

## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **AGENDA**

**Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on  
Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 5.30 p.m.**

#### **Membership**

Cllr Bell, Francis (Vice-Chairman), Hodson, 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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2.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2019</b> (copy attached)	1
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)</b>	-
	<b>Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>	
	No Items	
	<b>Part B – Scrutiny Business</b>	
4.	<b>Together for Children Performance Update</b>	11
	Report of the Director of Children's Services (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.

27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

**At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Smith in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Francis, Hodson, Hunt, F. Miller, O'Neil, Samuels, Scullion, Tye and K. Wood together with Mrs. A. Blakey and Mrs. J. Graham

**Also in attendance:-**

Ms. Sue Carty, Director of Quality and Performance, Together for Children  
Mr. Richard Cullen, School Improvement Service Manager, Together for Children  
Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council  
Mr. James Harrison, Sunderland Echo  
Ms. Sheila Lough, CWD Strategic Services Manager, Together for Children  
Mr. Joshua McKeith, Sunderland Youth Council  
Mr. Simon Marshall, Education Director, Together for Children  
Ms. Gillian Robinson, Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council  
Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rowntree and also on behalf of Ms. Jill Colbert, Chief Executive of Together for Children and Executive Director of Children's Services

**Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## **Change in Order of Business**

At this juncture the Chairman proposed that the order of items on the agenda be changed to:-

- Item 6 – Overall School Performance Data for the 2017/18 Academic Year;
- Item 7 – Schools Exclusions and Attendance;
- Item 5 - Social Care Workforce Update;
- Item 8 – Together for Children – Quality Assurance Framework;
- Item 4 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report.

## **Overall School Performance Data for the 2017/18 Academic Year**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members of the Committee on the verified overall school performance data for the academic year 2017-2018.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Simon Marshall, Director of Education and Mr. Richard Cullen, School Improvements Services Manager presented the report advising that the Council had a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996 to promote high standards in schools and to raise attainment. The report provided an overview for members across the range of academic outcomes and the key priorities for the school improvement service.

Mr. Marshall commented that the themes remain quite consistent, with the early years and primary phases performing either in line with or above the national average but that the level of progression at secondary education was not continuing. Mr. Marshall advised that this was not just an issue in Sunderland but that it was a regional issue. To look to address this, the Department for Education had appointed Lord Theodore Agnew to undertake a new government initiative, North East Challenge, whereby £24 million would be pledged to tackle these issues in the region. The Committee were informed that £12 million would be allocated towards training and development of teachers to improve the quality of teaching and that £12 million would be invested to target the transition between primary and secondary education, both initiatives to look to drive up standards and improve outcomes for young people in the region. Mr. Marshall advised that he would keep the Committee informed accordingly as the initiative progressed.

Councillor Tye referred to the Council's statutory responsibility to promote high standards in schools and raise attainment and asked how they carried this out and got schools to comply with them with so many Academies, especially at secondary school level, in the city. He commented that he was sick of discussing the same issues over again and it was imperative that a piece of work was undertaken to drill down to the root cause and get an absolute honest view of the work at Key Stages and consider how to get schools working more closely together to improve results at Key Stage 4.

Councillor Tye stated that the majority of secondary schools in the city were single academy schools and therefore insular, without the support they need to be able to share examples of best practice. It was vital for the Committee to have these discussions with the Regional School Commissioner and therefore he proposed that an invite should be extended to her to attend a future meeting to discuss the educational outcomes of the secondary schools in the city.

Mr. Marshall agreed that it was frustrating for them to continue to discuss this issue and agreed that stand alone academies would find it more difficult by not being part of a larger multi academy trust that could help in providing training and guidance. He informed the Committee that they continued to work with the secondary schools to encourage them to link up and build relationships with other secondary schools in the city and that there was a meeting of secondary Headteachers held regularly whereby they could discuss common issues and themes. There was a drive around academies joining multi academy trusts and Mr. Marshall advised that within the city he found that the primary stand-alone academies continued to remain very closely linked.

In relation to the Regional School Commissioner being invited to a future meeting of the Committee, Mr. Marshall explained that he could convey the wishes of the Scrutiny Committee and the concerns they had around results at secondary school level not improving when he met with the Department for Education.

Councillor Francis asked how Sunderland looked to attract teachers in specialist subject areas where there may be a shortage in the secondary sector and was informed by Mr. Marshall that particular subjects could offer an attractive starting salary for teachers but that sometimes it was more about teachers choosing not to work in some of the more challenging schools. He went on to comment that there were two issues, namely; how to train and attract people into particular specialist subject areas and then once individuals were qualified, how to get them to work in a struggling school.

Mr. Marshall advised that it could be a challenge to secure highly qualified staff in the subjects of English and Maths and explained that they were working with the University of Sunderland on a career progression offer, whereby a bespoke package could be offered to professionals around offering a Masters course in their preferred subject. Unfortunately, the Committee were informed that when budgets were tight within schools then one of the first savings that could be made would be around training and development when in the long run this could prove to be a false economy for schools.

Mr. Cullen informed the Committee that there was expected to be a change in the Ofsted regime in the future with schools no longer being measured on data alone. Members were advised that if this became the case then this would really allow the secondary schools to look at their curriculum provision in another way and be able to offer a wider curriculum that more met the needs of the individual and allow them to see what their future education and career path could look like. The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) was a good programme for young people to become trained and prepared for higher education but it could be a struggle for some individuals who may not perform well in the narrow range of subjects it covers. If the new Ofsted inspection was to be brought in it would then look to see if a school met the needs of all the children on roll and would allow the curriculum to be changed to offer bespoke opportunities for underperforming pupils. This change may also see improvements

in the links between primary and secondary schools and help in designing a curriculum that met the needs of the individual young person and of the city.

Councillor Hodson asked if the data on teacher recruitment and retention over the last few years would be available for Members and Mr. Marshall advised that he could provide it for maintained schools but that it may be more difficult to provide for academies as they managed their own human resources information.

Councillor Hodson also asked if data was available for the attainment of pupils for who English was not their first language, how many pupils this affected and how they were supported and monitored, and was informed by Mr. Marshall that this information could be provided on a city wide basis. Mr. Cullen advised that there was quite a small cohort of pupils, based around 3-4 schools and informed Members that they worked closely together and with the community so they had a relatively high performing group but advised that this could be set out within the data provided.

Mrs. Graham referred to the 89% of secondary schools within the city being academies and asked how many of those chose to buy into the school improvement service? Mr. Cullen advised that very few bought into the service, and Members were informed that the service would not design a team unless commissioned to do so to meet the particular needs of a school as they could not have a standing service always available to schools.

In response to a question from Councillor Hunt as to how the maintained secondary school compared with academies, Mr. Cullen advised that it was safe to say all secondary providers faced the same difficult challenges in relation to performance and that they were comparable across the city. Councillor Hunt commented that it was horrendous to see that the rank position of the authority dropped 93 places from 39<sup>th</sup> out of 152 authorities for Key Stage 2 to 132<sup>nd</sup> out of 152 authorities for GCSE results.

With regards to a question from Councillor Miller around how the new government initiative would work, Mr. Marshall advised that it would be up to the board that was to be set up as to who they would commission to undertake the school improvement work within the identified schools. He advised how the school improvement service would usually undertake a review of a maintained school before reporting back to the governing body their findings and working to support a core group through regular intervention and challenge to see improvements and progress being made. With regards to academies they did not have the authority or responsibility to undertake these services unless they were bought in to and therefore should an academy be identified as part of the initiative it would be for them to decide how the work should be commissioned.

Councillor O'Neil further referred to the new initiative and the £24 million and asked if Sunderland schools were guaranteed a share of the funding? Mr. Cullen advised that it was expected to be split between thirty schools in the North East region but that it was still to be decided which schools these would be, although Officers did not see any reason why Sunderland schools would not be included.

In relation to a query from Mr. McKeith as to how many young pupils currently sat the Ebacc, Mr. Marshall advised that all pupils were encouraged to take the Ebacc and in some schools they had set out a firm commitment that all of their pupils would sit those examinations. In other schools it may not be seen as the best curriculum

option for some of their pupils and some young people from vulnerable groups where they may not be achieving at a relevant academic level.

In a follow up question Mr. McKeith asked if schools were penalised if young people did not sit the Ebacc and he was informed by Mr. Marshall that this was not the case at the moment and schools were merely tasked with having as many of their pupils as possible take the Ebacc route.

There being no further questions or comments the Chairman thanked Officers for their report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted;
- ii) the Regional School Commissioner be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the educational outcomes of secondary schools in the city;
- iii) the Committee be provided with information on teacher recruitment and retention, where available; and
- iv) the Committee receive further information on the attainment of children in the city who have English as a second language.

### **Schools Exclusions and Attendance**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an overview of both fixed term and permanent exclusions in Sunderland for 2018-2019.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Marshall, Director of Education, presented the report which provided an overview of information relating to referrals for placements by the Central Provisions Panel (CPP), fixed term and permanent exclusions, managed moves and in year fair access requests.

Mr. Marshall advised that services were facing real challenges, particularly in relation to permanent exclusions in the city, and informed Members that after six days following a permanent exclusion of a pupil, the local authority had the responsibility of picking up the education of that young person. This was putting a strain on provision as it meant that the Link School was at capacity with permanently excluded pupils and therefore referrals from the CPP for 12 week placements had nowhere to be placed.

Work was being undertaken with schools and Headteachers to look at earlier intervention works and put the challenge back onto schools to come up with a plan to help support young people and their behaviours to allow them to remain in mainstream school and not be at risk of permanent exclusion.

Mr. Marshall advised that this was a very complex process and having looked into the reasons for permanent exclusion it was mainly due to persistent disruptive behaviour by the pupil and in particular males, although there was no geographical area or age bracket highlighted as a trend. There were concerns over the number of

vulnerable children, quite often with some level of special educational needs being excluded, which could be down to the school being unable to meet the needs of the individual and their behaviours worsening to the point where the schools were left with no option than to permanently exclude.

Mrs. Blakey commented that something had to be done to address the levels of permanent exclusions as using the link school and other provisions was stopping other providers being able to access those services for pupils who may need a placement. She commented that there needed to be thresholds set so that all schools could ensure they were dealing with pupils and their behaviours in a consistent manner to other schools in the city as it was unfair to the young person if they were not. Mrs. Blakey commented that she understood the pressures placed on schools and the limited resources with which they have to work with but this area was too important not to look to address.

Mr. Marshall commented that there were thresholds set out and sometimes it could be that a child is not in the right education provision but cannot move into a school that will be able to meet their needs. He advised the Committee that one of the schools in the city that had the lowest number of fixed term exclusions was serving one of the most challenging communities in the city but yet another school in a similar position had over 2,000 fixed term exclusions and it was about ensuring that schools were dealing with pupils in the same manner. He did inform the Committee that the data contained within the report was historic and that some improvements had been made in relation to the large number of fixed term exclusions for that school which had seen a rise in that particular year.

Councillor Tye referred to the data set out within the report and in particular School J, which had over 2,000 fixed term exclusions for 2017/18, and asked why this school had not been named as he felt it was the Officers duty to keep the Committee duly informed. Mr. Marshall commented that he was happy to discuss the particulars around any individual school outside of the Committee meeting but explained that through partner working with the schools they were hoping to improve those behaviours. He advised that naming a particular school in the meeting was not the best way for Officers to look to develop good working relationships and they had to build trust and confidence.

Councillor Tye commented that the information was available in the public domain and he did not think it was right that the data within the report should be anonymised and if it was presented to the Committee they should be able to pull out and scrutinise the data. If Members drilled down into the data provided it showed that the exclusion rate of School J was 50% and Councillor Tye asked where the line was set where the school was bordering on to criminality, stating that it was absolutely unacceptable.

Councillor Tye referred to the previous item on the agenda whereby the Committee had been looking at the reasons for performances dropping at Key Stage 4 level and felt that 6,500 days lost to fixed term exclusions had to have some bearing on that. He stated that it was the role of the Scrutiny Committee to expose those schools in the city.

Councillor Smith commented that Mr. Marshall had advised Members that he was more than happy to have discussions outside of the meeting around individual schools and provide a more detailed briefing to Members if necessary.



Councillor Hunt referred to 50% of the 28 permanently excluded pupils being registered on the SEN code of practice and that only one of those pupils had attended a placement at the Link School or PRU and asked how many of those children had it been deemed should not have been placed into mainstream schools. Mr. Marshall advised that he did not have those exact figures to hand but could provide them. He explained that it may not be a case of a young person being placed incorrectly into mainstream provision but that that child's Educational Health Care Plan had not identified them as requiring an alternative school. When a child is placed into the Link School or Pru it can be quickly identified if their needs warranted a school that could specifically support their level of SEN. Mr. Marshall commented that there were massive pressures on the number of pupil places available in specialist provision schools in the city and he would look to provide further information to Members.

Councillor Bell referred to managed moves and commented that some schools were happy to be involved in the process whereas others may be reluctant and this did not help other schools in the city as the same schools could be requested to take difficult pupils time and again. Mr. Marshall commented that there was an expectation that all schools involved would agree to undertake managed moves where deemed appropriate but commented that moves could fail where pupils and families do not agree to them.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr, Marshall the Chairman thanked him for his report and presentation and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the information contained within the report be received and noted; and
- ii) the Director of Education provide a briefing to the Committee to consider the issues and concerns around the level of fixed term and permanent exclusions from schools within the city; and
- iii) further information be provided to the Committee on the numbers of pupils permanently excluded who were on the SEN code of practice.

### **Social Care Workforce Update**

The Chief Executive of Together for Children submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided for Members a position update on the mechanisms put in place to secure the stability of the Together for Children workforce against the context of continued regional and national recruitment pressures.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sue Carty, Director of Quality and Performance presented the report advising that the Together for Children Social Work workforce was increased in 2015 at the recommendation of Ofsted who identified that higher than average caseloads had results in an unsafe practice. Together for Children had produced a Social Care Recruitment and Retention Strategy in 2017 which identified a number of mechanisms to reduce reliance on agency social work staff and since its publication considerable work had been undertaken to meet identified targets and achieve greater stabilisation.

Ms. Carty informed the Committee that as a result of that work Together for Children were now exceeding national target across all areas with the percentage agency work rate having decreased from 37.7% to 13.5% as at the end of December, 2018.

In response to a question from Councillor Smith regarding additional costs which Together for Children may have endured to get them to this position, Ms. Carty advised that she did not know the actual figures but would think that in the long run it would see the company make saving as the use of agency staff was extremely expensive so in reducing the number of agency workers and stabilising the workforce, savings would be made in the long term.

Councillor Francis asked if retention figures in relation to the position in 2015 compared to the current day could be provided and Ms. Carty agreed to circulate that information to Members.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Carty for her report, it was:-

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

### **Together for Children – Quality Assurance Framework**

The Chief Executive of Together for Children submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Members to consider a presentation on the development and operation of the Quality Assurance Performance Framework developed by Together for Children to improve social work practice and the quality of the service provided.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sue Carty, Director of Quality and Performance gave the Committee a presentation which provided details on the Quality Assurance framework which offered a comprehensive view of service through the triangulation of multiple sources of evidence at a point in time and made recommendation to drive improvement.

(for copy presentation – see original minutes)

Members were taken through the presentation being advised of why the Assurance Framework had to change as there was too much emphasis on data and that there needed to be a more holistic approach with a stronger emphasis on quality rather than data. The Committee were advised that areas of risk were identified from the Business Plan and then areas were 'temperature checked' at any point in time. The three areas of defence used would be managers assurance, quality and assurance reporting and assurance and validation from external sources.

In closing, Ms. Carty advised that there was a quarterly programme of work and that reports were provided to the board and the Council as part of the contract with them, where key areas of further development would be outlined. This would then form part of the self-assessment for Ofsted monitoring visits.

Councillor Smith asked how this framework would impact on the performance monitoring information the Committee currently received and was advised that the

data would still be produced in line with the key performance indicators, as this was part of the company agreement to report to the Council but Together for Children would now be able to give a more in depth and fuller picture in any of the particular service areas.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Carty for her report, it was:-

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

### **Corporate Parenting Annual Report**

The Director of Children's Social Care submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Corporate Parenting Annual Report to provide assurance on the effectiveness for corporate parenting arrangements for children and young people in Sunderland.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sheila Lough, Looked After Services Strategic Service Manager, presented the report which set out the work of the Corporate parenting Board 2018 advising that the Board take lead oversight in exercising the Council's responsibilities as Corporate Parent and ensuring that all Council policies reflect that.

Ms. Lough advised that the annual report had been published before the outcome for both the adoption and fostering services had been received from Ofsted and advised that since the publication of the annual report she could inform the Committee that both services had received a judgment of 'good'. She commented that this was the first time the services had been judged in their own right as an independent service within Together for Children and it was credit to both teams that they had achieved a 'good' judgement.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Lough for her report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the information contained within 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)

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report, advising Members of the Committee of the following two events for their diary:-

- i) meeting with Together for Children Staff at the Hetton Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2019; and

- ii) consideration of an item on apprenticeships at the Economic and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee at the City Campus, Sunderland College on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

Councillor Smith advised that she was still conscious that there were a number of items to be considered by the Committee over the remaining two meetings of the municipal year and that she would monitor, with the Scrutiny Officer, if a further extraordinary meeting was required.

- 7. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, advised that item no. 190103/323 – to approve the Together for Children Business Plan for 2019 and the future governance arrangements had been deferred from the notice of key decisions and that the decision would not be made at the meeting of Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Councillor Tye commented that he had thought that Members would be involved in the discussions around this item and Ms. Carty confirmed that they were looking to establish a Member Reference Group to consider the plan and Members would be invited accordingly.

- 8. 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) P. SMITH,  
Chairman.

**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.

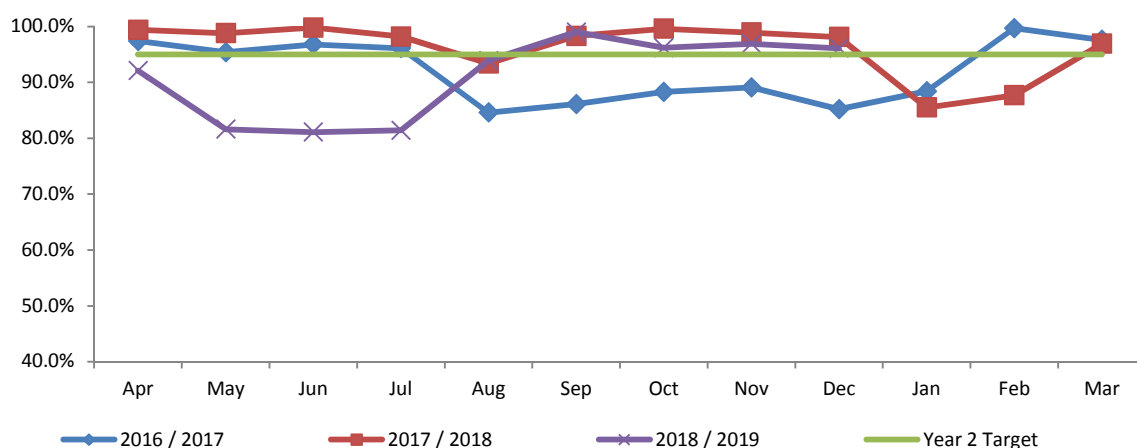
**2. Background**

- 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%**

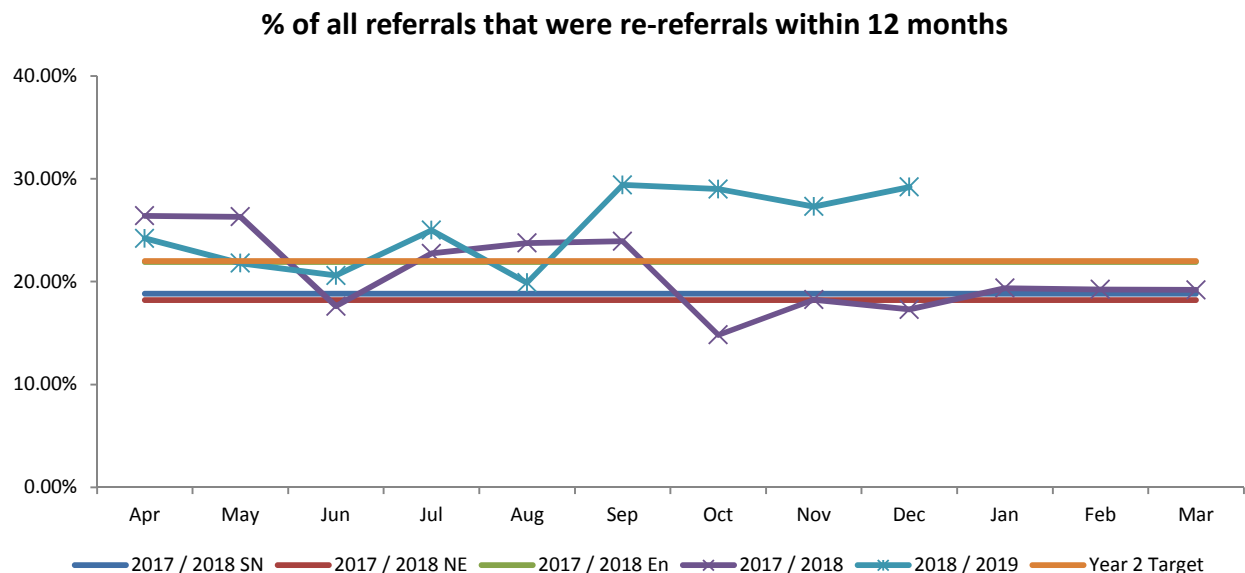
**% of all referrals with a decision within 24 hours.**



The timeliness of decision making within 24 hours as for the period of December 2018 is 96.1%.

Performance against this measure is exceeding target.

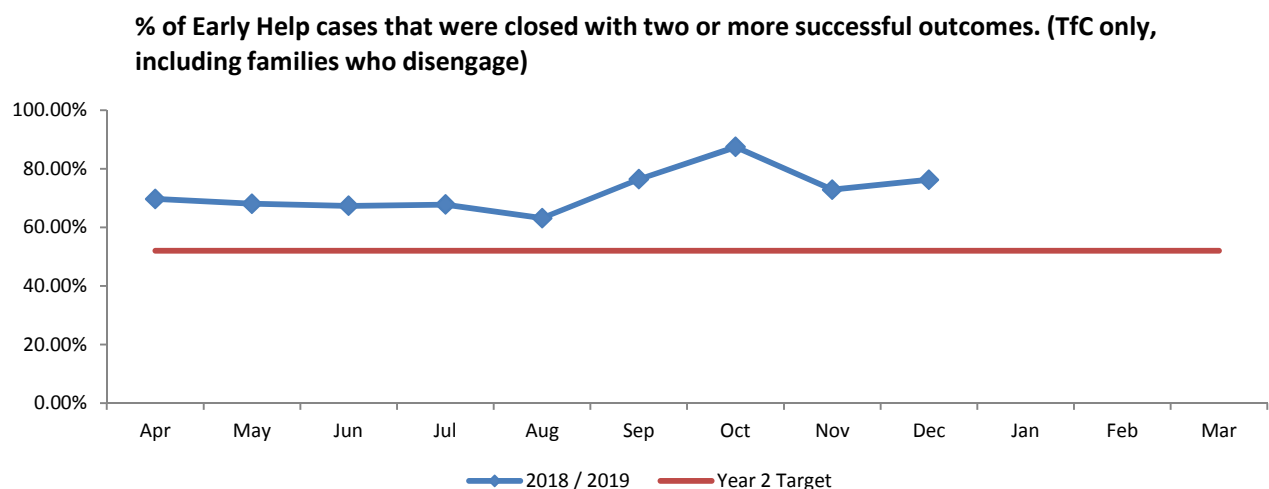
### 3.5 **Supporting Measure 1.1 - % of all referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months** **Target 22%** **Tolerance 22.1 – 28.9%**



The percentage of all referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months in December 2018 is 29.2%.

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%**

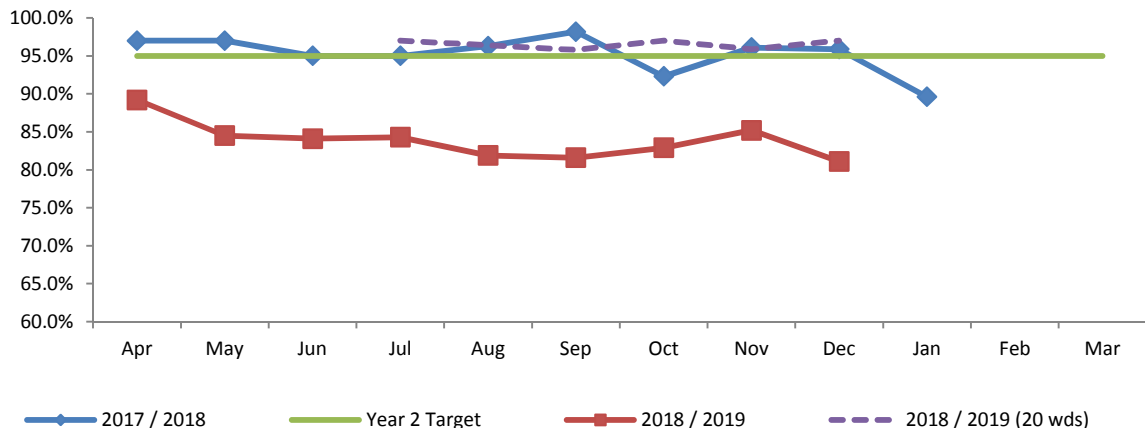


The percentage of all early help cases closed in December 2018 with two or more successful outcomes (TfC only) is 76.3%.

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%

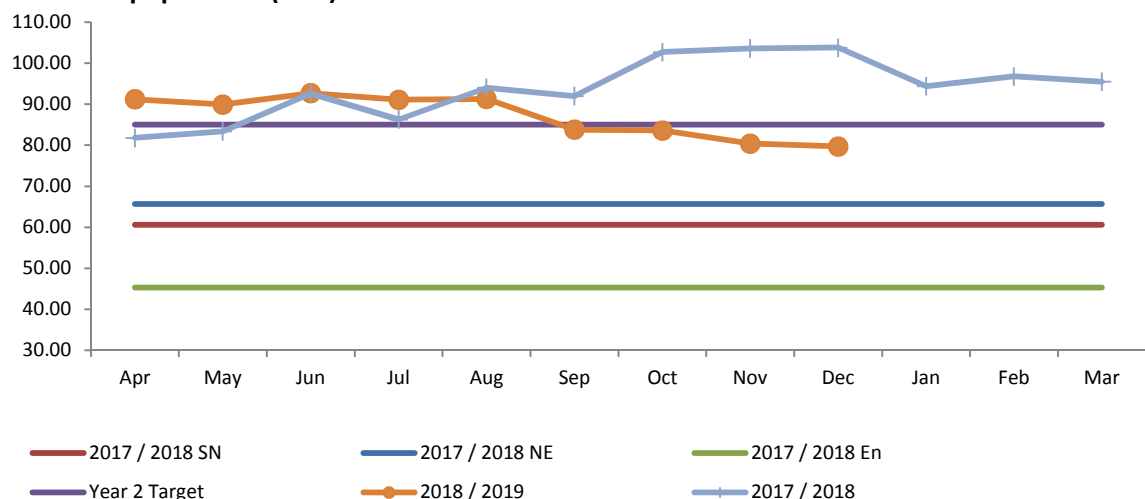
% of children subject to a Child Protection plan who received a statutory visit within 10 working days



The % of children subject to a child protection plan who have received a statutory visit within timescales (10 working days, local measure) in December 2018 was 81.1% and 97% within 20 working days, national measure.

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

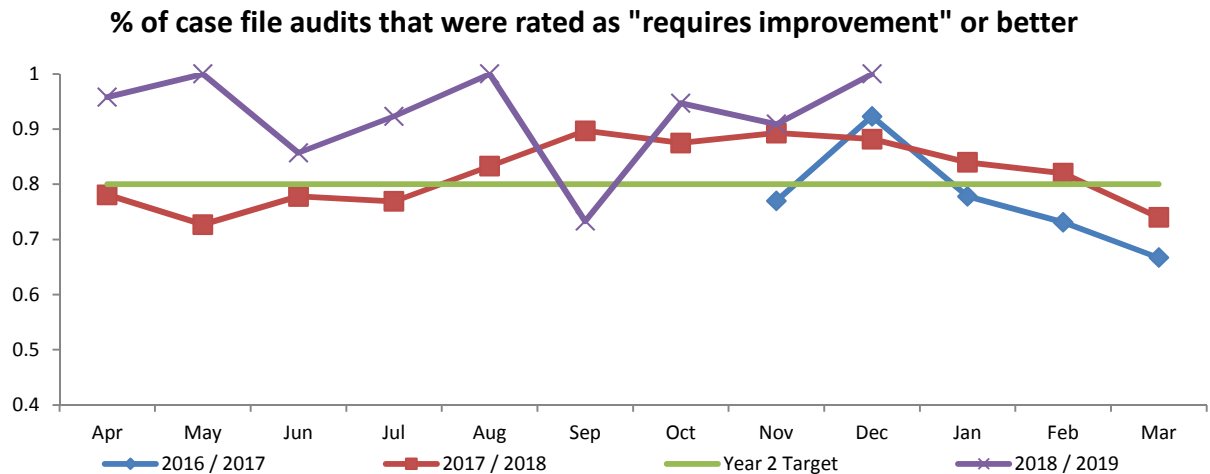
Rate of children and young people subject to a child protection plan per 10k of the population (rate)



The rate of children and young people subject to child protection plan per 10k of the population has decreased to 79.7 in December 2018.

Performance is achieving target.

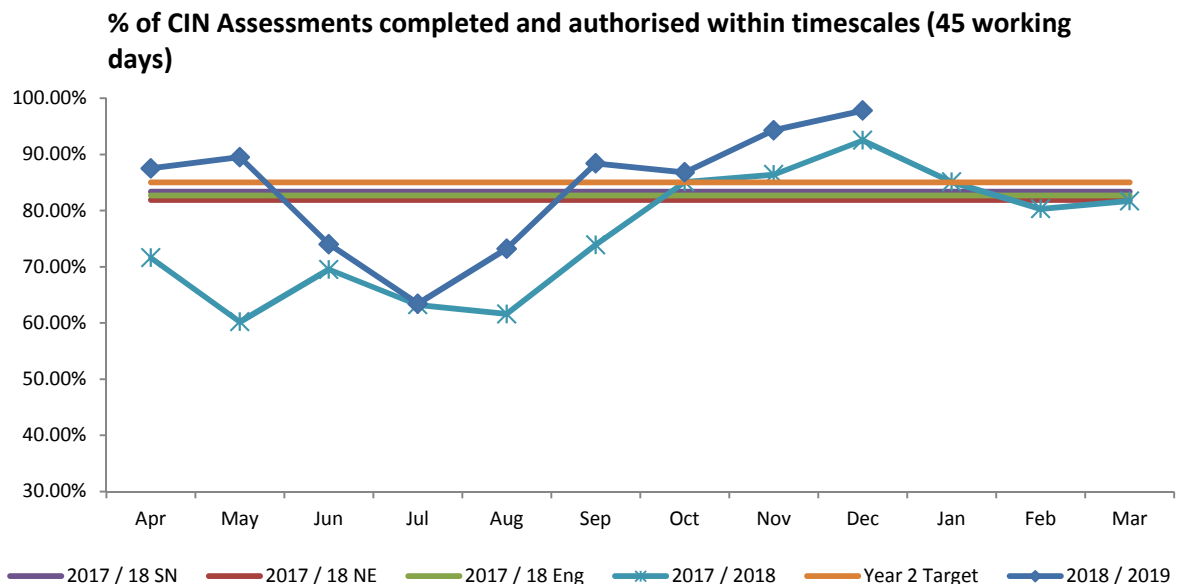
**3.9 Key Performance Indicator 3 - % of case file audits that were rated as 'requires improvement' or better**  
**Target 80%**  
**Tolerance 80 – 84.9%**



The percentage of case files audits that were rated as 'requires improvement' or better in December 2018 is 100%.

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%**

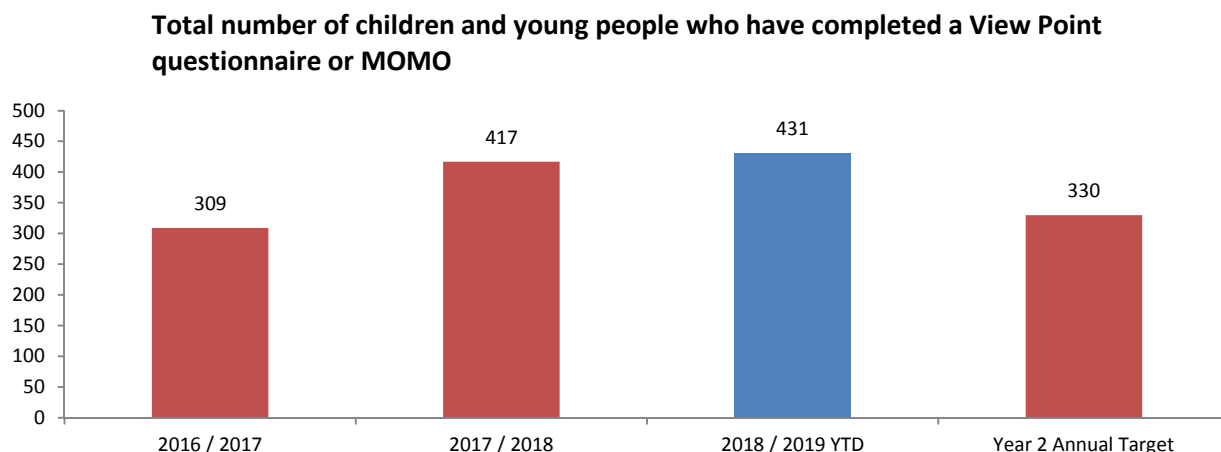


The percentage of Child in Need assessments completed and authorised in timescales within 45 working days has improved to 97.8% in December 2018.

Performance is exceeding target.



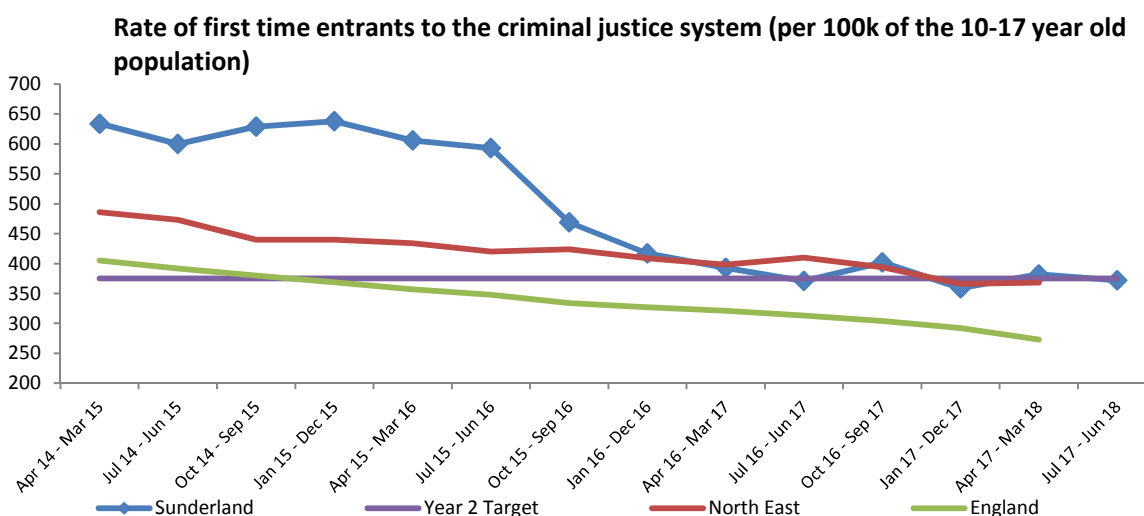
**3.11 Supporting Measure 3.2 - Total number of children and young people who have completed a View point or questionnaire or MOMO**  
**Target 300**



There have been 431 questionnaires completed in the period April – December 2018.

Performance against this measure has achieved 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**

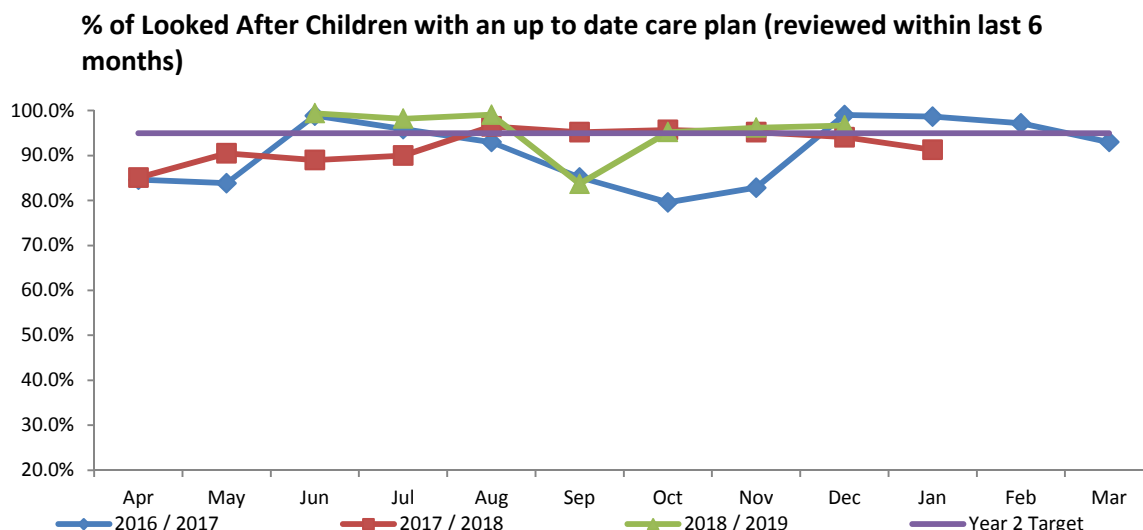


There is a data lag on the data metrics as the data source used is the Police National Computer; data reflects the most recent publication.

The rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system (per 10k) of 10 -17 population is 375.

Performance against this measure is achieving target.

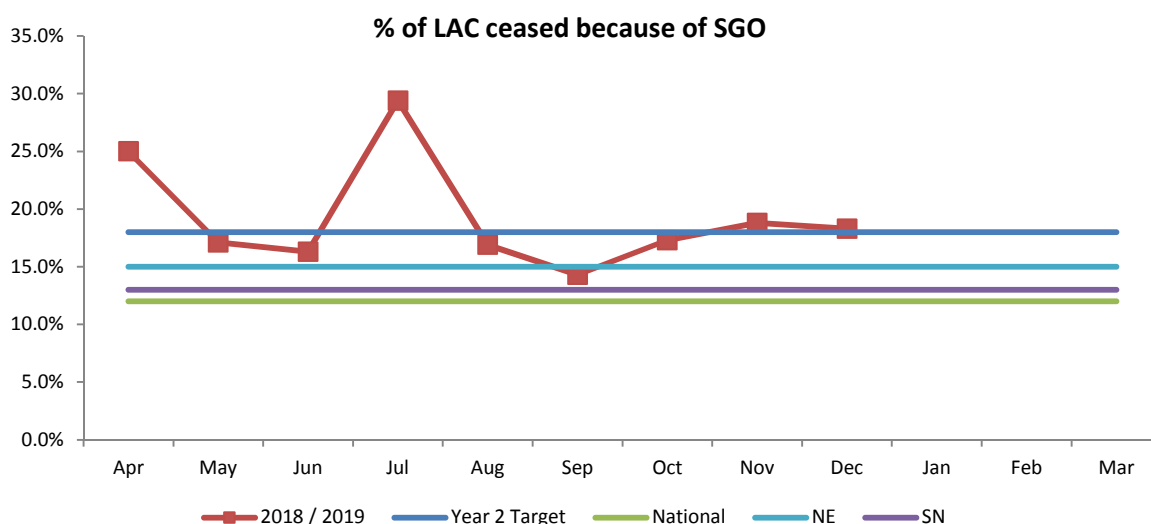
**3.13 Key Performance Indicator 5: % of CLA with an up to date care plan within 6 months**  
**Target 95%**  
**Tolerance 90 – 94.9%**



The percentage of Children Looked After with an up to date care plan within 6 months has increased to 96.7% in December 2018.

Performance is achieving target.

**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%**



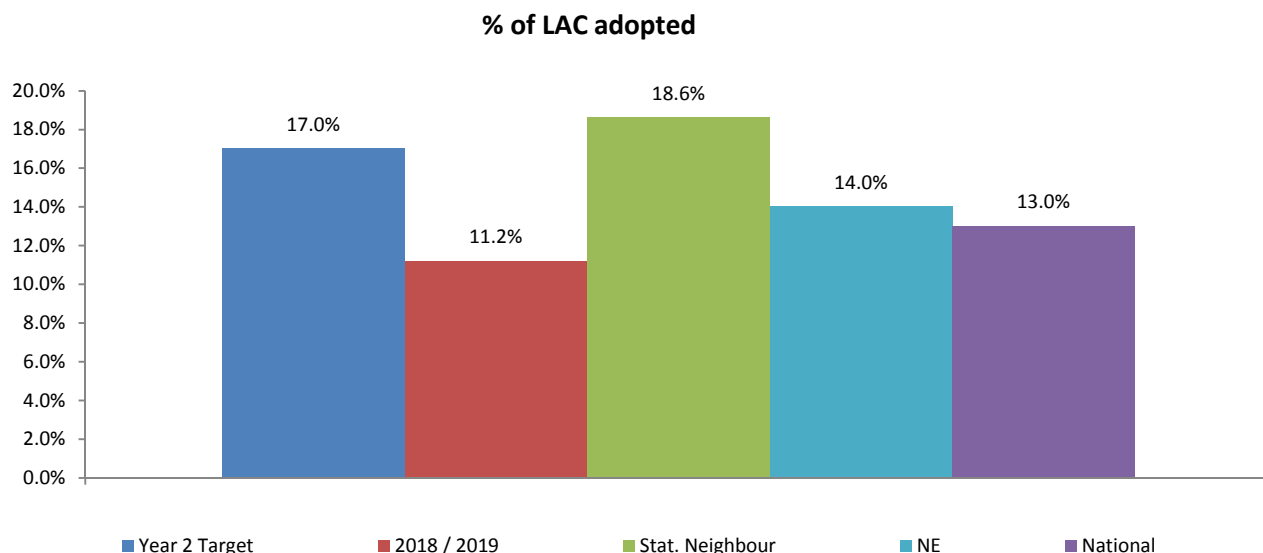
The percentage of children looked after that has ceased being looked after due to special guardianship order has decreased to 18.% in December 2018.

Performance is achieving target

### 3.15 Supporting Measure 5.2: % of children looked after who are adopted

**Target: 17%**

**Tolerance down to 13%**

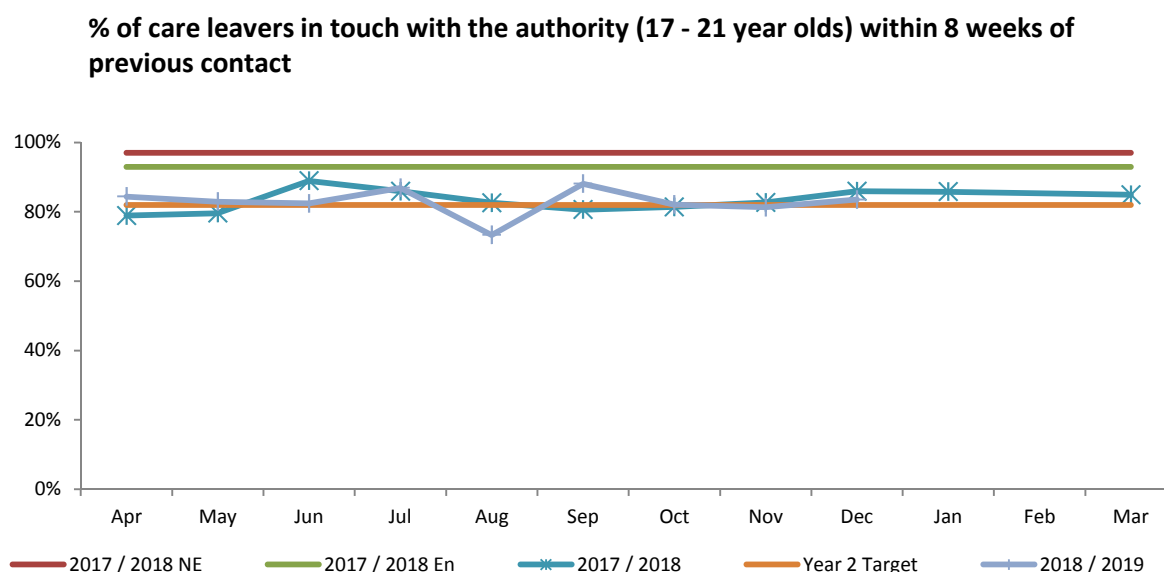


The percentage of children looked after who are adopted is a cumulative figure and the final figure will be known in March 2019. The year to date position shows performance at 11.2%.

### 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%**

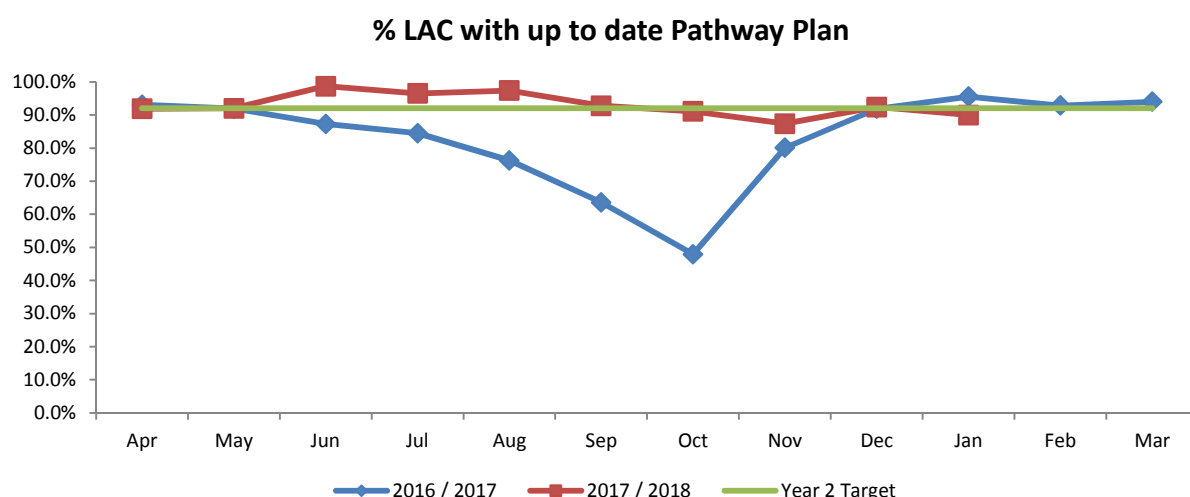
**Tolerance 78 – 82.9%**



The % of care leavers in touch with Together for Children in December 2018 is 83.5% 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.

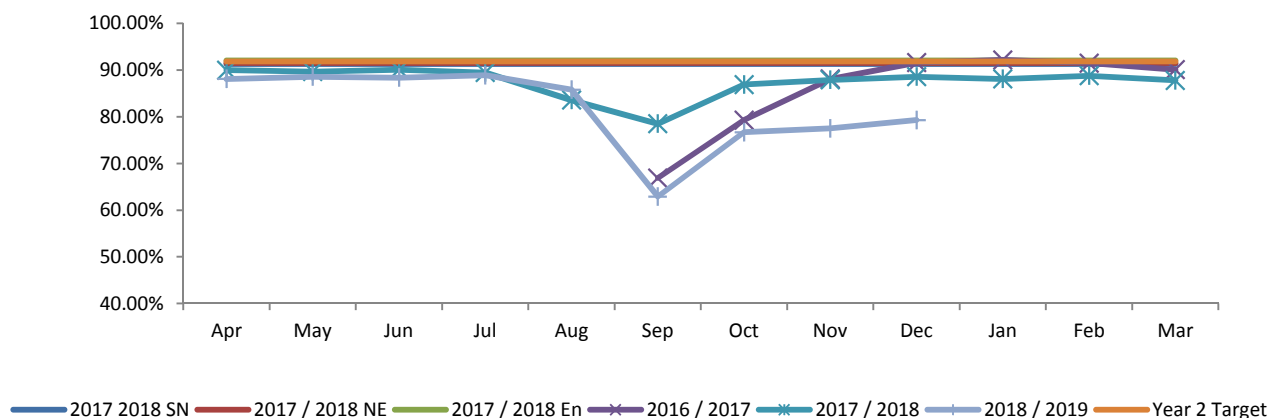
**3.17 Supporting Measure 6.1: LAC with an up to date pathway plan (within 6 months)**  
**Target 92%**  
**Tolerance 88 – 91.9%**



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%**

% of young people who have reached statutory school age (Ac Year 12-13) who are meeting the duty to participate in education and training

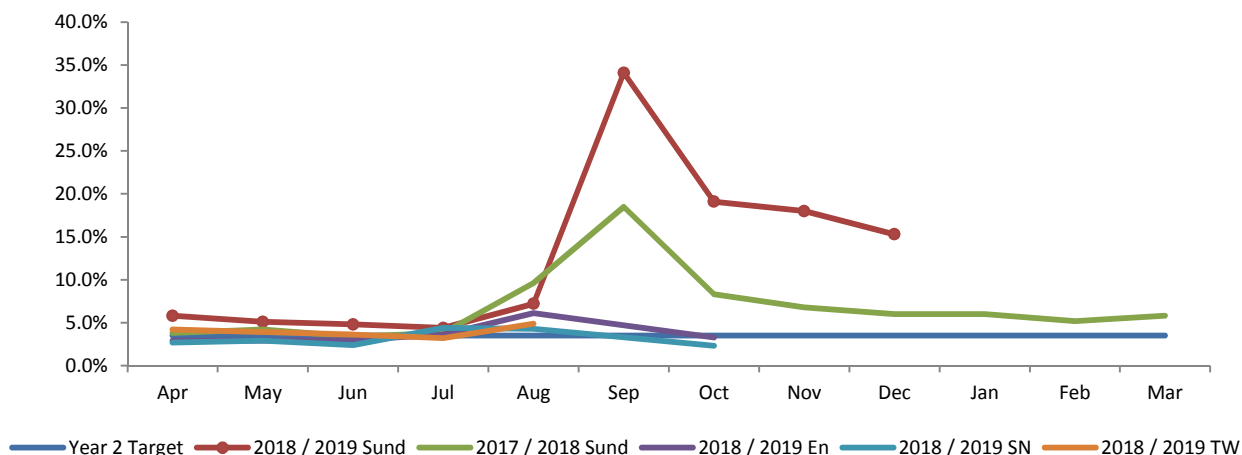


The percentage of young people who have reached statutory school age (ac yr. 12-13) who are meeting the duty to participate in education and training' has increased to 79.3% in December 2018.

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%**

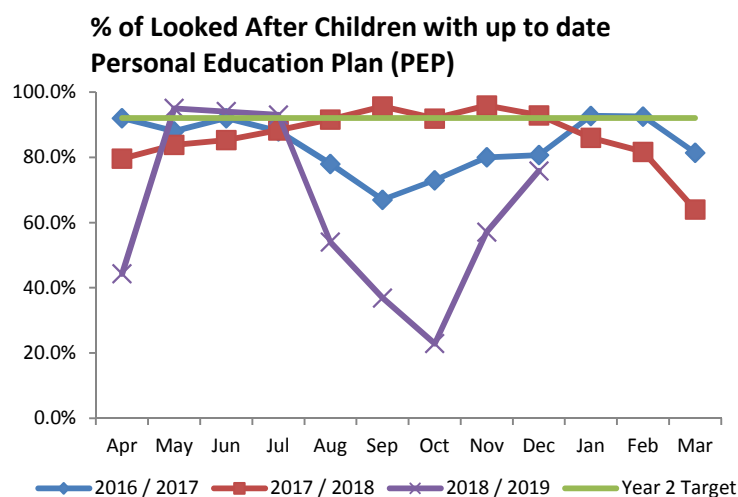
**% of 16-17 year olds with Not Known NEET status**



The percentage of young people who have reached statutory school age (ac yr 12-13) whose status is unknown has decreased to 15.3% in December 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance range.

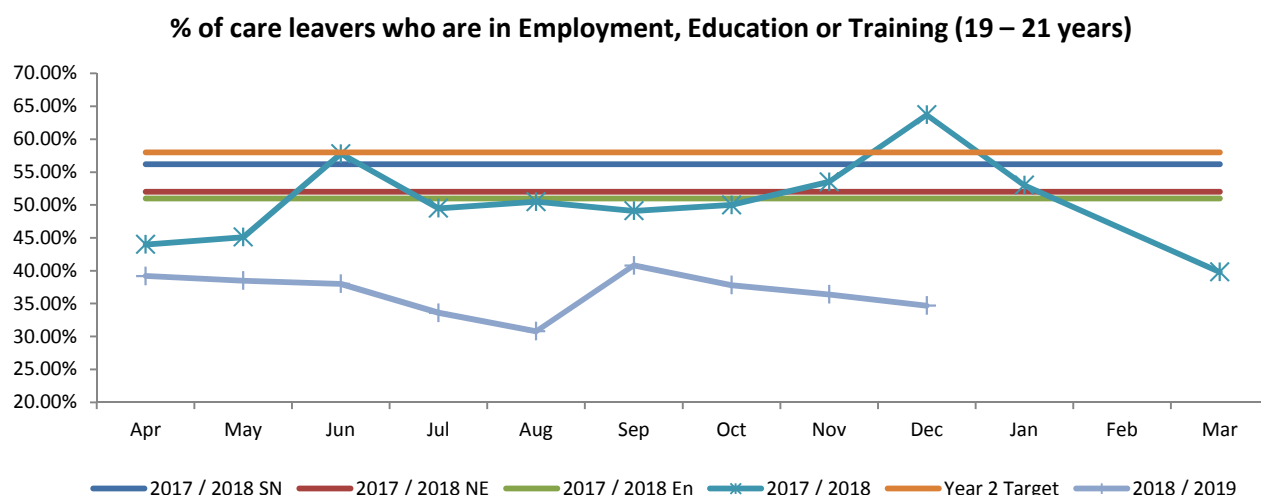
**3.20 Key Performance Indicator 8 - % of Looked After Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan**  
**Target 92%**  
**Tolerance 88 – 91.9%**



The percentage of children looked after with an up to date PEP has increased to 75.8% using the Liquid Logic reporting in December 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance range.

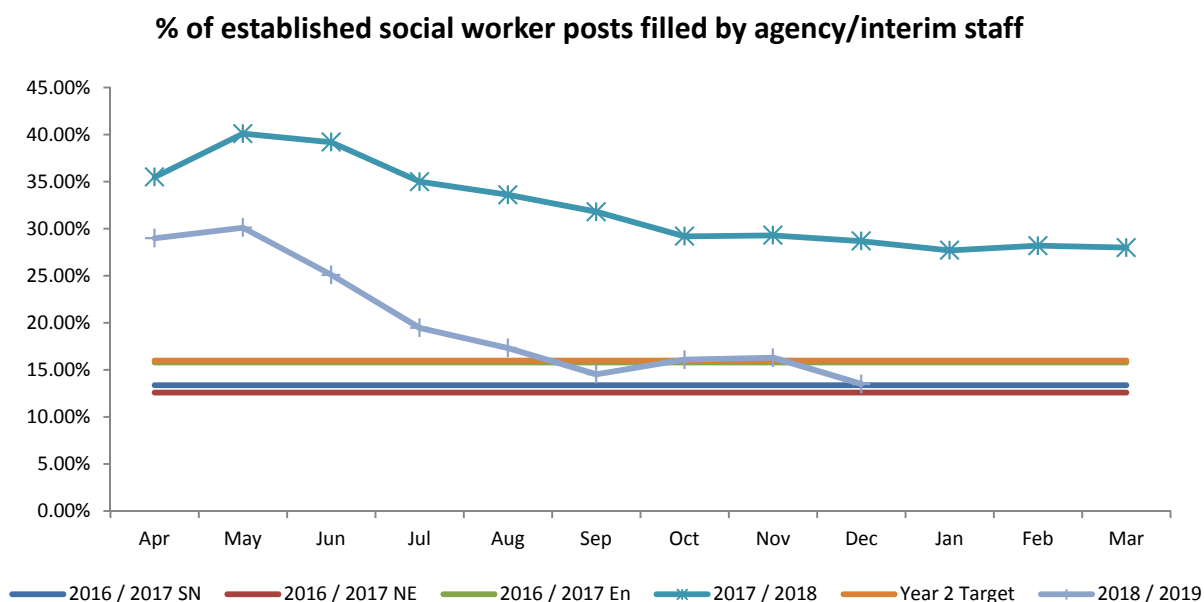
**3.21 Supporting Measure - 8.1 % of care leavers (aged 19-21) who are in Employment, Education or Training**  
**Target 58%**  
**Tolerance 53 – 57.9%**



The percentage of care leavers who are in employment, education or training (19-21 yrs) has decreased to 34.7% in December 2018.

Performance is below target and outside of tolerance.

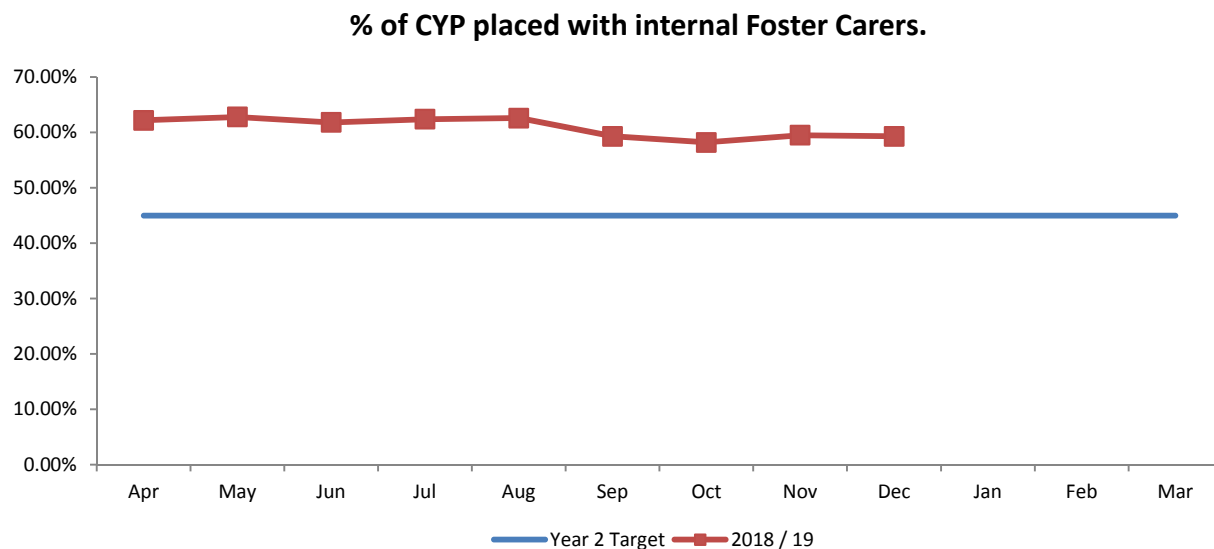
**3.22 Key Performance Indicator 9 - % of established Social Work posts filled by agency/interim staff**  
**Target 16%**  
**Tolerance 16.1 - 20%**



The percentage of established Social Worker posts filled by agency is 13.5% in December 2018.

This measure is 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 slightly in December 2018 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

Ref	KPI/Performance Measure and Definition	2017/18 Prov.	Previous Period	Current Period	YTD	DOT
1.0	% of all referrals with a decision within 24 hrs	96.4%	96.9%	96.1%	89.9%	↓
1.1	% of all referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months	21.3%	27.3%	29.2%	24.4%	↓
1.2	% of Early Help cases that were closed with two or more successful outcomes (TFC only, also including those families who disengage)	n/a	72.9%	76.3%	74.6%	↑
2.0	% of children subject to a child protection plan who have received a statutory visit within 10 working days	89.6%	85.2%	81.1%	81.1%	↓
2.1	Rate of children and young people subject to a child protection plan per 10k of the population	90.92	80.4	79.7	79.71	↑
2.2	% of children subject to a child in need plan who have received a visit within 20 working days	71.3%	68.1%	68.3%	68.3%	↑
3.0	% of case file audits completed in period that were rated as 'requires improvement' or better	83.0%	90.9%	100.0%	94.0%	↑
3.1	% of Child In Need Assessment completed and authorised in timescales (45wds) in period	76.7%	94.3%	97.8%	81.2%	↑
3.2	Number of children and young people who have completed a viewpoint questionnaire or Mind Of My Own (MoMo)	417	406	431	431	↑
4.0	Rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system (per 100,000 population)	n/a	382	372	372	↑
5.0	% of Looked After Children with an up to date care plan within 6 months	91.3%	96.2%	96.7%	96.7%	↑
5.1	% of LAC that ceased to be looked after due to SGO	n/a	18.8%	18.3%	18.3%	↓
5.2	% of LAC who are adopted	n/a	10.0%	11.2%	11.2%	n/a
6.0	% of care leavers in touch with Tfc within 8 weeks of the previous contact or entering the cohort (age 17-21)	84.9%	81.3%	83.5%	83.5%	↑
6.1	% of Looked After Children with an up to date Pathway plan within 6 months	90.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7.0	% of young people who have reached statutory school aged (ac yr 12-13) who are meeting the duty to participate in education and training	87.8%	77.5%	79.3%	79.3%	↑
7.1	% of young people who have reached statutory school aged (ac yr 12-13) whose status is unknown	5.7%	18.0%	15.3%	15.3%	↑
8.0	% of Looked After Children (aged 4 - 17) with an up to date Personal Education Plan	63.8%	57.1%	75.8%	75.8%	↑
8.1	% of care leavers (aged 19-21) who are in Employment, Education or Training	54.0%	36.4%	34.7%	34.7%	↓
9	% of established Social Work Posts filled by agency/interim staff	28.0%	16.30%	13.50%	13.51%	↑
9.1	% of Children and Young People placed with internal foster carers	n/a	59.5%	59.3%	59.3%	↓

Key	
<span style="background-color: red; color: black;"> </span>	Below target outside tolerance
<span style="background-color: orange; color: black;"> </span>	Below target within tolerance
<span style="background-color: green; color: black;"> </span>	Achieving/exceeding target
<span style="color: blue;">↑</span>	Performance improving in current period compared with previous period
<span style="color: blue;">↓</span>	Performance deteriorating in current period compared with previous period
<span style="color: blue;">↔</span>	Performance the same in the current period compared with previous period



**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN**

**OFSTED MONITORING VISIT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES - FEEDBACK**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To receive a report on the outcome of the recent Ofsted monitoring visit of children's services.

**2. Background Information**

- 2.1 On 15 and 16 January 2019, Ofsted undertook a monitoring visit of children services in Sunderland. The visit was the first monitoring visit since the Ofsted Inspection of July 2018.
- 2.2 A copy of the letter from Ofsted is attached as an appendix.

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 Jill Colbert Chief Executive of Together for Children and Director of Children's Services Sunderland will be in attendance to provide an update on the Ofsted feedback letter.

**4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.

**5 Background Papers**

Re-inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (Ofsted Report July 2018)

Monitoring Visit of Children's Services – Ofsted Letter February 2019

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[www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)



7 February 2019

Jill Colbert  
Chief Executive  
Together for Children  
Sunderland  
Sandhill Centre  
Grindon Lane  
Sunderland  
SR3 4EN

Dear Ms Colbert

### **Monitoring visit of Sunderland children's services**

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Sunderland local authority children's services on 15 and 16 January 2019. This visit was carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectors, Neil Penswick and Peter McEntee.

The visit was the first monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate for overall effectiveness for a second time in July 2018. Following the previous inspection in July 2015, Sunderland city council set up Together for Children (TfC) to deliver children's services functions on behalf of the council. Since the inspection in July 2018, a new chief executive and director for TfC have been in post.

Due to a technical fault, the electronic case recording system was unavailable on the second day of this visit. This resulted in the inspectors being unable to scrutinise all the areas that had been agreed. On the areas inspectors were able to look at, progress in improving services has been limited. Better decision-making systems have been developed and workforce stability is improved, but this has yet to sufficiently impact on the inconsistency in the quality of social work practice.

## **Areas covered by the visit**

Inspectors reviewed the progress made in response to requests for social work support for vulnerable children. In particular, they reviewed whether risks to children are identified and whether thresholds to children's services are applied appropriately. Inspectors also considered whether actions taken are compliant with locally agreed timescales.

A range of evidence was considered during the visit, including electronic case records, performance management data and quality assurance reports. In addition, inspectors spoke to a range of staff, including managers, social workers and other practitioners.

## **Overview**

Since the last inspection, TfC has made steady progress in the recruitment of a permanent workforce. Systems have been developed to monitor and improve the effectiveness of support to vulnerable families.

The quality of the immediate social work response to children and families when requests are made for support remains inconsistent. A lack of understanding by partner agencies of the thresholds for access to children's services continues. Too many children's cases are referred which do not meet the criteria for statutory involvement. This results in social workers spending too much time trying to gather information where families do not need this level of support.

The timeliness of the response to requests for support is good. However, on many cases the response by social workers is not sufficiently thorough. A lack of consideration of previous social work involvement and a failure to check essential information with other agencies and with parents results in some children not having their needs met in a timely manner. The quality of recording does not always enable an understanding of the issues and work undertaken. Management oversight does not address these weaknesses in practice well enough.

Inspectors did not see any children at risk of significant harm who were not receiving services on this visit.

## **Findings and evaluation of progress**

Since the last inspection, TfC and Sunderland City Council have produced a learning and improvement plan. The plan comprehensively addresses the recommendations from the Ofsted inspection. It includes specific actions and measurable timescales and outcomes. Work is underway to deliver the necessary changes. However, this has yet to deliver the improvements needed in the quality of the immediate response to support for vulnerable families.

Agencies' understanding of thresholds to access children's social care is not yet embedded. TfC have worked with partner agencies and the Sunderland

Safeguarding Children Board to revise the threshold document. This identifies what support should be available to children with additional needs, and from whom, across the city. A multi-agency training programme has commenced. However, inspectors still found many cases where other agencies had contacted TfC and where there was a lack of clarity about what they were concerned about and about their expectations of the social work response. Many of these cases did not meet the threshold for children's services involvement. Far too much time is being spent by social workers from the specialist Integrated Contact and Referral Team (ICRT) unnecessarily checking poorly presented information from other agencies.

The consideration of the high number of 'child concern notifications' from the Northumbria police is effective. A new triage system has been established. A social work manager, police officer and domestic abuse and early help workers effectively evaluate the thresholds for involvement and consider the required actions. This assists in ensuring that there is a timely response for children. However, some of the notifications from the police lack essential information. They do not detail the concerns needed to support an effective evaluation of risk and need. While some cases had been appropriately considered for stepping down, inspectors found that when further issues were identified, these cases were not always referred back to ICRT for review, potentially leaving children's needs unmet.

TfC have been monitoring and improving their response time to contacts, and this has resulted in almost all now being concluded within 24 hours. While this is a timelier response, inspectors found that it has resulted in some children's cases being closed prematurely. Not all essential information had been gathered to facilitate robust decision-making. There was a lack of analysis by social workers of historical factors. This included cases involving domestic abuse and parental substance misuse and had resulted in repeat requests for social work assistance as the issues had not been identified and support services had not been provided at the first contact.

Inspectors saw some good examples of social work recording. However, in the main, recording does not detail what the social worker has done, what information has been acquired or the rationale for why decisions are made. This does not support accountability and good decision-making on children's cases.

Management oversight has not sufficiently addressed the weaknesses in social work practice. In conversation with inspectors, managers demonstrated a good knowledge of the work needed. Management sign-off is evident on all the children's cases. However, deficits in the work undertaken and in the recording of this had not been consistently identified by the managers.

Inspectors also looked at re-referrals. These occur when a child's case is closed to children's services and then further concerns arise. In some cases, previous assessments had not identified core issues, and, as a result, these had not been tackled. This resulted in children's needs not being addressed. A high proportion of re-referral is due to parents repeatedly refusing to work with children's services. TfC do not have a full understanding of why there is a high number of parents declining

supportive services. Following this being raised by inspectors, senior managers are considering how to best to address these issues.

Quality assurance processes are under developed and are not yet contributing to an effective understanding of all the areas requiring improvement. This includes addressing some of the shortfalls identified on this visit, such as the high number of contacts resulting in no further action and the increasing number of re-referrals. A new quality assurance framework is currently being developed and it is planned that this will be implemented by May 2019.

Social workers who met inspectors reported improved management oversight since the last inspection. As a result, they now felt better supported to deliver good-quality children's social work.

I am copying this letter to the Department for Education. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Neil Penswick  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

CC Patrick Melia, Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council

**LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To note the report providing an update against Together for Children's Learning and Improvement Plan.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 A Learning and Improvement Plan has been developed in response to the Ofsted inspection report published 25th July 2018.
- 2.2 The plan consists of 15 priorities that have been developed around the recommendations identified by the inspection team.
- 2.3 The plan is monitored by Together for Children's Quality and Improvement Committee on a bi-monthly basis.
- 2.4 A copy of the report considered by the Committee in January is attached for information and discussion.

**3 Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the information set out in the report.

**4 Background Papers**

- 4.1 NA

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN QUALITY & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE	
DATE:	21/01/19
REPORT AUTHOR:	Lynsey Thurgood, Business Manager
SUBJECT:	Learning and Improvement Plan
PURPOSE:	To provide TfC Quality and Improvement Committee with an overview of progress against the Improvement Plan.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

A Learning and Improvement Plan has been developed in response to the Ofsted inspection report published 25th July 2018. The plan consists of 15 priorities that have been developed around the recommendations identified by the inspection team (see below). This report provides an overview on key areas of progress.

- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 1)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 2)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 6)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 7)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 8)*
- *Priority 6: Ensure that practice for children who are subject to private fostering arrangements meets statutory requirements. (Ofsted Recommendation 11)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 9)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 10)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 12)*
- *Priority 10: Ensure the timely completion of life story work for all children looked after so that they can understand their life history. (Ofsted Recommendation 13)*
- *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. (Ofsted Recommendation 14)*

- Priority 12: Improve access to vocational, training and employment opportunities for care leavers and particularly for those who have been NEET for long periods. (Ofsted Recommendation 15)
- 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. (Ofsted Recommendation 3)
- 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. (Ofsted Recommendation 4)
- 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. (Ofsted Recommendation 5)

## 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

**The Committee is asked to review this summary together with the updates provided within the plan.**

## 3. SUMMARY

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

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

There are 95 actions within the plan. The table below shows the current RAG status for actions assigned to each of the 15 priorities.

CURRENT RAG RATINGS	PRIORITIES															Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
<b>Red</b>	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Amber</b>	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Green</b>	9	6	6	6	7	6	5	1	7	3	2	3	5	4	4	74
<b>Completed</b>	7	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	16
<b>New Actions</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	16	8	8	6	10	6	6	3	10	3	2	3	6	4	4	95

Overall, there are currently 2 actions that are delayed (red) and 4 actions with a potential delay to implementation (amber). 94.7% of actions are either on track (green) or completed and evidenced (blue).

## 4. DETAIL

### **Actions due by 31/01/19**

There are twenty one actions due by the end of January 2019.

The following eleven actions have been completed and evidenced, therefore the Quality Assurance Service has rag-rated these as complete.



**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 1)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
1.1 Commission an independent review of ICRT.	Director of Quality Assurance & Performance	01/09/18	C
1.2 Agree and implement new ICRT model	Director of Children's Social Care	31/10/18	C
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	C
1.6 Partners to ensure consent is gained prior to contact	Chair of SSCB	31/01/19	C
1.13 Formalise the process for planning child protection enquiries including visiting children and families, full analysis of risk, interim safety planning and conformance to statutory guidance (23).	Service Manager - ICRT	31/12/18	C

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 6)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
3.1 Implement practice standards for Early Help and associated training.	Director of Early Help	31/07/18	C

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 8)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
5.3 Introduce quality assurance checks for the assessment process	Service Manager - ICRT	30/09/18	C
5.4 'Good Practice' files that include examples of plans and assessments to be placed within all teams	Service Manager - ICRT	30/11/18	C

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 9)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
7.5 Review allocations process for cases within legal team.	Service Manager - Business	31/12/18	C

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 10)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
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	C
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	C

The following seven actions have been rated green as on track or completed. The Quality Assurance Service has not yet received sufficient evidence to rate these actions blue “completed and evidenced”.

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 1)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
1.4 Review and improve process for recording and screening of contacts in ICRT	Service Manager – ICRT	31/12/18	G

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 6)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
3.2 Monitor the timeliness of early help response through application of practice standards.	Director of Early Help	01/09/18	G

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 12)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
9.7 Permanence plans to be in place by the 2nd review and IRO challenge to be evident where this has not been achieved.	Service Manager and IRO Manager	31/12/18	G

**Priority 12:** Improve access to vocational, training and employment opportunities for care leavers and particularly for those who have been NEET for long periods. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 15)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
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	G

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 3)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
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	G

**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”. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 4)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
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	<b>G</b>

**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”. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 5)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG
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.	Director of Children’s Social Care	31/12/18	<b>G</b>

The three actions that are delayed and rated red or amber are as follows:

**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”. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 6)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG	Update from Service
3.8 Undertake process mapping of referrals of DV and routes to interventions to further identify any gaps in provision to be addressed.	Service Manager	31/12/18	<b>A</b>	<p>The funding bid that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners submitted to the Home Office fund for ‘children affected by domestic abuse’ has been successful and will address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking a whole school approach and offering schools an educational programme;</li> <li>• Offering PHSE inputs for children across key stages 1-4;</li> <li>• Providing schools with dedicated school safeguarding liaison staff.</li> </ul> <p>Action is amber pending the completion of the Imkaan consultation.</p>

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 8)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG	Update from Service
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	Children with Disabilities Team Manager	30/11/18	<b>R</b>	The backlog is now allocated and being worked. The team are on target to have these completed by the end of January as confirmed in previous update. Whilst the team are currently striving to ensure that all CIN assessments are updated within 2 years; the aim is that this will be reduced to 1 year.

**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. (Ref: Ofsted Recommendation 12)

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG	Update from Service
9.10 TfC to develop a process and policy for the monitoring of children who are in unregulated placements.	Service Manager	31/12/18	<b>A</b>	Review of the Permanence Planning process is in progress that will include a policy for the monitoring of children who are in unregulated placements.

### Actions to be completed by 31/03/19

There are 47 actions that are due for completion between 01/02/19 and 31/03/19, of which 4 are currently rated blue and 41 rated green. The remaining 2 actions are rated red and amber as follows:

Action	Lead	Timescale	RAG	Update from Service
2.4 Implement Liquid Logic workspace for Missing and CSE.	Service Manager	31/03/19	<b>R</b>	SSCB Business Unit are continuing to support with the development of this workspace. MSET Co-ordinator is visiting other local authorities to look at the use of LL for missing and CSE. Given the amount of time the development and implementation may take, a red rating has been applied as there is a potentially significant delay.
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	<b>A</b>	Report was requested for November but not received. Business Manager to raise with Chair of MSET Operational Group.

## **Ofsted Monitoring Visit**

Together for Children were subject to a Quarterly Ofsted Monitoring Visit on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January. Any recommendations coming from the resulting report will be factored into the Learning and Improvement Plan in the next version.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

### **7. CONTACT**

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Position: Executive Business Manager  
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Tel: 561 1653

**REPORT OF THE SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

**CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND MISSING CHILDREN**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider a report in relation to the pathways and models for working with young people who are being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited and those that go missing from home or care.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee requested an update on work going on in the city to combat the issue of child sexual exploitation and missing children.
- 2.2 Attached to this report is a paper that was presented to the SSCB Board in January 2019, in relation to pathways and models for working with young people who are being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited and those that go missing from home or care and are trafficked.
- 2.3 The report was commissioned as part of the Demand Seminar work that the SSCB undertook to address and manage the increasing demand on the child protection system.

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 Jill Colbert Chief Executive of Together for Children and Director of Children's Services Sunderland will be in attendance to present the report.

**4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.



REASON FOR REPORT	
Proposes specific action	Yes
Provides assurance	Yes

Report to Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report Title</b>	Scoping paper on risk factors, pathways and models on CSE/Missing to be developed considering how a local approach will feed into a regional approach
<b>Date of Report</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 – updated 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
<b>Purpose of report</b>	
To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the highlights of the report that was presented to the SSCB Board in January 2019, in relation to pathways and models for working with young people who are being, or are at risk of being sexually exploited and those that go missing from home or care and are trafficked. This report was commissioned as part of the Demand Seminar work that the SSCB undertook to address and manage the increasing demand on the child protection system.	
<b>Key points, risks and assurances</b>	
<b>Key Points:</b> <b>Background and context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This report is based on information from                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from our children and young people referred to the Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Operational Group, Return Home Interviews and in attendance at the SSCB Young Person Conference in October 2018</li> <li>Barnardos who are contracted by Together for Children (TfC) – Sunderland to undertake all missing from home and care interviews for children residing in Sunderland</li> <li>A manual trawl of Liquid Logic (the electronic social care record) records for young people who were referred to Pre- MSET and MSET Operational Group between July – December 2018</li> <li>SSCB CSE Missing Profile Report 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018</li> <li>SSCB MSET Operational Group report – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019</li> <li>Information from a joint session of SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group (VASPG) and the SSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Operational Group members held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019</li> <li>Interim Snapshot Evaluation of the MSET Operational Group undertaken by Northumbria Police</li> </ul> </li> <li>The SSCB has a CSE Framework that includes a Risk Assessment Tool for professionals to use to assess the level of risk to a young person who may be being sexually exploited, going missing or being trafficked. The Risk Assessment Tool includes a scoring system to support an analysis of risk and a professional judgement to determine the level of risk to the young person. Evidence is required to underpin the score and a disruption plan is included to evidence what has been put in place through the case management process to address the risk to the young people</li> </ul>	

- The Missing, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficked (MSET) Operational Group is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people who go missing and/or are at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and/or trafficking. MSET is not about care planning, there is a strong focus on information sharing and problem solving and does have the added value to reduce risk and provide oversight of patterns and trends.
- MSET is preceded by a 'Pre' MSET. 'Pre' MSET is attended by the MSET Coordinator (Together for Children), the embedded 'Sanctuary' social worker (currently on maternity leave and there is no replacement at this time), the ICRT MSET Social Worker and the Police Missing from Home Coordinator (MFHC). At the Pre-MSET all submitted MSET Risk Assessment Tools are reviewed and assessed alongside police information and intelligence to determine if they meet the criteria for consideration at MSET
- These arrangements are mirrored across South Tyneside and Gateshead LSCB's except for a Service Manager attends other operational Pre MSET and MSET meetings in other local authority areas. This is not the case at Sunderland. The MSET Chair reports that from observation, involvement of a Service Manager does provide immediate managerial oversight of cases and the capability to intervene, expedite safeguarding and address training issues and under performance more quickly. This is being considered in Sunderland
- At 'Pre' MSET, Police and Children's Services also compare data relating to those children who have been reported as missing and consider whether, regardless of whether there is a risk of sexual exploitation, that the child's missing episodes warrant intervention and whether MSET can add value at that time
- MSET considers medium and high risk cases of concern and is chaired by the Detective Inspector from the specialist multi-agency unit formerly known as Team Sanctuary South. Referrals can be made by any agency and are made on the basis that the child may be at risk of being sexually exploited or trafficked. Whilst MSET specifically refers to 'sexual' exploitation, the Risk Assessment Tool encompasses a wide range of risk factors which would capture other forms of exploitation such as criminal exploitation & County Lines. During the 'pre' MSET discussion information is shared and a collective agreement is arrived at based on the threat, harm and risk posed to the child and whether MSET is likely to add value at that time
- MSET is attended by representatives from a wide range of agencies including Together for Children, the City Council (Community Safety and People Directorate), health services and specialist voluntary sector representatives. Safety planning and the reduction of threat, risk and harm of exploitation is a key focus. Community safety representatives act as an interface with a wide range of Council functions that can support the safety plans where appropriate
- Disruption of offenders is a key area supported by Safer Sunderland Partnership and wider City Council services and can be facilitated in complex cases via referral to extra ordinary Local Multi Agency Partnership Meetings (LMAPS) where offender disruption tactics are considered in detail
- Social Workers are required to attend to present the up to date Risk Assessment tool. Members of MSET are required to provide options and /or services over and above what would be expected of a core group or care group member
- Barnardos provides a 6 day a week offer working between 8am – 8pm under the contract with TfC. This offers a flexible service which is available outside of office



hours to a certain extent. There is regular contract monitoring on the commissioned service and the provider also reports into the SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group.

### **Current Situation**

- The MSET Coordinator is seconded into the SSCB Business Unit for six months to strengthen the arrangements around MSET and to undertake the role of part time SSCB Performance and Quality Assurance Programme Board Officer during the substantive post holder's maternity leave
- The secondment arrangement has facilitated the appointment of a MSET Social Worker into the Integrated Contact and Referral Team as a six month pilot
- Both arrangements have been extended to October 2019

### **Updated profile of our young people impacted on by MSET issues**

#### **MSET Risk Assessment Tool and the MSET process between July 2018 – December 2018**

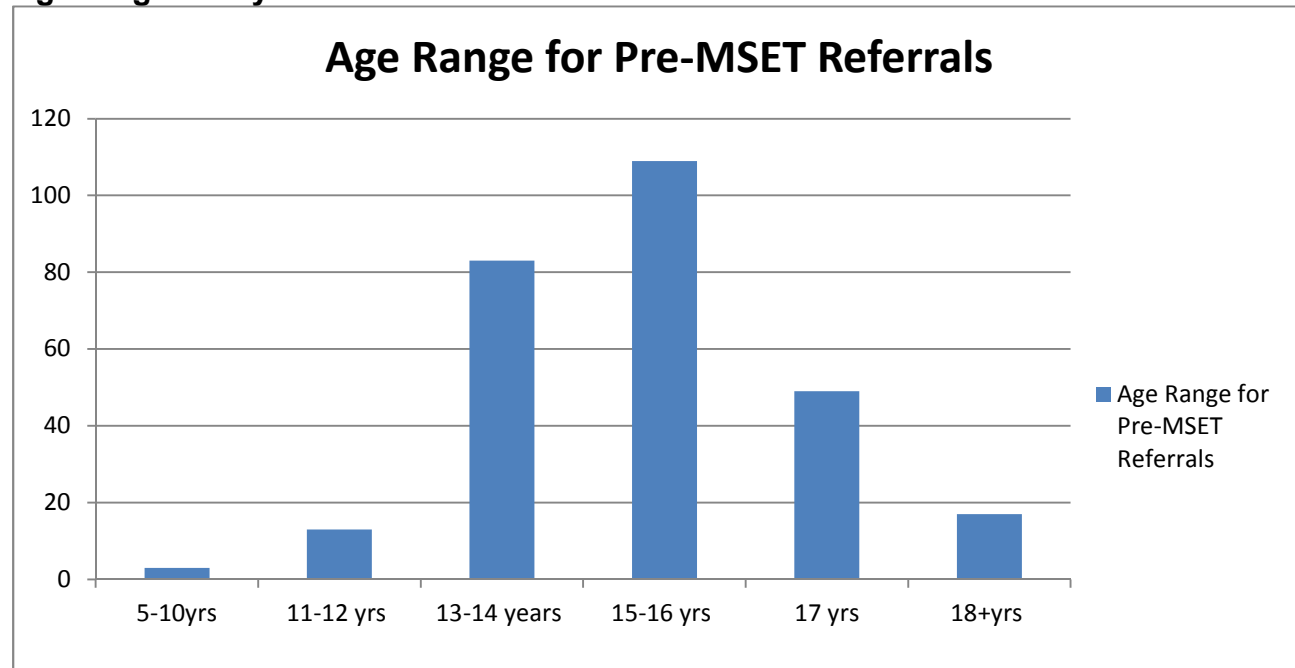
- Between July – December 2018, 6 Pre-MSET and 6 MSET meetings were held and 274 Risk Assessments were referred. Of these 249 (91%) were submitted from Social Care, 25 (9%) were submitted from partners. Only 23 of these Risk Assessments met the criteria for MSET and these were all cases submitted by social workers
- The level of risk in the 274 tools submitted was; 35 as low risk, 182 as medium risk and 64 as high risk. In contrast the Tools that were agreed to meet the criteria for MSET Operational Group were cited as 9 as medium and 14 as high risk. The conversion rate from Pre-MSET and MSET is therefore very low at 9% over this six month period
- Evaluation of the risk assessment tools received has highlighted that too many are being referred that do not meet the criteria for MSET. This will be addressed by the launch of an updated CSE Framework and MSET Risk Assessment Tool in March 2019 and accompanying training for multi-agency staff and more specialist sessions for social workers. The purpose of this is to strengthen the identification and analysis of risk and to ensure that only young people who require additional support outside of the case management process are considered at Pre-MSET and MSET accordingly

### **Characteristics of our young people considered at Pre - MSET and MSET**

#### **Gender**

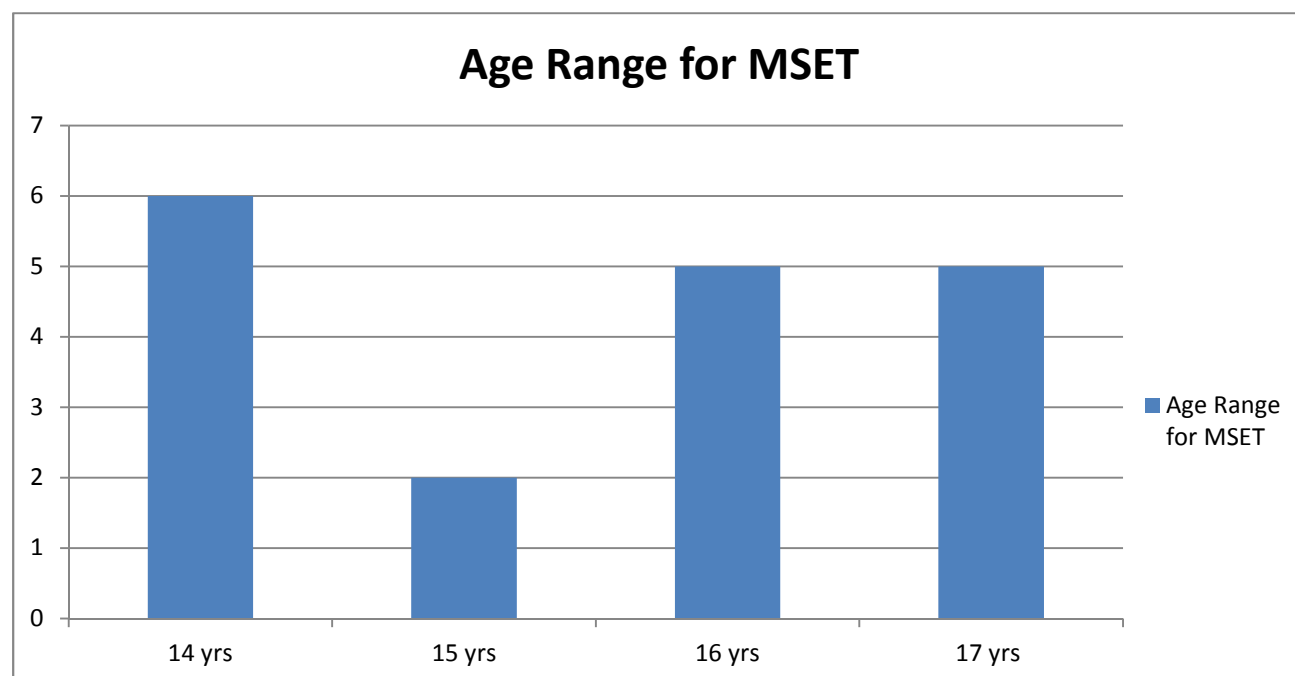
- There is a clear difference in gender between the Pre-MSET referrals and the cases that are determined to meet the criteria for MSET. 61% and 39% of the Risk Assessments referred to Pre-MSET related to females and males respectively but this ratio was almost reversed in the cases that met the criteria for MSET. That is, 31% and 69% related to females and males respectively.

### Age range – July – December 2018

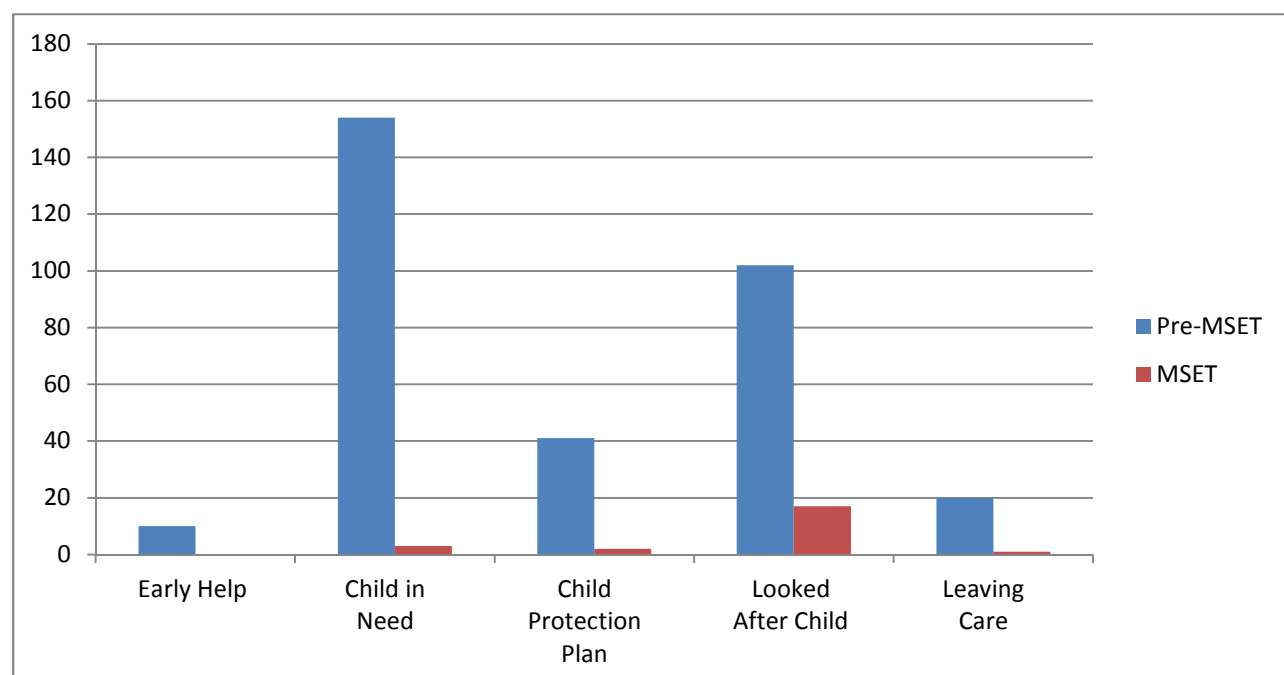


- For the Pre-MSET cases the most common age group is the 15-16 year olds but in the cases that were deemed to meet the criteria for MSET the largest proportion is young people who are 14 years old.

### Age range - July – December 2018

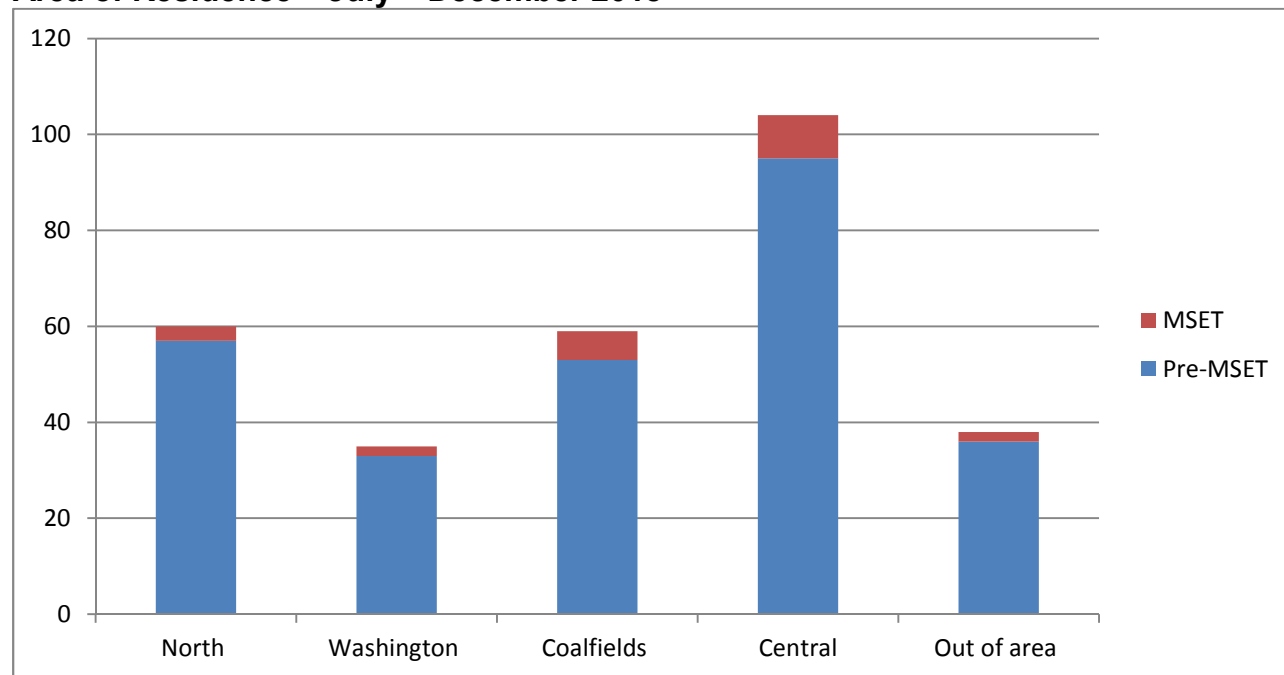


## Legal Status – July –December 2018



- Young people who were receiving services as a child in need<sup>1</sup> were the biggest cohort to be referred for Pre-MSET but the biggest cohort who were discussed at the MSET Operational Group were looked after children. A manual trawl of the risk assessments would be required to determine the young person's looked after status such as subject to a full care order as it is not possible to pull that data directly from Liquid Logic.

## Area of Residence – July – December 2018



<sup>1</sup> Section 17 of the Children Act 1989

- Most young people who were considered at Pre-MSET lived in the Central area of Sunderland, however, this is not an accurate picture as there may be an overestimate based on the areas where children's homes and supported accommodation is placed in the City

### **Exit from MSET**

- During July 2018 and December 2018 67 young people exited MSET. Again the reasons for the exit cannot be retrieved from Liquid Logic and would require a manual trawl of the cases. There are various reasons for exiting MSET which include the young person now being sufficiently safe, there is nothing more that MSET can offer, or the young person has moved out of the area etc.
- Strategies have been put in place to improve data collection on the key characteristics such as area of residence and to track the reasons for exiting MSET. This will ensure a more robust analysis of the impact of MSET and the needs of our young people impacted on by MSET issues

There have been significant concerns around CSE in a small number of cases where the child has not been known to services and few risks and indicators were perceived to be present before they came to Children's Services attention. This is increasing across Sunderland and further work is planned to better understand and address this trend.

### **Missing from Home or Care**

- Barnardos have a contractual requirement to achieve a 70% completion rate which was achieved until December 2018 for the reasons cited below
- In December 2018 Barnardos had 56 referrals of which over two thirds were males and over a third females. There have been 46 (82%) referrals processed with interviews offered and there have been 24 (43%) RHI's completed. This drop is due to a combination of change of staffing, Christmas holidays and a specific issue of not being able to access secure email over the Christmas and New Year period. 24 RHI's were offered within the 72 hour time period, which is also low and is due to the same issues
- In December, 29 of the interviews were not completed because the young person refused or the parents refused. Barnardos note that there remains confusion amongst parents as to why Barnardos need to visit if the child has already been seen by another professional. This is an area being addressed by the provider
- Further work is planned to strengthen the arrangements for return interviews which include improved and sustained completion rates, improved formats for the interviews and strengthening the use of the data and intelligence to inform improved practice.

Month 2018	No of referrals	Number Completed	% success rate
April	68	52	76%
May	70	58	83%
June	79	61	77%
July	76	59	77%
August	81	69	85%
September	60	51	83%
October	102	76	75%
November	60	39	65%
December	56	27	48%

**Key characteristics of our children and young people impacted on by MSET issues (i.e. Gender, ethnicity, disability etc)**

- Any child or young person could be affected by MSET issues
- Disabilities such as Asperger's and being on the Autistic Spectrum are vulnerable to online exploitation particularly as they sometimes find it easier to communicate online
- Undiagnosed or diagnosed but "untreated"/unsupported learning disability and/or mental health
- Minority ethnic group where English is not their first language
- Children involved in criminal behaviour and those being targeted for criminal exploitation
- Attachment issues and poor parenting capacity
- Suffered historical trauma (adverse childhood experiences)
- Not accessing services
- Lonely and isolated with a need to belong
- Emergence of young people not known to services and not known to be vulnerable
- Age – linked to key transitions (like moving to secondary school)
- Gender – under reporting of boys – social/cultural impact regarding reporting by males and it is not just girls
- Identity issues for young people and vulnerabilities linked to transgender
- Excluded (particularly permanently excluded, poor attenders, persistent absence)
- Those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- On the edge of care or who are already in care
- Parental lack of wider education and awareness in 'middle England'
- Homelessness – A relatively small but an increased number of 16+ young people being reported as being evicted/not abiding by care plans, sofa surfing and in a small number of examples believed on occasions to be rough sleeping or walking the streets

**Substance Misuse**

- A variety of drugs are being used by our young people including, Ecstasy, Crack Cocaine, Spice, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Alcohol, MDMA, IV Heroin, Ketamine
- Increase in access to and use of prescription drugs such as Diazepam,

Gabapentin, Pregabalin, Valium, Codeine, Fluoxetine, and Xanax. This appears to be bringing a wider circle of young people into trying drugs when they may not have previously

- Alcohol such as vodka, spirits, cheap forms of cider are most common with young people persuading adults to go into the shops for them, typically in off licences in their locality/hotspots highlighted or more predominantly being provided by parents (“Middle England”)
- Different trends happen at different times
- Funding – money from parents, criminal activity, getting it from other peers, given it by exploiters
- Acceptance/maintenance rather than prevention/abstinence
- Dual diagnosis issues – what to address first, substance misuse issues or mental health issues
- The risks of the drug use are known but take to self-medicate/soothe
- Some young people will take ANYTHING without knowing likely effect

### **Areas of vulnerability – Push/Pull Factors**

- There are no “hotspots” of child sexual exploitation as it can occur in a wide variety of situations and locations, but we do identify vulnerability areas particularly where we have young people gathering or in areas such as retail, fast food and leisure outlets. We do not however know the extent of online abuse and grooming though have seen an increase in activity by online paedophile hunter “vigilante” groups and this highlights that the threat of online perpetrators is very real both within and beyond Sunderland
- Sunderland is a City Centre - this attracts people
- Anywhere that young people congregate
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues related to the City Centre include Wearmouth Bridge, Metro System and South Tyneside. Places such as McDonalds, Centrepark, Retail Park, Ski Park, Flats, (Farrington, Barmston, and Roker etc), buses and shopping centres act as hotspots due to food and free Wi-Fi
- Risk Assessments submitted for Pre-MSET identify young people going to Mowbray Park, Park Lane Bus Station but also visiting other unnamed parks and hanging around the streets
- There has also been reference made by the young people to visiting Gateshead, Durham, Newcastle, Bradford and Derby. Barnardos also note that missing incidents which include cross boundary travel and highlight the particular challenges in these circumstances to share intelligence
- The role of social media to arrange events and sell items needs further exploration to fully understand how it can be better disrupted
- Hidden vulnerability e.g. from “average” families who don’t come into contact with services
- Social events e.g. Pride, the Hopping’s etc
- Generational pulls e.g. older peers who have been exploited
- Parents/professional awareness of apps/locations of interest
- Impact of social media - accessibility – KIK, Yellow, Bidoo, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, dating apps e.g. Grindr
- Availability of drugs/alcohol – alcohol provided by parents (“middle England”)
- Opportunity for concealed sexual activity
- Financial/material benefit/opportunity

- Known adult exploitation – homes
- Community vulnerabilities
- Accommodation for vulnerable people in relation to areas of vulnerability

### **Types of exploitation and other risks**

- Peer to peer abuse remains the more common form of exploitation in Sunderland and manifests in various ways/models where peers themselves have often experienced varying levels of abuse themselves. Victims can become facilitators and/or exploiters
- Some young people report a fear of going places in Sunderland due to a risk of violence to them from other young people
- Parents, siblings, grandparents, strangers, wider family members, friends, associates can be exploiters
- Drug running/County Lines<sup>2</sup>
- Cuckooing<sup>3</sup>
- Links with sex work
- Exploitation within employment settings, e.g. nail bars
- Finding work through ‘helping friends’
- Changes in benefits
- Transition to adulthood - Gap into adult support provision – ‘the transitions’ for vulnerable young people
- Barriers are: Limited understanding/confidence/who do I share with?
- Online issues
- Parents – lack of awareness and education
- Lack of alternative youth provision – that meets need of potential vulnerable young people
- Drugs
- Financial
- Emotional – any relationship is better than none at all
- Generational trends and modelling
- Bullying
- Slavery

### **Assurance**

- Sunderland is the only local authority of the 6 Northumbria Police areas which provides for a dedicated MSET Coordinator. The Coordinator is an experienced social worker and intervenes and makes recommendations to social workers, their line managers and other agencies in order to mitigate risk where cases are not yet appropriate for discussion at MSET. This role therefore provides a ‘safety net’ in terms of risk management. It could be argued that missed opportunities should have been identified by line managers; however it should be born in mind that referrals can be made for a varied range of stakeholders with safeguarding responsibilities, who would not have this level of experience, expertise or capability

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<sup>2</sup> **County Lines**” is the term used to describe a form of organised crime where criminals based in urban areas pressurise vulnerable people and children to transport, store and sell drugs in smaller county towns. It takes its name from the phone lines used by organised crime gangs to communicate between towns

<sup>3</sup> **Cuckooing** is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing



to trigger safeguarding activity which lies outside of their organisational role

- Over the last year, much work has been done to ensure a robust and effective MSET agenda, to avoid the meeting becoming a care planning meeting and to ensure an effective MSET which provides sufficient time to those cases which will benefit from the shared knowledge and diversionary, supportive, disruptive measures that can be provided by the regular and ad-hoc members in relation to both the children's themselves, perpetrators/offenders, locations and wider communities
- Attendance at Sunderland MSET is excellent and the effective contribution by members has improved considerably in the past year, particularly worthy of mention is the contribution and ownership taken by the educational representative at Sunderland MSET and health agencies.
- The MSET Coordinator has been seconded into the SSCB Business Unit to strengthen the MSET process and identify robust effective ways of collating data to develop a more robust profile for Sunderland.
- TfC have started a CSE pilot in the Integrated Contact and Referral Team by appointing a temporary social worker to deal with all referrals relating to the MSET agenda.
- The SSCB held a consultation event with 60 young people on 10.10.18 and This will be shared with the Safer Sunderland Partnership in their community safety role
- Strategically, following collaboration by all six local authorities, terms of reference & a corporate Risk Assessment tool are in the process of being agreed for MSET, which will be styled as Missing, Slavery, Exploitation & Trafficked Operational & Strategic groups across all six local authorities. In addition, for those areas not chaired by Police (Northumberland & Newcastle), it was agreed that the Police would chair those meetings in future. Work is ongoing to develop and support the training, implementation and embedding of this process and a timetable is to be agreed. Sunderland has been extremely pro-active in supporting and driving changes and improvements in this process
- The next steps in relation to this is the ongoing engagement with adult and children services across all 6 local authority areas to capture adults as part of the MSET process
- In addition the following work has been undertaken in respect of improving activity and outcomes for children impacted on by MSET issues:
  - TfC commissioned the CSE National Working Group to deliver CSE training at the front door for the ICRT/Assessment team workers
  - SSCB have provided safeguarding children and young people from abuse by sexual exploitation – all people who register for any SSCB training must complete this mandatory training
  - Key members of MSET Operational Group attended the Tackling Sexual Exploitation conference in Newcastle and attended the Modern Day Slavery Conference Newcastle re Operation Cluster (re a Slovak OCG group)
  - MSET Coordinator attended a conference on Sexually Abusive Behaviour with a view to implementing a framework across Sunderland to identify, assess and manage peer on peer abuse and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) training
  - MSET Coordinator and Operation Sanctuary Social Worker:
    - § Delivered 2 training sessions in 2018 with foster carer's, on child sexual exploitation, MSET, Operation Sanctuary, Missing, Trafficking – recognising signs and indicators



- § Delivered 2 training sessions in 2018 at Sunderland University to post-graduate and under-graduate social work students, in relation to child sexual exploitation, MSET, Operation Sanctuary, Missing, Trafficking – recognising signs and indicators
- § Attended TfC team meetings of social workers and Early Help workers to raise the profile of MSET, Operation Sanctuary, processes and procedures
- SSCB arranged multi-agency training from Hope for Justice to deliver 10 Modern Day Slavery sessions between in 2018, 276 multi-agency staff attended
- Training was delivered to MSET Operational Group members entitled 'Introduction: Sexual Violence and Trauma Training' carried out by Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland.
- A Joint VASG and MSET Operational Group meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to strengthen relationships between the strategic and operational Group members, share intelligence and information regarding our cohort of children impacted on by MSET issues and contribute to this report
- SSCB Strategic Business Manager, Together for Children and the Council's licensing section are developing a plan for training requirements for taxi driver/escort on child abuse including recognising signs and indicators of CSE. A proposal is to go to the next SSCB Executive Group about how the requirement for taxi drivers to attend this training on a 3 year cycle can be part of their licensing requirements

## **Risks**

The following have been identified as key issues that must be addressed in order to improve safeguarding of children and young people impacted on by MSET issues:

At the SSCB Young People Conference in October 2018 our young people asked for the following from the conference:

- More information on Drugs and Alcohol, Stress and Health issues
- How to tell people if you are having difficulties with mental health, relationships and drugs
- They would like the Police to talk to them about how they are stopping crime
- More about Sunderland issues – i.e. racism, rapes and grooming
- More about bullies

This feedback will be taken forward by the SSCB Learning and Workforce Development Programme Board.

Professionals have identified the following:

- A whole system approach is needed which should include Public Health
- The education of parents and carers around key risks such as social media, online exploitation, alcohol and substance abuse and grooming etc is essential
- The appointment of the pilot MSET ICRT Social Worker is a positive move but they were also to work with the MSET Coordinator to strengthen the response to our young people impacted on by MSET issues but this has not been possible due their workload and as such there is no contingency support for the work of the

MSET Coordinator. The arrangements for post pilot also need to be agreed to be assured that there is sufficient resource and resilience to continue to make the improvements that are required

- Knowledge of criminal exploitation
- The risks of pop-up parties need to be better understood and addressed by parents /carers and professionals
- Increase the awareness of the community and key parts of the community such as taxi drivers etc to identify and report concerns
- Diversionary activities that provide a positive alternative to the risky, dangerous and criminal activities children can be drawn into
- Role models and mentors who are committed to children and who will maintain positive long term relationships outside of any professional role
- A skilled workforce who understands the real risks our children face today such as the potential risks from social media. This includes those who train other professionals
- Managing key elements of risk during transition arrangements to keep children safe
- Awareness and understanding of motivations to engage in activity
- Address the low cost of alcohol and easy access to it especially via parents and carers – “Middle England”
- Improved information sharing including intelligence around hot spots etc – this facilitates the identification of crimes being identified and responded to by the police
- Closing services when issues still exist
- Pathways are required
- Continue to embed the improvements in the MSET Operational Group work
- Strengthen the quality of assessments of children and young people impacted on by MSET issues through the introduction and embedding of the new SSCB MSET Risk Assessment Tool

Actions to respond to these concerns and risks raised by professionals are included in the SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group Plan at Appendix 1.

The SSCB agreed in January 2019 to:

1. Extend the secondment of the MSET Co-ordinator and Front Door CSE Pilot to continue until October 2019 and MSET Coordinator to remain in SSCB Business Unit for management and supervision
2. Chief Executive of Together for Children to establish a multi-agency Task and Finish Group to consider how a multi-agency “one stop service” could be developed for vulnerable adolescents in Sunderland
3. Agreed the actions as outlined in the SSCB Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group Plan at Appendix 1
4. Noted the findings of the Interim Snapshot Evaluation of the MSET Operational Group and agree the recommendations from that report at Appendix 2
  - To continue to strengthen the work of the MSET Operational Group
  - To establish a robust quality assurance framework to measure the impact of the work of the MSET Operational Group
5. Issues regarding access and impact of alcohol to be addressed as part of the Health & Wellbeing Alcohol Group

## **Conclusion**

- This report is the most comprehensive understanding of:
  - The key characteristics of our cohort of children and young people who are at risk of/are being harmed in respect of MSET issues
  - The risks that face our children and young people based on consultation with children and young people and practitioners
  - The key risks that are evident in the safeguarding system which must be addressed to safeguard our children
  - The progress that has been made in respect of MSET activity
  - The contribution that Sunderland has made to the regional MSET activity
  - The remaining activity that is required to improve, strengthen and embed our response

<b>Report author and Designation</b>	Lynne Thomas, SSCB Strategic Business Manager
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**Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Project Plan – Vulnerable Adolescent Framework  
V13 15.02.19**

**Key**

**S** = Action started  
**C** = Action Complete

<b>Programme Board</b>	<b>Learning and Workforce Development Programme Board</b>	
<b>Project Group</b>	<b>Vulnerable Adolescent Strategic Project Group (VASPG)</b>	
<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Linda Mason</b>	<a href="mailto:Linda.Mason1@togetherforchildren.org.uk">Linda.Mason1@togetherforchildren.org.uk</a>
<b>SSCB Lead Officer</b>	<b>Lynne Thomas</b>	<a href="mailto:Lynne.thomas@sunderland.gov.uk">Lynne.thomas@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

**Project:** In order to improve the effectiveness of multi-agency practice with adolescents who are at risk due to substance misuse, other forms of risk taking behaviour and/or abuse/exploitation, the SSCB should work with the Children's Strategic Partnership, the Safer Sunderland Partnership and the Sunderland Safeguarding Adult Board to develop a multi-agency framework to support the development of resilience and improve outcomes for vulnerable adolescents. This framework should include:

- a) A strategy, robust systems, protocols and tools for working with vulnerable adolescents and
- b) Workforce Development opportunities to support staff to engage effectively with young people, better assess and understand issues of risk such as CSE, substance misuse and transition etc.

No.	Task	Lead	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
1	Agree governance arrangements for the VASPG and MSET Operational Group (MSET to become Missing, slavery, exploited (child sexual and criminal) and trafficked Operational Group)	LT/ CW	S											
2	Review and strengthen the performance and assurance framework for the MSET Operational Group to include scorecard, agency engagement measures etc.	LT	S											
3	<b>COMPLETE</b> Re-establish MSET Operational Group reporting to VASPG	LT	C											
4	Identify multi-agency workforce development needs and publish workforce development offer – to include	PJ	S											

No.	Task	Lead	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training offer to support practitioners to deal with the real potential risks that children face</li> <li>Training for MSET Operational Group members to maintain their expertise in providing “added value”</li> </ul>													
5	Review and update SSCB Missing Protocol	MH	S											
6	Develop and implement a Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy	LM	S											
7	Establish 6 monthly joint VASPG and MSET Operational Group development sessions	AS/ LT	S											
8	Establish Task and Finish Group to develop Vulnerable Adolescent Framework	AS	S											
10	Implement updated MSET Risk Assessment Tool	LT/ AA	S	C										
11	Consult with practitioners and their managers in the development of the VAF to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSET Operational Group members</li> <li>Wider workforce</li> </ul>	LT/ AA	S											
12	Consult with relevant children and young people to inform the development of the VAF framework and workforce development opportunities for staff	LT	S											
13	Complete National Working Group benchmarking exercise	LT/ AA							S					
15	Identify good practice from the MSET Operational Group and use to improve practice	AA	S											
16	Develop and launch awareness raising tools for	LT	S											

No.	Task	Lead	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19
	professionals re: VASPG issues													
17	Develop and launch awareness raising tools for parents and carers re: VASPG issues	AA	S											
18	Develop and launch awareness raising tools for children and young people re: VASPG issues	LT/AA	S											
19	Deliver a city wide campaign around child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation in partnership with the NSPCC	LT/AA						S						
20	Develop and maintain a robust profile for CSE, criminal exploitation, trafficking, missing for Sunderland to inform future work	LT/AA	S											
21	Develop and deliver an education offer for parents and carers around key risks such as social media, online exploitation, alcohol and substance abuse and grooming	AA	S											
22	Increase the awareness of the community and key parts of the community such as taxi drivers etc to identify and report concerns	LT/AA	S											
23	Strengthen practice during transition arrangements to keep children safe	AA	S											
24	Work with Together for Children (TFC) to strengthen arrangements for return home/care interviews	AA/LT	S											
25	Establish a SSCB MSET Champions Group	AA/LT			S									
26	Implement and embed a new missing from home or care protocol (for operational activity)	MH/AA	S											



<b>Report to</b> SSCB Board	
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Interim Snapshot evaluation of the impact of the SSCB Missing, Sexually Exploited and Trafficking (MSET) Operational Group</b>
<b>Date of Report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Purpose of report</b>	
To provide an interim evaluation of the impact of the SSCB MSET Operational Group in respect of preventing future crimes to young people from a police perspective.	
<b>Recommendation/Action Required</b>	
Board members to agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To continue to strengthen the work of the MSET Operational Group</li> <li>2. To establish a robust quality assurance framework to measure the impact of the work of the MSET Operational Group</li> </ol>	
<b>Key points, risks and assurances</b>	
<p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SSCB MSET Operational Chair commissioned a snapshot evaluation of Sunderland MSET Operational Group to provide some understanding of whether or not it provided added value and whether the objectives of MSET are being met</li> <li>• The review has been undertaken to establish if those children, whilst under the scrutiny of MSET, have reported being a victim of crime</li> <li>• This was based only on police information so there was no review of the action taken by other professionals</li> </ul> <p><b>Assurance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 young people have been discussed at MSET from April – December 2018. One of the 23 children has reported being a victim of crime which occurred after MSET intervention. MSET did recommend a number of actions in that case and it is unclear if they were acted upon prior to the child becoming a further victim. Further review of that case is recommended to identify any lessons learned</li> <li>• 2 children disclosed being a victim of crime after MSET intervention, however, the crimes were historic, suggesting that professionals have positively engaged with the young people thereby building sufficient trust to disclose the crime</li> <li>• This research whilst single agency and based purely on whether MSET has led to a reduction in further crime, tends to demonstrate that despite areas for improvement, MSET plays an effective part of the safeguarding process, and combined with the expertise and range of supportive services embedded within the victim hubs, results in the obtaining of disclosures from young people that otherwise may not have been achieved</li> </ul>	

- It appears that the involvement of MSET Operational Group does lead to positive outcomes for young people. A more detailed analysis is available

**Risks:**

- There is a risk to basing the success of the arrangements on a limited evaluation and further work is required to get a more rounded, holistic understanding of the impact of the SSCB MSET arrangements have on improving outcomes for children and young people impacted on by MSET issues
- Further work is required to determine whether the crime committed against the one young person post MSET intervention, could have been prevented

**Report author and Designation**

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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.

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
<b>Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>										
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>			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)	Safeguarding Board Annual Report (Paul Ennals-Independent Chair)  Voice of the Child – Participation and Outcomes for Children (Jane Wheeler)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Martin Birch)  Educational Attainment Schools Results (Simon Marshall)  School Exclusions and Attendance (Simon Marshall)  Social care Workforce Update (Martin Birch)	Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing Children – Progress (Jill Colbert)	Scrutiny Annual Report (JD)  Education, Employment and Training Opportunities (Karen Davison / Martin Birch))  Access to T2 & T3 Mental Health Services (CCG, NTW & TFC) – Update  Regional Adoption Agency (Martin Birch)
<b>Performance / Service Improvement</b>		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	Children's Services Complaints (Jane Wheeler)	Quality Assurance Framework (Sue Carty)	Ofsted Improvement Plan (Jill Colbert)  Monitoring Visit Feedback (Jill Colbert)  Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report
<b>Consultation / Awareness Raising</b>	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

**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:-

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
190103/322	To approve the proposed acquisition of land and buildings at Pallion Industrial Estate, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019.	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190114/325	To procure a contractor to undertake works at Jacky Whites Market.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 13 February to 31 March 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
181206/318	To approve the business case to develop a new Civic Centre and Public Sector Hub on the Vaux Site.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019.	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190103/323	To approve the Together for Children Business Plan for 2019 and the future governance arrangements	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019.	Y	This 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 contains 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 Business Plan	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
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 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190107/324	To approve the proposed disposal of land at Clinton Place, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019.	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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190117/326	To approve the proposed acquisition of land at the Sheepfolds, Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019.	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190118/327	To approve the proposed disposal of Tudor Grove Centre.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
190123/328	To approve the proposed disposal of land and acquisition of leasehold interests at Keel Square, Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019.	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190124/329	To seek approval for the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2020-2021 and to describe proposed amendments to published admission numbers (PANs) for the academic year 2019-2020, where it is necessary to provide additional places.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>



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
190124/330	To seek Cabinet approval to authorize the Executive Director of People Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to procure contracts for the schools capital programme works identified.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190124/331	Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Thirteen Housing Group Ltd and the approval of admission#the joint delivery of a number of initial housing projects.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	Y	This 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 contains 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 MOU	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190128/332	To approve delivery of the Heritage Action Zone Partnership Grant Scheme, and delegated authority to make all third party grant offers as part of the City Council and Historic England funded scheme.	Cabinet	Yes	27 March 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report and supporting appendices	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
190130/333	To agree future arrangements regarding a range of contracts between Public Health and City Hospitals Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190201/334	To consider the acquisition of the Norfolk Hotel, 34 Norfolk Street, Sunderland.	Cabinet	N	27 March 2019	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190201/335	To consider the sale of Land at Hetton Downs.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
190211/336	To consider the purchase of 64 Fawcett Street, Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190211337	To seek approval to the planned Highway Maintenance (including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Programme for 2019-2020 and approve amendments (additions/deferrals) to the 2018-2019 Programme.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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190212/338	To consider the acquisition of property interests at 240 High St West, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190215/339	Approval of City Council support to the BID for its second term (running from April 2019 for 5 years)	Cabinet	Y	During the period 27 March to 30 April 2019.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
190218/340	To consider a lease of land at Crowtree Road, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190218/341	To consider the sale of leasehold Interest in the Ground Floor of 28-29 Fawcett Street and 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> floor and roofspace of 30 – 32 Fawcett Street.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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190220/342	To seek approval to procure works related to the delivery of a new Special Free School at the former Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School site	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	Y	This 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 contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
190221/343	To approve flood alleviation schemes.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
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 1 September to 30 November 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

**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](mailto: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

26 February 2019