

## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

### **AGENDA**

**Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 6) on  
Monday 4 February 2013 at 5.30 p.m.**

#### **Part I**

ITEM		PAGE
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	-
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	-
3.	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 15 October 2012</b>  (Copy herewith).	1
4.	<b>Review of Corporate Parenting Board</b>  Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services (copy attached)	9
5.	<b>Education Performance</b>  Presentation by Dawn Shearsmith, Virtual School Headteacher	-
6.	<b>Adoption Performance Report</b>  Report of the Head of Safeguarding (copy attached)	15

7.	<b>Quarter 3, Performance Monitoring Report</b>	19
	Report of the Head of Safeguarding (copy attached)	
8.	<b>Viewpoint Demonstration</b>	-
	Demonstration by Pauline Stevens, Children's Review Officer	

## **Part II**

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

The following items are not for publication as the Board is likely to exclude the public during consideration thereof as they contain information relating to any individual, or information which is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

9.	<b>Minutes – Part II</b>	37
	Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 October 2012, Part II (copy attached)	
10.	<b>Reports of Ofsted Inspections of Children's Homes</b>	41
	Report of the Head of Safeguarding (copy attached)	
11.	<b>Reg 33 Visits with Elected Members</b>	59
	Report of the Head of Safeguarding (copy attached).	

ELAINE WAUGH  
Head of Law and Governance

Civic Centre  
SUNDERLAND

25 January 2013

## ***Corporate Parenting Board***

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15 October 2012 in  
Committee Room No. 6, Civic Centre, Sunderland at 5.30p.m.**

### **Present:**

Councillor P. Smith  
Councillor A Lawson  
Councillor Macknight  
Councillor McClennan  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor D Trueman  
Councillor Walker

### **Members of the Board**

Executive Member for Children's Services  
Shiney Row  
Castle  
Hendon  
Copt Hill  
Washington West  
Washington North

### **Young People**

Saul Cranson  
Daniel Bensley  
Kieran Boyce

Change Council  
Change Council  
Change Council

### **Also in attendance:**

Councillor Williams  
Councillor Farthing  
Councillor D. Snowdon

Washington Central  
Washington South  
Washington Central

### **All Supporting Officers**

Meg Boustead  
Alan Caddick  
Dawn Shearsmith  
Jennifer Cain  
Dot McGough  
Debra Dorward

Head of Safeguarding  
Head of Housing  
Sunderland Virtual School  
Fostering Officer  
Quality Assurance Officer  
Governance Services Officer

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ball, Kelly, Maddison, Speding and Stewart.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 2012**

9. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2012 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the correction of Councillor Derrick Smith's Christian name.

## **Supported Living Accommodation**

Alan Caddick, Head of Housing was in attendance to provide an update in relation to supported living accommodation.

Board members were advised that a Gateway had been set up, which linked with a number of providers. It was intended that the Gateway would be used when carrying out assessments with young people to determine what exactly it was they wanted to achieve, thus becoming more outcome focused. This meant that providers would work alongside the individual, referring to their life plan to ensure that their aims were being achieved.

The Head of Housing reported that the Gateway had been in place for five months, and that so far, it was making good progress and working positively. Providers were working collaboratively, sharing approaches and provisions which was pleasing to see, and a meeting with the Gateway was scheduled in order for the Council to review its progress more formally.

In terms of housing young people, Board Members were informed that there were some young people in the system that tended of to move from one placement to another due to their challenging behaviour. The Head of Housing and the Head of Safeguarding were planning to meet to discuss the best way of tackling housing young people with chaotic behaviours.

Board Members were advised that Centre Point was planning to introduce a family mediation service with a view of achieving better outcomes, and benefit changes through Welfare Reform was also on the Council's agenda as this was also likely to impact upon young people.

Saul Cranson and Kieran Boyce enquired if the Council would assist young people to secure a place at college or university, or an apprenticeship. The Head of Housing responded advising that this was certainly something that the Council would assist young people to achieve.

Councillor Lawson enquired if there was any possibility of extending a children's home to accommodate young people with chaotic behaviours to enable them to continue to live on site, but in a more independent way. The Head of Safeguarding responded advising that the Council were in the process of engaging with the architects at Three Rivers to discuss potential options. The Council were also exploring whether any funding was available to build more supportive accommodation.

Councillor McClennan commented that she held concerns regarding the benefit changes, particularly when those under the age of 25 would not be receiving any financial assistance. The Head of Housing stated that this would have serious implications thus would no doubt present issues for the Council.

The Head of Safeguarding stated that each individual was looked at separately and that the Council worked with the Leaving Care Service to obtain feedback regarding the Pathway Service.

Saul Cranson enquired if a children's home could be specifically made available for people with disabilities. The Head of Housing responded advising that the Council try to accommodate the needs of all individuals, not just some, and whilst different approaches may sometimes be used, personal choice also had to be offered.

The Head of Safeguarding stated that work was ongoing with children's homes to address issues that they were experiencing with individuals. It was envisaged that some homes may become more specialist in future.

Representatives from the Change Council enquired how the Council determined whether foster care or a children's home was the best option for a young person. In response, the Head of Safeguarding stated that any young person would tend to start off in foster care, and then if foster care proved to not meet their needs, then the Care Planning Team, including the Social Worker and young person would jointly decide what would happen next. Some young people did not want to live with a family, particularly those who are older. The preferred option was to maintain stability for young people, and avoid if possible multiple place moves.

Councillor Macknight in referring to the report stated that she thought the Council had ceased to use Bed and Breakfast accommodation for young people. The Head of Housing stated that there were three young people in B&Bs at the present time, however they were not located in the City. Decisions taken to place young people in B&B accommodation were not taken lightly and the Council was looking at out of city placements as an alternative. It was confirmed that B&B accommodation was a high concern and only ever used as a last resort.

The Chair of the meeting thanked the Head of Housing for his attendance.

It was: -

10. RESOLVED to note the update.

### **Review of Corporate Parenting Board**

The Head of Safeguarding introduced the item, and in doing so tabled minutes from a meeting held on 20 September 2012 and a draft set of revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Board were informed that the Review meeting that took place on 20 September 2012 looked at how the Corporate Parenting Board operated, what worked well and what could be improved.

The Chair stated that the purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board was for the young people to be satisfied that they could present their issues at meetings and that the Board would address those. It was important that the young people felt they could challenge officers and openly express their views in meetings.

The Head of Safeguarding facilitated a discussion amongst the Board regarding what they considered currently worked well and what could be improved. The following comments were made:-

- Minutes of meetings appear too long and formal
- Reports presented appear difficult to understand and are too long/complicated
- Communication links appear to be missing between the Corporate Parenting Board and officers within the Council who could resolve issues in a more timely fashion, preferably in time for the next meeting
- Young people's issues were not currently in balance with the agenda
- Consideration could to be given to improving the role of Councillors. For example, would it be beneficial for councillors to form a panel which could sit before the young people and hear their issues
- For the benefit of the young people, it would be useful if issues raised could be documented in a list, then an update regarding the progress of each one be presented to meetings of the Board. This was in order that the young people could be confident that their issues were being taken seriously, and that the Board could review the list
- The committee room layout would feel more inclusive if it were conference room style, rather than theatre style so that Board Members could talk face to face
- It was good that young people were represented from all areas of the care system and that they remained the same to ensure messages could be fed to and from the Board consistently
- It was considered that there was a good level of participation at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board

The Board was advised that in future, there would be five representatives from the Change Council in attendance at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Head of Safeguarding thanked the Board for expressing their views. A date for the next Review meeting would be confirmed in due course.

Upon consideration, the Board: -

11. RESOLVED to: -

- i) Consider the draft Terms of Reference; and
- ii) Submit any comments to the Head of Safeguarding prior to the next Review meeting, the date of which would be confirmed in due course.

### **Performance Monitoring Report**

The Head of Safeguarding submitted a report (copy circulated) which had a dual function of providing Board Members and partners with information regarding performance against key performance indicators and targets for Looked After Children.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair explained that the Council had a duty as ‘corporate parents’ to ensure that actions were being taken to improve outcomes for young people.

The report specifically covered: -

- Quarter 1 Position Statement
- Looked After Children Performance Scorecard
- Looked After Children Outcome Statement
- Looked After Children Dataset – up to August 2012

Representatives from the Change Council stated that there were too many percentages within the report, which made it difficult for them to get an accurate picture of how the Council was performing. The Head of Safeguarding explained that the report was made up of percentages because it was a government requirement to produce and submit the information that format.

Councillor McClennan enquired if the Council’s severance package had effected staffing, to which the Head of Safeguarding responded advising that Children’s Services had flattened the management structure, but apart from that there had been no other changes in relation to social work. It was reported that more resources had been put into the Adoption Service by taking on more independent practitioners to assist with assessments. Fortunately, the Council did not have a

high turnover of Social Workers, and it was confirmed that no front line staff in social care took the severance.

Councillor McClennan in referring to the 'Currently Looked After Children Characteristics' on page twelve of the report enquired how the 396 children and young people looked after in Sunderland at the end of June 2012 compared with regional figures. The Head of Safeguarding stated that she would obtain the regional figures.

The Board were advised that children placed outside of Sunderland were regularly reported to Councillor Pat Smith. Page thirteen of the report provided a breakdown of Looked After Children throughout the years 2008 to date. The Head of Safeguarding stated that Children's Services were finding that young people spent less time in care due to the numbers decreasing. This was regarded a positive move and was the reason why looked after children population figures had not increased.

Councillor McClennan enquired if a breakdown of BME looked after children could be provided. The Head of Safeguarding agreed to obtain this information and submit it to a future meeting.

It was also confirmed that a demonstration of Viewpoint would be provided to a future meeting.

Kieran Boyce in referring to page fifteen of the report enquired about the locality of the eleven additional foster carers mentioned. The Head of Safeguarding responded advising that the eleven additional foster care places would be located in Sunderland.

Councillor Snowden enquired if the benefit reform would cause problems recruiting additional foster carers. The Head of Safeguarding responded, and in doing so stated that Children's Services were successfully recruiting foster carers at the present time, however there were fewer people coming forward wishing to adopt. For that reason, it had been challenging trying to place siblings together because people did not want to take on a large financial commitment.

Saul Cranson enquired how young people coped being moved around. Saul was advised that Children's Services did their best to avoid multiple place moves, however in some instances young people must be moved away from the Northeast to allow them to make a new start. Children's Services ensured to make contact and also expected their families to do the same.

The Board was advised that offending was still an issue that Children's Services were working to combat in Sunderland. The Head of Safeguarding agreed to ask the MALAP to produce a report to present to a future meeting detailing the challenges and work that was taking place.

In response to a request from Councillor McClennan, the Head of Safeguarding stated that arrangements would be made to include information on offending amongst care leavers in Sunderland.



The Head of Safeguarding also agreed to ascertain more information regarding the assaults mentioned at the bottom of page twenty-nine of the report.

The Board were advised that a report on Education Performance would be submitted to a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board which would provide an update in relation to the virtual school.

For future meetings, aspects of the performance report demonstrating graphs would be copied in colour and a link to the electronic agenda and papers would be emailed to the Corporate Parenting Board upon publication.

The Chair thanked the Head of Safeguarding for her update.

12. RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

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

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

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

(Signed) P. SMITH,  
Chairman.

### **Note:-**

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

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



## **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

**4 February 2013**

### **Review of Corporate Parenting Board**

#### **Report of the Executive Director Children's Services**

## **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To update the Corporate Parenting Board on the progress of the Review of the Corporate Parenting Board and make recommendations to the Board on changes to enhance its effectiveness.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Board first met in September 2006 and has met quarterly since that date. At the first meeting the terms of reference were confirmed as set out in the Council Constitution and it was further agreed the Board would report to the Children's Trust.
- 2.2 The Corporate Parenting Board meets quarterly. Young people from the Change Council attend the Corporate Parenting Board, and play an active role.
- 2.3 The Lead Member for Children and Young People commissioned this Review and asked Cllr Paul Stewart, Children's Policy lead to lead it.

## **3 Terms of Reference of the Review**

- 3.1 It was agreed that Cllr Paul Stewart, Children's Policy Lead, would lead on the Review, assisted by Cllr Linda Williams and Cllr Doris McKnight. Young people from the Change Council were invited to be members of the Review Group. The Change Council appointed Daniel and Kieran to be part of the Review Group.
- 3.2 The terms of reference of the review were agreed as:
- The Review will look at how the Corporate Parenting Board operates – what works well and what could be improved.
  - This will include consideration of how Corporate Parenting Boards/Panels work elsewhere.
  - Report back to the Corporate Parenting Board in February 2013, with recommendations, with a view to taking a report to Cabinet in March 2013.

## **4 Progress of the Review**

4.1 An initial meeting of the review group on 20 October agreed draft terms of reference. The group used this meeting to scope the review and spent some time considering what works well and what works less well in terms of the Corporate Parenting Board.

4.2. The draft terms of reference were reported back to the Corporate Parenting Board in November 2012. Members of the Board contributed to a development session looking at what works well and what could be improved.

### **4.2.1 What works well?**

- Good attendance from elected members since attendance was opened up to all members.
- Young people's attendance, which is always good.
- Young people attendance from all settings; foster care, children's homes and care leavers.
- The commitment of the Lead Member is very good.

### **4.2.2 What could be better?**

- Reports could be shorter and more interesting – presentations are often better.
- The minutes could be more geared towards actions.
- Could improve way the young people's issues get on the agenda.
- Members going to the Change Council.
- An Action Monitor would assist in tracking issues to make sure that important items stay on the agenda.
- The Civic Centre committee rooms that are used are not always suitable. The young people on the Review group felt that the smaller committee rooms, where everyone can see each other, were better suited to the Corporate Parenting Board than the more formal laid out rooms.

4.3 In December the group had the opportunity to observe Durham's Corporate Parenting Panels. Although there were some positives seen there, members of the review group generally preferred Sunderland's approach as young people are more directly involved in the work of our Board.

## **5. Suggestions for improvement**

5.1 Membership - The review felt that it would be a good idea to include Scrutiny Members and representatives from People Boards in the Corporate Parenting Board.

5.2 Agenda - The idea of an annual work plan was discussed, with a programme set for the full year so the members know which items are coming up.

Members felt that lengthy written reports were not always helpful and agreed that presentations might be better.

There would also need to be space on each agenda for items from young people.

Performance reports should concentrate on highlights rather than covering the same ground at every meeting.

5.3 Rooms - It would be helpful if the better laid out committee rooms could be booked whenever possible.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board should be extended to members of Children's Scrutiny Panel and a representative from each of the People Boards, as well as the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Policy Lead for Children's Services.

6.2 All other elected members should be invited as participant observers to the Corporate Parenting Board, as all members have corporate parenting responsibilities.

6.3 The Corporate Parenting Board should agree an Annual Work plan with items against each date in the calendar, this is to ensure a wide spread of topics. Young people from Change Council should be involved in setting the work plan for the year in an annual event for members and young people.

6.4 Other agenda items can be added by Members or young people to augment the items on the annual work plan.

## **7. Appendix**

App 1 - Timeline for changes.



## **Appendix 1**

### **Proposed Timeline for Changes**

1. **21 March** - Report on proposed Changes to Corporate Parenting Board to be submitted for April Cabinet
2. **28 March** - Cabinet Briefing
3. **17 April** - Cabinet to consider Report
4. **May** - Full Council

We would need to build in time for consultation with members and the Change Council.

### **Timescale to agree Annual Work plan**

It is proposed that this planning/development event take place in June after Full Council, to allow new members of the Corporate Parenting Board to be included.





## **Corporate Parenting Board, Adoption Performance Report, Quarter 3 2012/13**

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

This report provides an update on the current adoption performance for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 December 2012.

## 1.1 Adopted from the Care of the Local Authority

Number of children adopted in 2012/13 is expected to be less than the number adopted last year

“Whole Journey” to Adoption was the longest in the North East during April 2009 to March 2012; Improved slightly on the previous year

Family Finding length is well above the national threshold, and longer than previous years. This is especially true for older children

3-year average for “Whole Journey” is expected to improve for 2012/13 performance; 3-year average for “Family Finding” is expected to decline

### 1.1.1 Adoption “Whole Journey” – length between entering care and being placed for adoption

- 26 children have been adopted from care in the year up to quarter 3 2012/13
- Adoptions have accounted for 18% of children leaving care, a reduction on the figure for 2011/12, but still above the national average (12%) and other north east authorities (15%)
- Only six other local authorities in England have adopted a greater proportion of their looked after children over the last three years
- The average “Whole Journey” length for children adopted up to quarter 3 was 697 days – an improvement on the 750 days for those adopted up to quarter 2.
- Sunderland had the longest Whole Journey length in the north east for 2009-12 at 694 days. This was 55 days above the National Threshold of 639 days.
- Sunderland were in the third quartile nationally, with 111 local authorities achieving a quicker whole journey time for their adopted children
- 50% of the 26 children adopted in the year to quarter 3 were placed for adoption within the 639 day threshold. This is below the 2011/12 3 year average (54%), the England average (56%), and the north east average (63%)

**Whole Journey - Distance from 639 day Threshold for 2009 - 2012**

	Distance from threshold
Hartlepool	-190
Darlington	-150
Redcar and Cleveland	-142
South Tyneside	-92
Middlesbrough	-82
Newcastle Upon Tyne	-77
Gateshead	-53
Durham	-50
North Tyneside	-50
Northumberland	-32
Stockton-On-Tees	+35
Sunderland	+55
ENGLAND	-3
Statistical Neighbour Average	-54
North East Average	-122

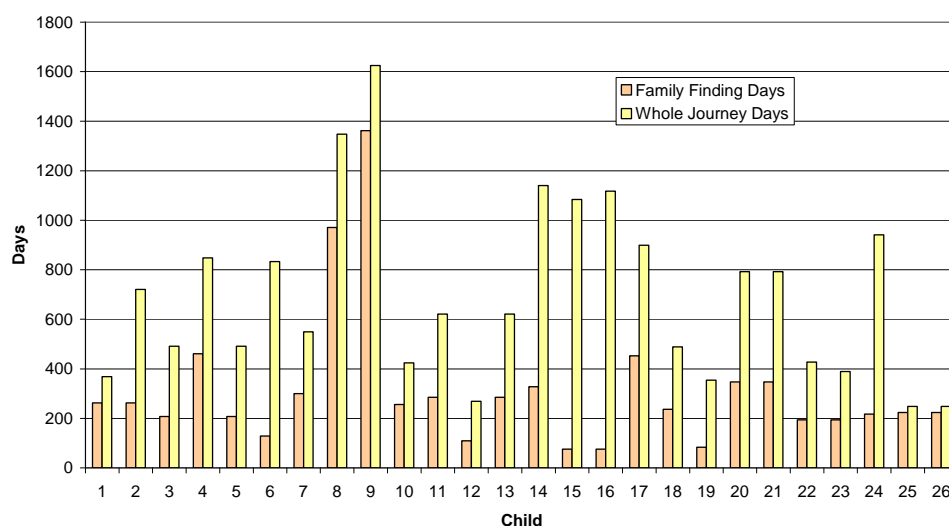
### 1.1.2 Adoption “Family Finding” – length between court authority to place and deciding on a match to an adoptive family

- The average Family Finding length for the 26 children adopted up to quarter 3 2012/13 was 313 days, an improvement on the 392 days for those children adopted up to quarter 2, but 100 days over the national threshold
- 9 of the 26 children adopted were matched within the 213 day threshold in the year up to quarter 3
- Of the 17 children who took longer than 213 days to match, 8 were adopted within the 639 day Whole Journey threshold, although none of these children took longer than 300 days to match
- All of the children who were matched with an adoptive family within the threshold were aged under the age of 4.
- Four children aged 5 or more were matched with an adoptive family; all of these took more than the 213 day threshold for matching to be completed

Family Finding - Distance from 213 day Threshold for 2009 - 2012	
LA	Distance from threshold
South Tyneside	-160
Newcastle Upon Tyne	-104
Hartlepool	-87
Gateshead	-79
Northumberland	-76
Durham	-40
North Tyneside	-11
Redcar and Cleveland	+4
Middlesbrough	+21
Sunderland	+24
Stockton-On-Tees	+56
Darlington	Did not provide Data
ENGLAND	-18
Statistical Neighbour Average	-47
North East Average	-92

- During the three year period 2009-12 Sunderland was 24 days over the threshold, one of four north east authorities to be over the 213 day mark

Journey Length in days for Each Child Adopted April - December 2012



### 1.1.3 Whole Journey Analysis – Children Adopted and Placed for Adoption

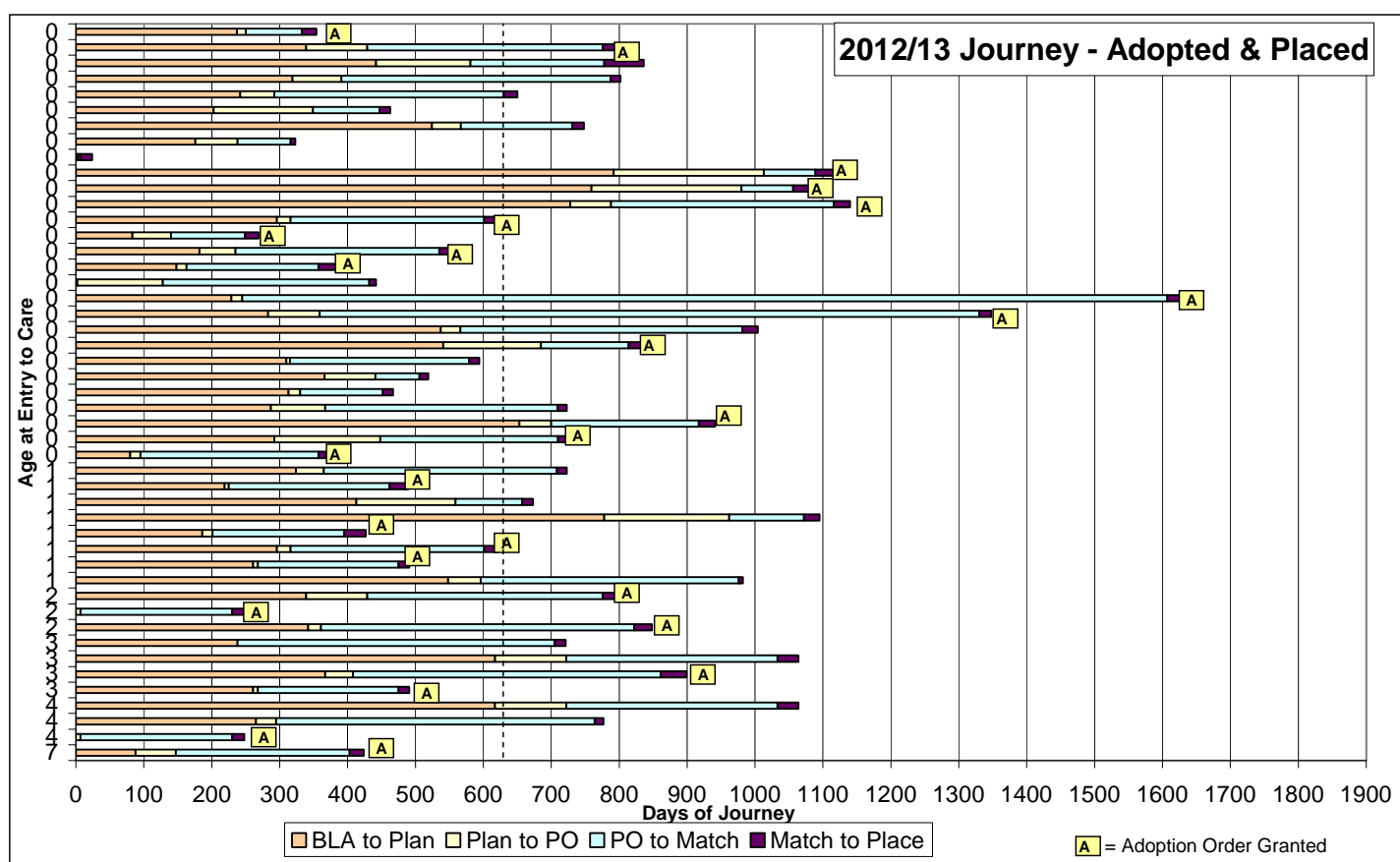
The below chart shows those children who have either been adopted during 2012/13 or who were placed for adoption on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

The chart highlights the length of the different stages of the adoption process for each child and highlights the way in which the Adoption based indicators are likely to change.

The table opposite contains predictions for the final 2012/13 outturns, based upon the whole cohort (with the assumption that children will spend six months placed with their adoptive family before the adoption order is granted).

#### Predicted 2012/13 Figures

Children Adopted	38
Whole Journey Length	686
Family Finding Length	282
Adoptions of children aged 5+ when entering care	1
Adoptions of children aged 5+ when Matched	6
% adopted within Threshold	52%



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Title of Report: Corporate Parenting Performance Report, Quarter 3 2012/13

Author: Rob Gilhespy / Jayne Aitken, Performance and Intelligence Officers

Meeting Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013

This report will go forward to: EMT:	N/A	(date)
Cabinet:	N/A	(date)
Cabinet Policy:	N/A	(date)
CTSP:	N/A	(date)
Children's Trust:	N/A	(date)

### Document History

Version	Date	Author	Change History
V1.0	17/01/13	Caroline Grimley	

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

Name	Designation, eg City Solicitor	Date

**Document Approvals (this section to be completed once approval received by relevant meeting, eg CSLT)**

	Approved by:	Date

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

Yes ☐ Please provide details:

No ☒

## **Corporate Parenting Board, Performance Report, Quarter 3 2012/13**

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

This report shows the current position of the Council as 'Corporate Parent', and provides an update on the current performance of the Council in meeting this responsibility.

### **2. Reporting Structure**

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

The structure for the report is:

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

## **1 Multi Agency Looked After Partnership Report Quarter 3, 2012/13**

### **1.1 Quarter 3 Position Statement**

- One of the six former National Indicators for Looked after Children is within the locally set 'Very Good' banding; one is banded as 'Good'; one as 'Acceptable', two as 'Ask Questions', and one is in the 'Investigate Urgently' band
- Number of Looked After Children has increased from 417 in September 2012 to 425 at the end of December 2012
- Short term stability indicator (number of moves in year) stable compared to the end of quarter 2 (12.7%); this has remained in the 'Very Good' band
- Long term stability indicator (looked after for more than 2 and a half years, in the same placement for 2 years +) has improved compared to quarter 2 (62.3% to 66.7%). This indicator remains in the 'Ask Questions' band, although performance is expected to improve towards year end
- Reviews within timescales have improved to 91.5% during quarter 3. This is still below previous years performance, however is now within the 'Good' local banding
- Increase in the percentage of adopted children who were placed for adoption within a year of agency decision in quarter 3 to 61.5%. This indicator is now in the 'Ask Questions' banding
- Average number of days in adoption process (Looked After to Placed for Adoption) has improved to 697 days in quarter 2. Although this is above the National threshold of 639 days, performance is expected to improve towards year end, and lead to an improved three year average for 2010-13
- Average number of days in the adoption family finding process (Placement Order to Matching date) has improved to 312 days during quarter 3. This is above the DfE National threshold of 213 days, and represents declining trend in performance on previous years
- Care Leavers in suitable accommodation has improved in quarter 3 and is now banded as 'Acceptable'. Care leavers in EET has increased slightly to 55.2%, although this remains within the 'Investigate Urgently' band
- Looked after Children who have offended in Quarter 2 represent 10.4% of the cohort. This offending ratio at the end of Quarter 2 is 1.8

**2 - Looked After Children Scorecard**
**Position at Quarter 3, 2012/13 - National Data taken from 2011/12 DfE Statistical Release**

Quarter 4, 2012/13 National Data shown from 10/12/12 Statistical Neighbour														Comparators					
	Ref	Definition	2008/09 Outturn	2009/10 Outturn	2010/11 Outturn	2011/12 Outturn	3-Year Average	12/13 Target: <sup>2</sup>		2012/13			Number of Children	Local Banding	2011/12 National Avg	2011/12 National Rank	2011/12 North East Avg	2011/12 North East Rank	2011/12 Statistical Neighbour
									Q1	Q2	Q3								
Placements		Number of Looked After Children <sup>S</sup>	393	392	411	388 (71 per 10k)	-	-	-	396	417	425	75.8 per 10k	-			78	4	74
		Percentage of looked after children placed outside LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live <sup>S</sup>	-	2.0%	4.9%	7.0%	4.6%			7.3%	7.4%	8.0%	34/425		12%	2	8.8%	1	7.3%
	NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves <sup>S</sup>	10.2%	7.9%	10.2%	11.9%	10.0%			10.4%	12.7%	12.7%	54/425	Very Good	11%	41	10.4%	4	10.1%
	NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement <sup>S</sup>	67.3%	68.2%	72.5%	68.5%	69.7%			64.6%	62.3%	66.7%	72/108	Ask Questions	68%	42	65.8%	4	69.1%
Reviews	NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales <sup>C</sup>	96.8%	95.1%	97.2%	96.5%	96.3%	100%	N	89.5%	89.8%	91.5%	354/387	Good	-	-	-	-	-
Adoption	NI 61	Timeliness of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption <sup>C</sup>	67.6%	76.9%	45.8%	75.6%	66.1%	84%	N	57.1%	46.7%	61.5%	16/26	Ask Questions	-	-	-	-	-
		Percentage of Children who Ceased to be Looked After who were Adopted <sup>C</sup>	26.8%	19.9%	15.1%	27.4%	20.8%	-	-	17.9%	19.2%	18.6%	26/140	-	12%	7	15.7%	2	18%
		Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days) <sup>C</sup>	789	717	686	687	694	639	N	614	750	697	-	-	636	112	570	12	585
		Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days) <sup>C</sup>	225	221	231	236	230	213	N	261	392	312	-	-	195	113	172	10	165.5
Care Leavers		The proportion of children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday <sup>C</sup>	69.7%	66.7%	54.5%	60.9%	60.7%	-	-	66.7%	52.4%	55.6%	20/36	-	64%	150*	50.8%	6	57.9%
	NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation <sup>C</sup>	88%	89.3%	94.5%	97.5%	93.8%		-	91.7%	81.8%	86.2%		Acceptable	89%	29	95.7%	7	94.4%
	NI 148	Care leavers in employment, education or training (percentage) <sup>C</sup>	73%	82.1%	61.1%	67.5%	70.2%		-	66.7%	54.5%	55.2%		Investigate	* Comparative Data shows % Care Leavers NOT in EET				30.6%
		Percentage of 19 year old Care Leavers who are in Higher Education <sup>C</sup>	3.8%	3.4%	8.3%	7.5%	6.4%	-	-	8.3%	9.1%	6.9%		-	7%	39	4.5%	3	4.1%
Offending		Offences whilst looked after - ratio of the percentage of all children aged 10-17 given a final warning/reprimand or convicted <sup>C</sup>	2.6	1.2	2.0	2.8	-	-	-	1.4	1.8	N/A		-	6.9%	-	9.4%	12	-

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

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

<sup>R</sup> Rolling year data

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

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



### 3.1 Currently Looked After Children Characteristics

Eight more children are looked after than at the same point in September

Lower rate of looked after children than most North East Authorities

Rise in children looked after by Family or Friend Foster carers; from 19 to 47 children in Quarter 3

Three quarters of children in local authority provided foster care are in temporary placements; 17% are in permanent placements

Sunderland children very similar in Age, Gender, and Ethnicity to the rest of the North East

More boys than girls are looked after in every age group, except under 2's, 4 year olds, and 14 year olds where there are more girls who are looked after

#### 3.1.1 Looked After Children Population in a Regional Context

Local Authority	31st March 2011 per 10,000 Rate	Looked After Children on 31st March 2012	31st March 2012 per 10,000 Rate
Middlesbrough	104	350	111
South Tyneside	105	315	106
Newcastle Upon Tyne	102	550	101
Gateshead	95	385	95
Darlington	86	205	90
Hartlepool	81	175	86
Stockton-On-Tees	69	335	80
North East	78	4115	78
North Tyneside	71	300	74
Statistical Neighbours	73	N/A	74
<b>Sunderland</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>71</b>
Durham	53	660	66
Redcar and Cleveland	53	170	62
Northumberland	45	280	46

At the end of December 2012 there were 425 children and young people looked after by Sunderland. This is an increase of 8 children from the end of September 2012, and equal to 75.8 children for every 10,000 children in the general population of the city.

Sunderland has had a lower number of looked after children in recent years than other authorities in the North East. The table opposite shows that seven out of the 12 North East Authorities had a higher proportional rate of looked after children in 2012. Despite the recent rise in children, the current rate of 75.8 children per 10,000 would be lower than most North East authorities.

Sunderland was one of only two North East authorities where the rate of Looked After Children actually reduced in the twelve months to March 2012.

Sunderland is currently slightly above the Statistical Neighbour average of 74 per 10,000, but below the North East average of 78 per 10,000.

### 3.1.2 Breakdown of Placement Types on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

#### Children in Foster Care

- 339 Children were placed with Foster Carers, an increase of 17 children on the figure for the end of September 2012
- The main increase in placements was with Relative or Friend Approved Foster Carers, rising from 19 children in September to 47 in December
- Externally commissioned foster care placements increased by 2 children
- An additional two children were missing from their Foster Care placement on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 and are shown in the "other" column of the table

#### Children in Residential Care

- 50 children were in residential placements at the end of December, one child fewer than the end of September
- 30 children were placed in Local Authority provided residential settings, reduced by 2 children

#### Children Placed for Adoption

- 20 children are placed for adoption, a reduction on the 24 who were placed in September

#### Family Placements

- 84.5% children either with Foster Carer or placed with an adoptive family (83% Sept 2012).
- The proportion of children in family placements is greater than 2012 comparators (England 79%; North East 83%)

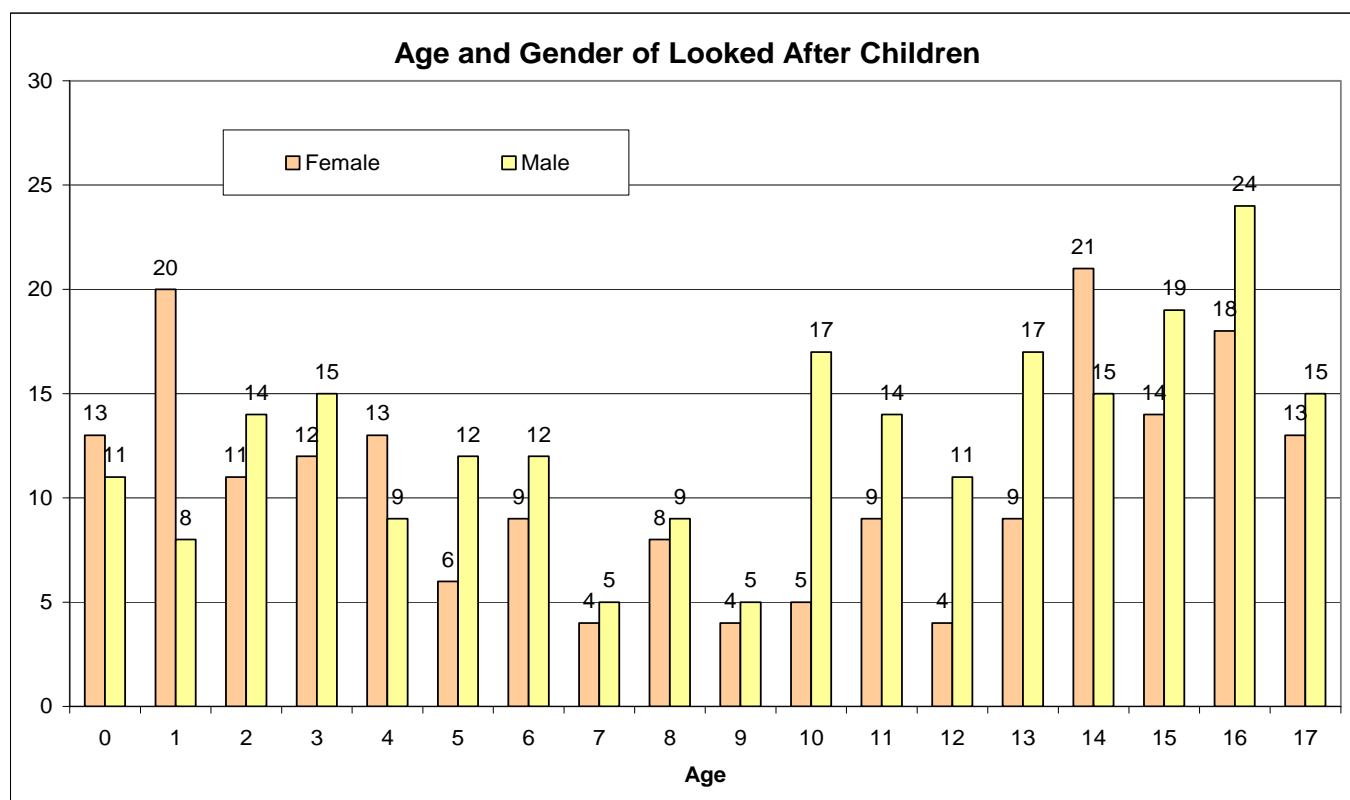
	Foster Placement Inside LA	Foster Placement Outside LA	Children's Home Inside LA	Children's Home Outside LA	Placed for Adoption	Placed with Parents	Independent Living	Other
LA Adoption					14			
Adoption Org					1			
OLA Adopters					5			
LA Foster Care	179	78						2
Relative/Friend Foster Care	39	8						
External Foster care	15	20						
LA Residential			27	3				
Private Residential			2	15				1
Secure Residential				2				
Placed with Parents						8		
Independent Living							6	
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

#### Permanency in Local Authority Provided Foster Care

- 43 of the 257 children (17%) who are placed with Local Authority provided Foster Carers are in permanent placements, 2 fewer than in September
- A further 24 of those 257 children (9%) are in Long Term Task Centred placements with Local Authority provided Foster Carers, 1 more child than in September
- The remaining 190 children (74%) are in Temporary Foster Care placements. This is a reduction of 11 children on September

### 3.1.3 Demographic Breakdown of Looked After Children

- 232 Boys and 193 Girls were looked after on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012
- 52% of girls and 43% of boys are aged under 10
- The split of 45% girls and 55% boys is the same as the England and North East Averages.
- 33 girls under the age of two are looked after compared to 18 boys
- 22 girls aged 10-12; 42 boys 10-12
- 16 year olds are the largest age group in total and for boys alone. For girls the largest age group are 14 year olds.



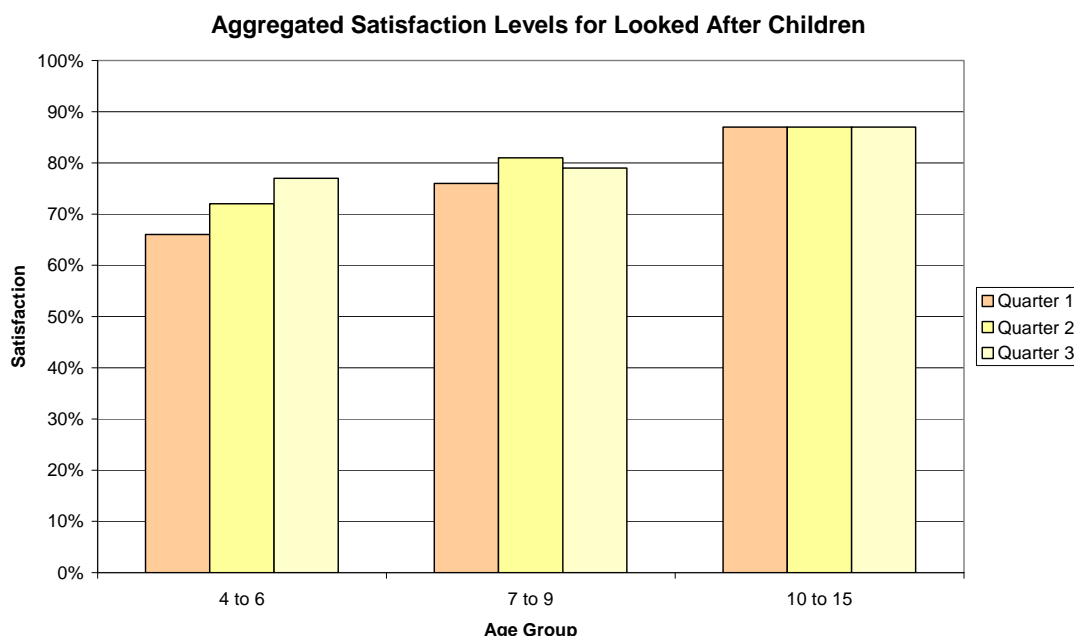
	Female	Male	Total
<b>White British</b>	181	222	403
<b>Any Other Mixed Background (White &amp; Any Other)</b>	2	2	4
<b>Other Ethnic Group Chinese</b>	3		3
<b>Asian Or Asian British Bangladeshi</b>	1	1	2
<b>Black Or Black British African</b>		2	2
<b>Black Or Black British</b>		2	2
<b>Not Yet Defined</b>	1	1	2
<b>Undeclared/Unknown</b>	2		2
<b>White Any Other White Background</b>	2		2
<b>White &amp; Asian</b>		1	1
<b>White &amp; Black Caribbean</b>		1	1
<b>Other Ethnic Group - Other</b>	1		1
<b>Total</b>	193	232	425

- 95% of children are White British, higher than in the rest of the North East (94%), although lower than in March 2012 (96%)
- Of North East Authorities only Northumberland (3%) and Durham (2%) had a lower proportion of BME children in their looked after population
- 9 boys and 9 girls were looked after from BME backgrounds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012. 4 children did not have their ethnicity recorded

## 3.2 Children and Young People's Views

### Overall Satisfaction Score

- Aggregated satisfaction levels by Age Group (below chart) shows improving satisfaction for younger children, stable for older children, and variable for 7 to 9 year olds



### 7 to 9 year old questionnaire responses

- Seven children completed the Viewpoint questionnaires from this age group during quarter 3

#### Strengths

- All children in this age group responded that they felt “safe” and “Ok” in placement, that they were “always” happy, and that they were “happy” at school

#### Areas for Development

- This age group expressed negative responses when asked about whether they could see their family when they wanted to; that their friends could visit them in placement, and that their social worker spoke to them about their future

### 10 to 15 year old questionnaire responses

- 20 children completed the viewpoint questionnaires from this age group during quarter 3

#### Strengths

- This age group responded positively when asked whether they felt “safe” (95%); whether their social worker supported their achievements (95%); and whether they had someone to talk to about their health (95%)

#### Areas for Development

- This age group responded negatively when asked about the quality of their life story book, about the frequency of social worker visits, and about their contact with friends and family

### 3.3 Children Living in Stable Placements

Long Term Stability measure is improved since September, with a similar outturn to last year expected at the end of 2012/13

Whole cohort analysis suggests that short term stability indicator will improve in coming months, to around the rate achieved last year

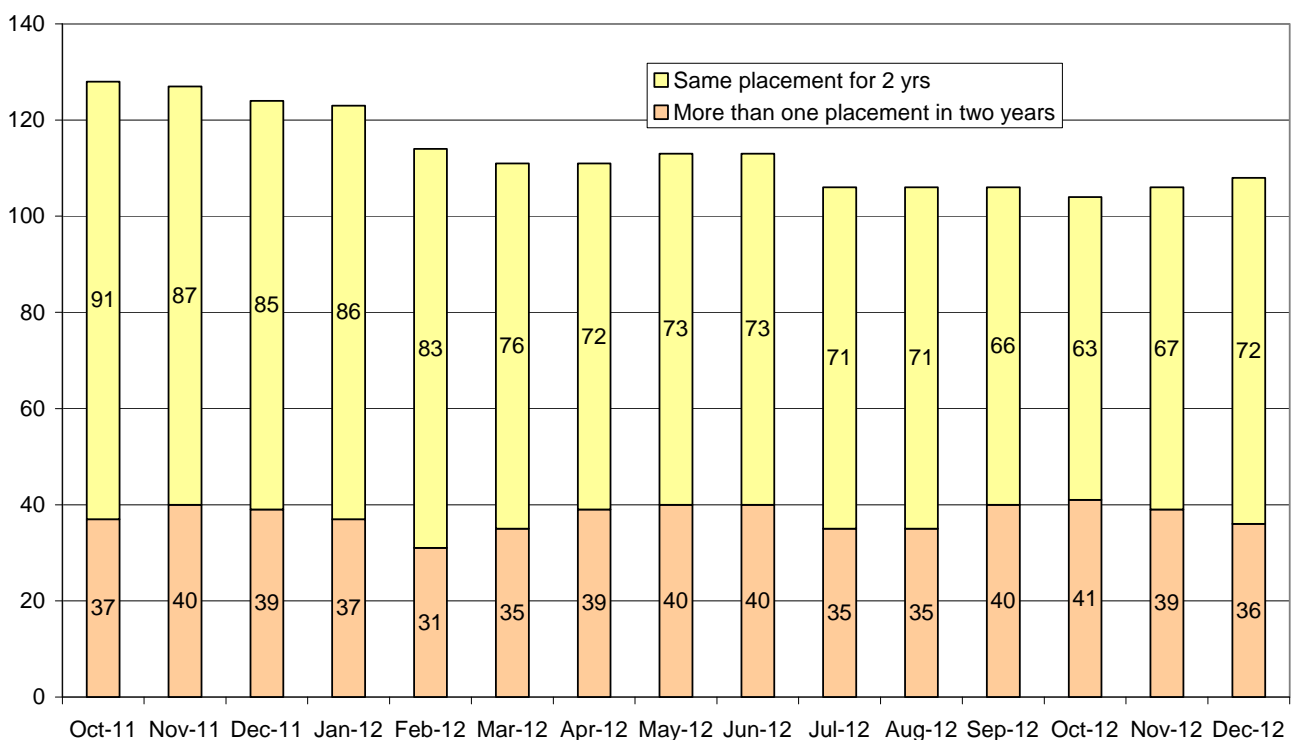
Fewer children have unstable placements compared to a year ago, although a smaller cohort means a reduced percentage. More children with stable placements have left care or turned 16.

One in six children who have had more than two placements in the last year are included in the indicator due to them being missing from their placement on at least one occasion.

#### 3.3.1 Long Term Stability: Children in the same placement for more than two

- 108 children had been looked after for more than two and a half years on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012. Of these, 72 (66.7%) had been in the same placement for two years
- Indicator has increased 4.4 percentage points since the end of June 2012
- Indicator is expected to rise towards a year end figure of 72%
- Number of children looked after for more than two and half years (and aged under 16) has fallen from 128 in October 2011 to 108 in December 2012
- Number of children who had more than one placement in the previous two years has remained stable – one fewer child in December 2012 than in October 2011

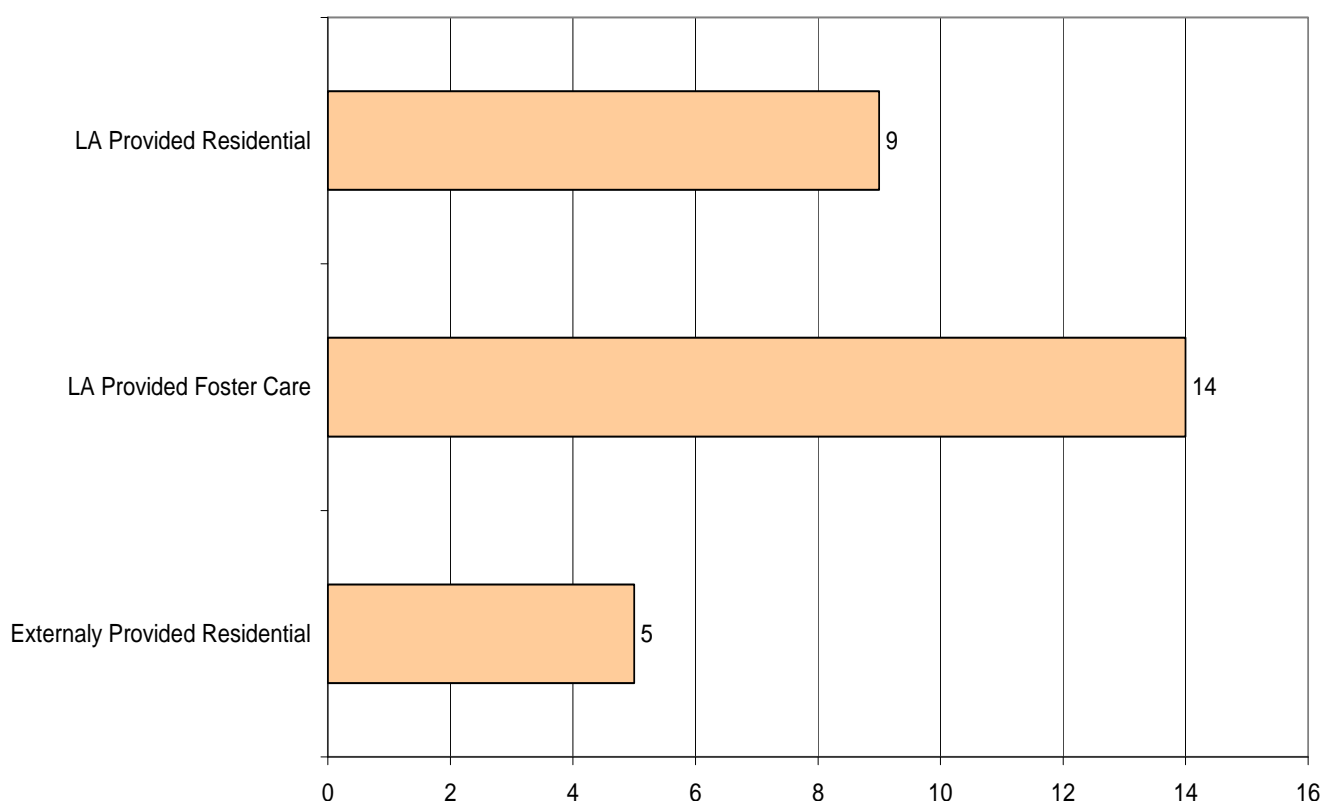
**Long Term Stability: Under 16s Looked After for over 2.5 years**



### 3.3.2 Short Term Stability: Children with more than 2 placements in the year

- 54 children (12.7%) were in three or more placements during the twelve months up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012
- 14 of these children have only had two placements in the year from April to December 2012, and therefore will not form part of the indicator should they remain in the same placement until the end of March 2013 – a cumulative indicator of 9.4%
- 9 children are only included in the numerator due to a missing episode from their placement, if they were removed then the indicator would be 10.6%
- Most missing episodes occur when a child is placed in local authority provided care (see below chart).
- Missing episodes from externally provided residential care accounts for only 18% of all episodes

Missing Episodes from Type of Provider



### 3.4 Staying out of Trouble – results of offending for children who are looked after

**Offending in Sunderland in 2011/12 was 16.1%, higher than offending in England and the North East**

**19 young people have received substantive outcomes in the first six months of the year, in line with the same period in 2011/12**

**Over half of offences took place in the community in Sunderland**

#### *Offending Behaviour in 2011/12*

The DfE recently released outcomes for Looked After Children for 2011/12, which included offending for children looked after for more than 12 months at the end of March 2012.

In Sunderland 16.1% of Looked After Children had received a substantive outcome in the year. This was more than twice the offending rate for England (6.9%) and also higher than offending in the North East as a whole (9.4%). Sunderland had the highest offending rate in the North East.

#### *Offending Behaviour in 2012/13*

At the end of September 2012 the offending rate was 10.4%. This equates to 19 young people receiving substantive outcomes between April and September 2012 from a cohort of 182. This is in line with offending behaviour in the same period in 2011/12 when 21 young people received substantive outcomes (10.6% of the cohort).

#### *Characteristics of Offenders*

Of the 19 young people who received outcomes between April and September 2012, 84% were male. The age breakdown of the young people at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 is shown below.

Age	Male	Female	Total
13	2	1	3
14	2	1	3
15	3	1	4
16	5	0	5
17	4	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>

Almost two thirds of young people who offended were living in residential homes at the end of the September 2012 (63.2%). The table below shows the placements at the end of September.

Placement	Total
Sunderland Residential Home	12
Sunderland Foster Care	2
External Placement	4
Secure Accommodation	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>

#### *Outcomes & Offences*

19 young people received 36 outcomes between April and September 2012. The table below shows the substantive outcomes received in order of seriousness.

Outcome	Total
Reprimand	3
Final Warning	2
Absolute Discharge	4
Conditional Discharge	5
Referral Order	6
Reparation Order	5
Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO)	6
YRO & Compensation	3
Detention & Training Order (DTO)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

The substantive outcomes received related to 58 offences committed between December 2011 and September 2012. Two young men aged 13 and 16 were responsible for 36.2% of all offences committed.

Theft and shoplifting were the most common offences (29.3%) with the majority being committed in the community in Sunderland. Criminal Damage accounted for a fifth of all offences (20.7%), over half took place in a residential home and the remainder were committed in the community.

Over half of offences were committed in the community in Sunderland. The table below shows where offences were committed.

<b>Location of Offence</b>	<b>Total</b>
Residential Home	15
Sunderland (in the community)	31
School	4
Out Of Area	6
Location Unknown	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>



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

**In 2011/12 Sunderland ranked 39 in the country for care leavers in Higher Education**

**At December 2012, over half of 19 year olds were in employment, education or training**

**The Care Leavers cohort changes in April 2013 to include young people celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays**

#### *Care Leavers Charter*

In October 2012, the DfE produced the Care Leavers Charter and wrote to Directors of Children's Services about improving outcomes for care leavers. The DfE also released a Care Leavers Data Pack analysing the attainment outcomes nationally of care leavers up to March 2011 when set against other aspects of their lives:

- the number of 19 year old care leavers has risen from 4,700 in 2002 to 6,600 in 2012
- the older young people leave care the more likely they are to remain in education
- male care leavers are much more likely to be in custody than females
- the most common type of accommodation is independent living
- at 19, 36% of care leavers were not in education, employment or training compared to 14% of the general population

#### *Outcomes for Care Leavers in 2011/12*

The DfE has recently released outcomes for care leavers in 2011/12. The outcomes included the education and employment status of looked after children following completion of Year 11 in 2010/11. The table below shows what young people were doing at the end of September 2011.

	Sunderland	North East	England
In full time education	65%	69%	71%
In full time training or employment	26%	15%	7%
In part time training or employment	0	n/a	5%
Unemployed	10%	15%	16%

The release also included outcomes for 19 year old care leavers, comparisons to the North East and England are shown in the table below.

	Sunderland	North East	England
% in suitable accommodation	98%	96%	88%
% in EET	68%	67%	58%
% NEET due to disability or illness	8%	4%	5%
% NEET other reasons	23%	27%	32%
% not in touch	3%	2%	6%

The release also provided a three year average for 19 year old care leavers and ranked local authorities, Sunderland was in the top 40 local authorities for each outcome as shown in the table below.

	England %	Sunderland %	Sunderland Rank
% 19 year olds NEET	34%	27%	33
% 19 year old in suitable accom	89%	95%	29
% 19 year olds in Higher Education	7%	7%	39

### *Outcomes for Care Leavers in 2012/13*

At the end of December 2012 there were 29 young people in the 2012/13 cohort who had celebrated their 19<sup>th</sup> birthdays since April. One young person was supported by the Learning Disabilities team.

During the 4 months around their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday 86.2% (25 young people) were in contact with the Leaving Care Service or with their Learning Disabilities Social Worker. Of the 29 young people currently in the cohort, four were not in contact, therefore their EET and accommodation situations cannot be counted.

Of the young people in contact, all except one were living in suitable accommodation. This young person was staying with friends while looking for suitable accommodation. The majority of young people had successfully moved to independent living with the support of the Leaving Care Service, as also highlighted in the Care Leavers Data Pack. The table below shows the suitable accommodation of those young people who were in contact.

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Total</b>
With Parents or Relatives	4
Semi-independent	3
Supported Lodgings	3
Ordinary Lodgings	1
Independent Living	12
With Former Foster Carers	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

Over half of the cohort (55.2%) were in employment, education or training, including two young people who were continuing their studies at university.

Seven young people were not in education, employment or training on or around their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, two young people had not yet had their EET status confirmed therefore are assumed to be NEET (included in Unknown/Not in

Contact). The table below shows the EET situations of the cohort.

<b>EET Situation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Full time higher education	2
Full time education other than higher	6
Full time training or employment	3
Part time in training or employment	5
NEET other circumstances	7
Unknown/Not in Contact	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

### *Changes to Care Leavers Monitoring in 2013/14*

The DfE recently announced changes to the performance monitoring of young people leaving care from 2013/14. The cohort will monitor care leavers who are eligible for support and whose 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays fall within the collection period, a cohort of 153 in 2013/14. The data collection will continue to monitor whether care leavers are in contact, in suitable accommodation and whether they are in employment, education or training.

### 3.6 Receiving a Good Education

**Key Stage 1 results for LAC lower than for all Sunderland pupils**

**Key Stage 2 results continue to fluctuate year on year**

**Increase in number of young people achieving 5 or more GCSE's A\* - C**

**Number of children with fixed term exclusions has increased in 2011**

**73.1% of school age children have a special educational need**

Education performance is measured in relation to children who have been in care for at least 12 months at 31<sup>st</sup> March; in 2012 166 were of school age.

#### *Key Stage 1*

The Key Stage 1 cohort in 2012 was a small cohort of 9 children. The table below shows children achieving Level 2 and above at Key Stage 1.

	Reading	Writing	Maths
<b>Sunderland LAC</b>	78%	56%	67%
<b>Sunderland All Pupils</b>	86%	82%	90%
<b>North East LAC</b>	71%	64%	71%
<b>England LAC</b>	67%	57%	71%
<b>England All Pupils</b>	87%	83%	91%

Looked after children achieving Level 2 at Key Stage 1 is below that of all pupils in Sunderland. The percentage of looked after children achieving Level 2 and above in Reading is higher than Looked After Children in the North East and England.

The percentage of looked after children achieving Level 2 and above has declined since 2011, however this is still a continued improvement on the 2010 results. The table below shows the

percentage of looked after children achieving Level 2 and above for the last three years.

	Reading	Writing	Maths	Statemented
<b>2012</b>	78%	56%	67%	11%
<b>2011</b>	86%	71%	86%	0
<b>2010</b>	58%	50%	50%	17%

#### *Key Stage 2*

There were 11 looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 2 in 2012, 27% had special educational needs. The table below shows children achieving Level 4 and above at Key Stage 2.

	English & Maths	English	Maths
<b>Sunderland LAC</b>	36%	36%	36%
<b>Sunderland All Pupils</b>	81%	86%	86%
<b>North East LAC</b>	45%	53%	54%
<b>England LAC</b>	50%	60%	56%
<b>England All Pupils</b>	79%	85%	85%

The percentage achieving Level 4 and above in English has continued to decline since 2010. The results for Maths and those achieving both English and Maths continue to fluctuate.

The table below shows the percentage of looked after children achieving Level 4 and above over the last five years.

	English & Maths	English	Maths	Statemented
<b>2012</b>	36%	36%	36%	27%
<b>2011</b>	17%	42%	25%	17%
<b>2010</b>	64%	64%	64%	15%
<b>2009</b>	42%	42%	47%	n/a
<b>2008</b>	83%	79%	93%	n/a

#### *Key Stage 4 / GCSE's*

The DFE statutory release identified 40 young people who were eligible to sit GCSEs in 2012. 50% of the cohort achieved 5 or

more GCSEs at grades A\*-C, an improvement on the 2011 results. This is in line with the North East and is higher than England. The table below shows young people achieving 5 or more GCSE's A\*-C grade.

	5+ A*-C
<b>Sunderland LAC</b>	50%
<b>Sunderland All Pupils</b>	89.7%
<b>North East LAC</b>	50.3%
<b>England LAC</b>	36.8%
<b>England All Pupils</b>	81.1%

The table below shows the percentage of looked after children achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A\*-C for the last five years.

	5+ A*-C
<b>2012</b>	50%
<b>2011</b>	34.4%
<b>2010</b>	41.9%
<b>2009</b>	27%
<b>2008</b>	19.4%

### *Exclusions*

Exclusions are subject to an appeals process which means data on exclusions has a two term delay, therefore data from the DfE relates to 2011. The table below shows the percentage of looked after children with at least one fixed term exclusion in 2011.

	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion
<b>Sunderland</b>	14.2%
<b>North East</b>	12.2%
<b>England</b>	12.4%

In 2011 14.2% of looked after children of statutory school age had a least one fixed term exclusion, this is an increase on the 2010 figure of 13.9%. This is based on 175 children who were eligible for full time schooling in 2011.

### *Special Educational Needs*

Using the National Pupil Database the DfE have matched looked after children data with school data to identify how many children have Special Educational Needs. The table below shows the percentage of looked after children with special educational needs.

	SEN With Statement	SEN Without Statement
<b>Sunderland LAC</b>	24.6%	48.5%
<b>Sunderland All Pupils (October 2012)</b>	2.6%	16.6%
<b>North East LAC</b>	29.1%	42.1%
<b>England LAC</b>	29.4%	42.1%

48.5% had Special Educational Needs without a Statement, which includes children with School Action and School Action Plus.

In total 73.1% of all looked after children of school age had Special Educational Needs in 2012 compared to 19.2% of all Sunderland pupils.

### *Children & Young People's Views*

Children aged 7 to 9 years old were asked by Viewpoint if they went to school every day, 100% (7 children) said they did and that they were all happy in school.

### 3.7 Being Healthy

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

**Decline in the number of children with up to date immunisations and dental checks**

**Improvement in the number of children who had their annual health assessments**

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

**All children identified with a substance misuse problem in 2011/12 were offered an intervention**

Health performance is measured in relation to children who have been in care for at least 12 months at 31<sup>st</sup> March; 267 children and young people in 2012, a reduction from 288 in 2011.

*Health Care & Development Assessments*  
Development Health Assessments should be completed for all looked after children aged 5 and under. 100% of development assessments were up to date at the end of March 2012, compared with 73% in the North East and 80% nationally.

All looked after children should have an annual health assessment, for those under 5 the assessment should be every 6 months. Immunisations and dental checks of children and young people should also be up to date by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

There has been a reduction in the number of children and young people who had their immunisations and dental checks up to date compared to 2011. There was an improvement in the number who had their annual health assessment. The table below shows the 2012 and 2011 comparisons.

	2010/11	2011/12
<b>Immunisations</b>	95.8%	88.4%
<b>Dental checks</b>	88.5%	77.2%
<b>Annual Health Assessments</b>	85.8%	92.1%

The percentage of up to date immunisations and annual health assessments was higher in Sunderland was higher than the England figure for 2011/12. The table below shows the Sunderland, North East and England figures for 2011/12.

	Sunderland	North East	England
<b>Immunisations</b>	88.4%	92.9%	83.1%
<b>Dental checks</b>	77.2%	88.8%	82.4%
<b>Annual Health Assessments</b>	92.1%	87.6%	86.3%

Where children have not received their immunisations because of parental refusal, for health reasons, or because the young person refuses, they are counted as not being up to date. 58% of those who were not up to date were aged 16 and over.

Young people who have declined a health assessment are treated as not having their assessment. Of those who did not have an assessment, 57.1% were aged 14 and over.

#### *Emotional & Behavioural Health*

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

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

The questionnaire returns a single 'Total Difficulties Score' ranging from 0 to 40. The



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

The overall average score gives an indication of the level of concern for looked after children. In 2012, the average score for looked after children was 13.2, this is in line with the 2011 score of 13.1. The 2012 score is lower than the North East and England average which are both 13.8. The percentage of eligible children with an SDQ score submitted was 81%.

Individual scores ranged from 0 to 30 (maximum score is 40), with 37% of children and young people having a score in the range of cause for concern. The table below shows the breakdown of scores compared to the North East and England.

	Sunderland	North East	England
Normal	55%	50%	51%
Borderline	13%	13%	13%
Concern	37%	37%	36%

### *Substance Misuse*

During the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, 24 young people were identified as having a substance misuse problem, 9% of all children looked after for 12 months or more. The young people ranged in age from 13 to 17. This is a slight increase from 2011 when 9.1% were identified with a substance misuse problem (26 young people aged between 13 and 17).

In the North East, Sunderland is the authority with the highest percentage of looked after children identified as having a substance misuse problem, with the North East percentage being 4.4%.

The table below shows the Sunderland, North East and England figures for 2012.

	% identified as having a substance misuse problem in the year
Sunderland	9.0%
North East	4.4%
England	4.1%

All children identified with a substance misuse problem were offered an intervention as was the case in 2011. 95.8% received an intervention, compared to 61.5% in 2011. 4.2% were offered an intervention but refused it during the year.

### *Children & Young People's Views*

Young people aged 10 to 15 years old were asked by Viewpoint if they had someone to talk to about their health. 95% said yes they did and 5% said yes they did about some things.