible parents will have access to a number of internationally recognised programmes previously unavailable in the UK. It is envisaged that the families referred for support will be identified as part of our current Early Help Assessment processes.

- 5.2 Working with the CCG, TfC's Early Help Service will be managing a programme of 10 health and well-being prevention initiatives with schools and the wider community. The programmes will run for three years and will provide an evidence-base for future investment in prevention by the CCG.
- 5.3 Schools have fed back to the Early Help Service that they have limited resources to allocate to early intervention. To support this, we have developed two Service Level Agreements (Attendance Support and Early Help Support) which enable schools to purchase small amounts of support on a termly or yearly basis. To date, five schools have taken up the offer and others have expressed an interest. It is our aim to expand this partnership approach to make the delivery of the earliest intervention both affordable and sustainable.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

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ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report sets out for members' consideration the work programme of the Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2018-19.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19

REASON FOR INCLUSION	14 JUNE 18 CANCELLED	5 JULY 18	6 SEPTEMBER 18	4 OCTOBER 18	1 NOVEMBER 18 CANCELLED	29 NOVEMBER 18	10 JANUARY 19	7 FEBRUARY 19	7 MARCH 19	4 APRIL 19
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses								Youth Justice Plan (Linda Mason)		
Scrutiny Business			TfC Ofsted Feedback (Jill Colbert) SEND Update – (Simon Marshall)	Independent Review Officer Annual Report (IRO) Local Authority Designated Officer Annual Report (LADO) (Gavin Taylor)		Access to T2 & T3 Mental Health Services (CCG, NTW & TFC) Early Help Strategy - Update (Karen Davison)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Sheila Lough) Safeguarding Board Annual Report (Paul Ennals-Independent Chair) Voice of the Child – Participation and Outcomes for Children (Jane Wheeler)	Educational Attainment Schools Results (Simon Marshall) School Exclusions and Attendance (Simon Marshall) Social care Workforce Update (Jill Colbert)	Progress report on Apprenticeships (all partners)	Scrutiny Annual Report (JD) Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing Children – Progress (Jill Colbert) Education, Employment and Training Opportunities (Partners tbc) Access to T2 & T3 Mental Health Services (CCG, NTW & TFC) – Follow up on actions
Performance / Service Improvement		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report Children's Services Complaints (Jane Wheeler)		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (with a specific focus on the ICRT service) Ofsted Improvement Plan	Ofsted Improvement Plan Children's Services Complaints (Jane Wheeler)	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report	Ofsted Improvement Plan (detailed update)	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report
Consultation / Awareness Raising	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19

29 NOVEMBER 2018

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda
-

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions (including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting:-

N.B. Please refer to the Notice issued on 23 October 2018 for details of those key decisions to be taken at its meeting on 21 November 2018 which can also be viewed at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/9836/Committee/1976/Default.aspx>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
180418/252	To consider and approve corporate proposals in respect of Siglion LLP.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 12 December 2018 to 31 January 2019.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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180308/245	To seek approval for the sale of land at former Southwick School.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 November to 31 December 2018.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180725/275	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the update on the Arts Council's funded National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) delivered through Sunderland Culture; note the arrangements to strengthen heritage delivery across the City; note the interim arrangements for operational management of museum and arts functions; agree to receive a further report on the longer term arrangements for operational management of cultural venues across the city.	Cabinet	N	During the period 16 January to 31 March 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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181019/308	To recommend to Council that approval be given to the making of revised Library Byelaws under section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964	Cabinet	Y	Between 12 December 2018 and 31 January 2019	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181004/304	To approve the South Sunderland Growth Area Infrastructure Delivery (Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Funding agreement, procurement works and land acquisition).	Cabinet	Y	12 December 2018.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181102/313	To seek Cabinet approval for the Council and Sunderland Care and Support to participate in the All Together Better Alliance.	Cabinet	Y	12 December 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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180918/300	Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor Phase 3 – Approval to accept tender for the main works contractor	Cabinet	Y	12 December 2018	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180905/297	To agree to adopt a revised policy that sets out how the Council disposes of its land and property assets.	Cabinet	Y	12 December 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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181019/309	To authorise the sale of land at Hillthorn Farm, Washington and to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Economy and Place in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary to grant consent to the assignment of the sale contract to the purchaser's preferred developer if required by the purchaser.	Cabinet	Y	12 December 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181109/314	Amendment to Commissioning Intentions for Public Health Services – 2019 Cabinet is requested to approve the amendment to the Commissioning Intentions for Public Health Services to recommend that the Integrated Wellness Hub is brought in-house and provided by the Council.	Cabinet	Y	12 December 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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181019/310	To approve a scheme for structural maintenance of the A182 Chartershaugh Bridge.	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
170927/212	To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 16 January to 31 March 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180830/289	To approve the Council Tax Base 2019-2020.	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180830/290	To approve the Revenue Budget Third Review 2018-2019.	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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180830/291	To approve the Capital Programme – Third Capital Review 2018-2019, Provisional Resources 2019-2020 and Treasury Management Review 2018-2019.	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180830/292	To approve the Revenue Budget 2018-2019 – Update and Provisional Revenue Settlement.	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181016/307	To seek Cabinet approval for the draft Homelessness Strategy, and subsequently approve a six week public consultation.	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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181024/311	To approve the Outline Business Case in relation to the development of a Regional Adoption Agency.	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181112/315	To approve the disposal of land at Seaburn to be used as suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANG).	Cabinet	Y	16 January 2019	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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180830/293	To approve the Capital Programme 2019-2020 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2019-2020 including Prudential Indicators for 2019-2020.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180830/294	To approve the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2019-2020 and MTFS 2019-2020 to 2021-2022.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180830/295	To approve the Collection Fund 2018-2019.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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181024/312	To approve the Final Business Case in relation to the development of a Regional Adoption Agency and agree next steps leading up to the establishment of the Regional Adoption Agency	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Note; Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Governance Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Governance Services team PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Who will decide;

Cabinet; Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Michael Mordey – Deputy Leader; Councillor Paul Stewart – Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children, Learning and Skills; Councillor Geoffrey Walker – Health and Social Care; Councillor John Kelly – Communities and Culture; Councillor Amy Wilson – Environment and Transport; Councillor Stuart Porthouse – Housing and Regeneration

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh,
Head of Law and Governance

13 November 2018