

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

AGENDA

Meeting to be held on Monday 7 March 2022 at 5.30pm in the Conference Room, Sandhill Centre, Grindon Lane, Sunderland, SR3 4EN

Part I

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	Report of CNTW (copy attached).	
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	Report of the Headteacher of the Virtual School (report to follow).	

ELAINE WAUGH
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Civic Centre
SUNDERLAND

25 February 2022

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022 at 5.30pm in the
Main Hall, Bunny Hill Centre, Hylton Lane, SR5 4BW**

Present:

Members of the Board

Councillor L Farthing (in the Chair)	Washington South Ward
Councillor C Burnicle	St Chad's Ward
Councillor M Crosby	Sandhill Ward
Councillor J McKeith	St Peter's Ward
Councillor P Smith	Silksworth Ward
Catherine Hearne	Non-Exec Director, Together for Children

All Supporting Officers

Jill Colbert	Chief Executive, TfC
Linda Mason	Headteacher, Virtual School
Tracy Jelfs	Head of Service for Cared for Children, TfC
Kathryn McCabe	Service Manager, Cared for Children, TfC
Nikki Donaldson	Participation and Engagement Officer
Ian	Change Council
Jessica	Change Council
Jo Morgan	Designated Nurse Looked After Children
Gillian Kelly	Governance Services

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackburn and Tye.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

16. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

Change Council Update

The Change Council report had been submitted to the Board and was presented to Members by Chantelle and Ian and Jessica.

The Change Council had continued to meet face to face in a secure venue and both the 10-15 and 16+ group were meeting fortnightly.

Unfortunately the Christmas Cared for and Care Experienced event had been cancelled, however children and young people had been able to collect a present, goody bag and food. Thank you cards were being sent to all organisations who had supported the Christmas event.

A Christmas quiz session had been held with both Change Council groups and senior leaders from Children's Social Care, Early Help and Commercial and Corporate Services. The young people had also had a meal at Luciano's followed by a trip to the pantomime at the Empire Theatre.

The Change Council had now moved into their own dedicated space at the Sandhill Centre and had held their first meeting of the new year on 5 January 2022 and had developed their plan of work for the next six months.

The planned work for January to June 2022 was as follows: -

- Drive forward the Change the Language campaign, including working groups and workshops
- Corporate Parenting induction training and support the development of the corporate parenting strategy
- Care Day 18 February 2022 – Plan to celebrate Care Day
- Foster Care Fortnight – Key project, plans to celebrate
- Children's Home Fortnight – Key project, plans to celebrate
- Recruitment and selection training for young people
- Engage young people in enriching activities to celebrate their hard work and increase engagement
- Aim to involve more cared for and care experienced children and young people.

The Chair asked how many young people were involved in the Change Council groups and Nikki said that there were 15 in the 16+ group and five in the younger group. New members were always being sought but there were different ways for young people to be involved if they did not want to be formal members of the Change Council.

The Chair thanked Ian and Jessica for presenting the report and accordingly it was: -

17. RESOLVED that the Change Council update be noted.

Health of Cared for Children

The Designated Nurse for Looked After Children submitted a report providing an update on health activity for cared for children.

The purpose of the report was to: -

- Demonstrate the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of cared for children
- Assure the Corporate Parenting Board that support and health services to cared for children were provided without undue delay or geographical prejudice
- Demonstrate the aim of the Looked After Health team for sustained improvement in the health and wellbeing of cared for and cared experienced children
- Assure that the child's voice around health was included wherever possible
- Report on compliance with statutory targets from the Looked After Health Team for South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

The Board were advised that the health team had continued to offer face to face clinic appointments.

39 Initial Health Assessments (IHAs) had been carried out and there had been 90% compliance in the quarter. Three appointments were cancelled by carers and rearranged and one was cancelled as there was not consent and these accounted for the 10% seen outside the timeframe. Members were reminded that these health assessments had to be completed within 20 working days of a young person becoming cared for and this could be a very tight timeframe.

91% of Review Health Assessments had been completed within timescales and Jo advised that there was some ongoing work on raising the importance of attending appointments through training and carers drop-ins. The wording on appointment letters was also being amended.

In relation to Out of Area Health Assessments, 100% of IHAs had been completed in timescale, however there was no data available as yet for RHAs.

The Health Passport app was in development and would be shared with young people for their views. The health team had attended both Change Councils to seek young people's views on health assessments and telephone feedback was being gathered from young people following their assessments.

Catherine Hearne asked about the timescale for the development of the app and Jo stated that this was to be a regional app with a vast amount of information to be embedded into it. It was hoped that it would be ready in the next few months and once young people had something to look at, this would inform further development before the app went live.

Young people had been asked about dental appointments and it was found that 62% had been seen at the time of their health assessment, 18% were not due a check up and 20% were due but had not yet been seen.

The Chair queried how this issue could be resolved as it was important for corporate parents to do all they could to ensure young people were attending dental appointments. Jo advised that she had been meeting with Kathryn McCabe on this and dates were being entered on records so that the health team could follow up on dental matters. Scoping was also taking place regionally to look at dental pathways and potentially dentists who would prioritise cared for young people.

Kathryn added that texts had been sent to carers to share the message on the importance of dental appointments and asking that they got in touch with social workers if they experienced problems accessing dental care.

Jo reported that a grant had been received from the CCG for £30,000 and this had been passed over to help support the Christmas celebrations and boxes for independent living. She also shared an information leaflet which had been produced for carers to promote healthy eating habits in cared for young people.

Councillor Crosby asked if the Covid vaccine for 12-15 year olds was being promoted by the health team and Jo confirmed that they were providing an information leaflet for carers.

Having considered the report, it was: -

18. RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted.

CNTW Cared For Children Report

This item was deferred until the next meeting. The Chair asked the Chief Executive to contact CNTW to ensure a representative could attend future meetings.

Virtual School – Headteacher’s Annual Report

Linda Mason, Headteacher of the Virtual School submitted the annual report of the Headteacher which provided an overview of the outcomes for cared for children during 2020/2021. The report utilised national, statistical neighbours and North East local authority comparable data and included rankings, trend arrows and RAG ratings.

The number of cared for children was slightly higher than the previous year, however the report set out the fluctuation in these numbers over the last ten years.

Achievement at Key Stages 2 and 4 were Key Performance Indicators and it was highlighted that at Key Stage 2, Sunderland generally performed better than the North East, its statistical neighbours and England in Reading, Writing and Maths and overall the trends were positive.

The Chair asked whether carers were supported with guided reading for cared for young people and Linda commented that this was usually picked up through the school process, however a paired reading programme had taken place in 2019 as

part of a research project with the University of Belfast. The results of this project were just coming through now and this would be fed into the work of the Virtual School.

The Chair felt that this was something which could be looked at, especially if a child had not had that support in their home environment.

Trends were positive in Key Stage 4 and an individual analysis had been carried out for each child so that there was a picture of their educational journey. Linda highlighted that Sunderland was in the third quartile for Progress 8 and the team would be looking at how PEPs could impact on this.

The Chair commented that a lot was heard about coaching in the light of the pandemic and asked if the children in the Virtual School received anything. Linda advised that catch up and intervention was picked up in PEPs and Jill Colbert stated that some schools had additional activity and the Covid recovery support was rolled out on a school by school basis. Catch up funding would be available for cared for children as well as the rest of the school population and Linda noted that schools were asked to identify which funding was being used for specific targets as part of the PEP.

There had been no permanent exclusions in the last academic year and the number of suspensions were declining. Attendance had been difficult to measure during the pandemic but had been closely monitored. Young people in Sunderland had attended well during the lockdown periods when compared to national figures.

The levels of special educational needs amongst the cared for population in Sunderland were higher than the national average but the numbers of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) were much lower. Linda highlighted that she worked with schools so that young people could move through levels of the SEMH ranges towards an EHCP. She emphasised that heads of year, pastoral staff and SENCOs should work with designated teachers and that some issues which were designated as behavioural were in fact social, emotional and mental health needs. She added that there were many requests for EHCPs at the end of year 6.

Turning to the performance in relation to EET and NEET, in the context of Covid many training providers had closed their doors and momentum had ceased and was difficult for young people to get re-engaged. Interim PEPs had been drawn up for young people who were not in education, employment or training and options had been kept available. Linda referred to the national apprenticeship scheme operated by Howden's and that care experienced young people had benefitted from this.

There was a good story in relation to higher education with 13 young people engaging in post 19 courses.

It was expected that PEPs would be completed for each young person once a term and compliance was at 97%. The average number of days to complete a PEP had stood at 17.6, down from around 40. 87% of PEPs had received a quality assurance rating of Green and the aspiration was for this to be above 90%.

The Ofsted category of schools being attended by cared for young people was improving year on year and the Governing Board of the Virtual School now had representation across all levels. It was hoped to get a young person from the Change Council on the Governing Board and discussions were ongoing to identify a carer representative for the Board. The Governing Board met six times a year, three full governor meetings and three support and challenge meetings for the Headteacher.

Having thanked Linda for the detailed report, it was: -

19. RESOLVED that the Virtual School – Headteacher’s Annual Report be noted.

Together for Children Adoption Service – 6 Monthly Report April – September 2021

The Board received a copy of the Together for Children Adoption Service Six Monthly Report covering 1 April to 30 September 2021.

Kathryn McCabe explained that the Adoption Service was producing six-monthly reports in order to mirror the timing of Ofsted reports and the report covered the first six months of the year and the regional adoption agency going live. Kathryn advised that from April to the end of December 2021, 23 adopters were approved and 25 children were matched, 18 of these with Together for Children adopters.

Targeted recruitment had been undertaken over the period and there had been 273 enquiries from April to September, compared to 155 during the same period in the previous year. The pandemic had meant that technology had come to the fore and Teams was being used for adoption information evenings.

The Adoption Team were now looking at conversion rates and widening audit activity. Work was also being undertaken to ensure consistency across the spokes of the regional adoption agency.

Councillor Crosby commented that she had found the true life stories on the website very moving. She asked if the location of the enquiries had been mapped and whether distance was an issue when considering a forever home.

Kathryn advised that Sunderland children did move all over the country but the team worked to ensure as smooth a journey as possible. Part of the matching process was around identity and normally the North East region would be looked at initially and then the search broadened out. Ultimately, it was about finding the family that was best placed to meet a child’s needs.

Councillor Burnicle queried if adopters who could take a sibling group would be prioritised so that children could be kept together. Kathryn said that the child’s social worker would specify their plan, including for siblings to be kept together, and it was about the best possible match. Transition was an interesting subject and the more preparation which could be done, the more enabled children would be. Jill added that

it was also important for children to live in communities where they saw themselves reflected.

The Chair noted that, if children were placed out of the Sunderland area, they may utilise technology to keep in touch with friends. Kathryn noted that the Adoption Team facilitated approximately 500 post box contacts at any one time.

20. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Tracy Jelfs reported that the strategy was in the process of being re-drafted and the Board terms of reference were being reviewed. The training programme was being further developed and an update would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

21. RESOLVED that the information be noted.

(Signed) L FARTHING
Chair



REPORT AUTHOR:	Nikki Donaldson, Participation and Engagement Officer
SUBJECT:	Together for Children’s Change Council Report for Corporate Parenting Board 7th March 2022
PURPOSE:	To report on the activity of both Change Council 10-15 group and Change Council 16+ group (Jan 2021 – Feb 2022)

Change Council have continued to meet regularly face to face throughout Jan 2022 – Feb 2022. Change Council are meeting in their designated space, both Change Council’s 10-15 and 16+ group are meeting fortnightly.

Activity	What’s Working Well?	What’s Not Working So Well?	What needs to happen?
Scrutiny members attended Change Council Elected members attended Change Council	Elected members attended Change Council to speak to us following a Change Council representative attending a Scrutiny meeting. We discussed issues we felt were important to us. Elected members agreed they would look at what was discussed and arrange to come again to discuss feedback.		Elected members to attend Change Council again. Agree how often this should be. Nikki to arrange with Change Council and Elected members future dates. Elected members to come to 10-15yrs Change Council.

<p>Recruitment and Selection We formed an interview panel with a mix from both of our groups.</p>	<p>We spent some time looking at the interview process and created questions to interview the new Director of Children's Social Care. A young person's panel made up from both Change Council groups were part of the interview process.</p>		<p>Panel was informed who the new Director of Children's Social Care is. Both Change Council groups have been made aware of who the new Director of Children's Social Care is.</p>
<p>Care Day 2022 Care Day is the world's largest celebration of the rights of children and young people with care experience.</p> 	<p>Two drop in sessions were held at Sandhill giving young people an opportunity to spend some time together and professionals to drop in and chat with our young people.</p>	<p>Care Day was on a Friday 18th Feb when young people are at school/college/work etc.</p>	<p>Continue to celebrate Care Day and get more ideas from young people on how they would like to celebrate next year.</p>

Planned work for Jan – Jun 2022:

- Drive forward the Change the Language campaign, including working group and workshops.
- Corporate Parenting Introduction training and support the development of the corporate parenting strategy.
- Foster Care Fortnight – Key project
- Children's Home's Fortnight – Key project
- Recruitment and Selection training
- Engage young people in enriching activities to celebrate their hard work and increase engagement.
- Consult and involve more cared for and care experienced children and young people.

CCG Sunderland update
Report to Corporate Parenting Board
7th March 2022

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Demonstrate our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in care
- To assure the corporate parenting board that health services to children in care are provided without undue delay or geographical prejudice
- To demonstrate the aim of the Looked After Health team is for sustained improvement in the health and wellbeing of children in care and those leaving care
- To assure the child's voice around health issues are included wherever possible
- Report on compliance to statutory targets from the Looked After Health Team for South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Please note that data reported within this report is Q3 data (October, November and December).

2.0 Compliance data for health assessments

There is no update of data since the last Corporate Parenting Board Meeting.

2.1 Initial Health Assessments (IHA)

2.1.1 Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring a health assessment of physical, emotional, and mental health needs is completed for every child within 20 working days of becoming looked after.

Table 1 - Initial Health Assessments

Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Number	41	56	39		
Compliance	93%	96%	90%		

- The Health Team have been able to demonstrate that they continue to offer appointments within timescales.
- 3 appointments were cancelled by carers and rearranged, 1 cancelled as no consent; this accounted for the 10% seen outside of the 20 working day timeframe.

2.2 Review Health Assessments (RHA)

2.2.1 The RHA must happen at least every six months before a child's 5th birthday and at least once every 12 months after the child's 5th birthday within the month they became looked after.

Table 2 - Review Health Assessments

Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Number	144	140	86		
Compliance	98%	85%	91%		

- Of the 86 appointments 78 complied with timescales.

2.3 Out of Area Health Assessments

Table 3 – Health assessments performed on behalf of Sunderland for children and young people placed outside of area

Assessment	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
IHA	0	1	4		
In timescales		0%	75%		
RHA	14	10	7		
In timescales	90%	50%	86%		

- 1 IHA was out of timescale by one day.
- 1 RHA was out of timescale due to the young person refusing to engage at the 1st appointment that was offered.

3.0 Health Passports

- 11 young people turned 18 years over quarter 3
- All engaged in their final health assessment.
- 18% received their health passport at the time of their 18th birthday.
- All passports have now been completed.

4.0 Dental Appointments

4.1 No additional data regarding dental appointments.

5.0 Service improvements

5.1 The development of the regional Health Passport App is ongoing.

5.2 Health Assessment feedback project: the health team have attended both Change Councils to seek young people's views. Telephone feedback is to be

gathered from Young People following their health assessments to get feedback from Young People not part of the Change Council. (I've had no further update of this since the previous Corporate Parenting Meeting).

- 5.3 Dental: regional scoping is currently being carried out to look at dental pathways. I have liaised with PHE and this has been escalated – PHE have feedback that they are exploring who can support with this.

6.0 Recommendations and Actions

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the content of the report.

Jo Morgan
Designated Nurse Cared for Children
Sunderland CCG

Cumbria, Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Trust
Sunderland Children Cared for Report

February 2022 (October 2021 – December 2021)

Sunderland Children Cared for Report. October 2021 – December 2021

1. Activity

	Oct	Nov	Dec
Referrals	10	19	11
Referrals discharged unseen	0	2	5

Referrals discharged unseen

The following provides narrative in relation to reasons why the young people were not seen by the service.

October

All referrals were seen.

November

Referral reviewed, established it was a temporary placement from out of area. Agreed ICTS to offer crisis intervention if required, discharged from CYPS as no mental health treatment required at this time.

Referral reviewed and as child was placed from out of area, and long-term planning seemed uncertain, agreed ICTS to offer crisis intervention if required.

December

Referral received in to ICTS for an out of area young person who had been placed in a temporary placement, crisis support provided.

Referral received in to ICTS, young person temporarily placed from out of area, ICTS provided crisis intervention before young person moved closer to home.

Young person referred but despite several attempts to assess, they declined to engage with CYPS.

Young person referred but declined to engage with services, support and advice provided to professionals.

Young person referred with little information, attempts to gain further details around care planning were not successful. Agreed that once in receipt of details, an appointment could be offered, but no contact could be established.

2. Referral Urgency

All cases referred to CYPs either by phone, fax, and email or in written format are reviewed on a daily basis by senior members of the clinical team. The purpose of this initial review is in order to signpost any cases that have been inappropriately referred and to ensure any cases that require an emergency or urgent response are highlighted and actioned immediately.

CYPS Intensive Community Treatment Service (ICTS) offer a 24/7 service 365 days per year. ICTS will respond to the young person via telephone to offer a telephone triage within 1 hour. Any young person requiring an emergency appointment will be offered an appointment within 4 hours of referral being received and for urgent referrals the young person will be offered an appointment within 24 hours.

	Oct	Nov	Dec
Emergency	0	0	0
Urgent	2	3	5
Total	2	3	5

3. Waiting Times (All Referrals)

Current Waiting Times to Treatment are detailed below. (Treatment is defined as second attended contact)

	Oct (Weeks)	Nov (Weeks)	Dec (Weeks)
Wait to Treatment	3	3	5

Referrals

Since end March 2020 when COVID restrictions were put in place, the service saw a reduction in referrals, however this has started to increase again.

During COVID the service continued to accept all referrals and complete assessments and interventions. New Ways of Working were identified and have been fully embraced by the Team to facilitate contact with young people and their families / carers such as online consultation and phone contact. Face to face contacts have now been reestablished, and the service has extended its clinic hours to facilitate demand.

Children who are Cared for Pathway

This Pathway specifically focusses on two areas, direct work therapeutic work with the young people and non direct work with Foster Carers, which includes Psychoeducational Group Interventions, Consultation and Training to Foster Families in conjunction with Together for Children and continued dedicated scaffolding support to Residential Homes in Sunderland.

Young People are offered priority appointments within CYPS and following assessment will access treatment in a timely manner. The Pathway is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of nursing, psychology, child psychotherapy and psychiatry.

The team have all completed specific formal training to deliver psychological therapies to meet the needs of the young people and their carers and deliver treatment and intervention within a trauma focused pathway.

4. Current Caseload

	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Children Cared After	98	93	87
Total CYPS Caseload	1723	1708	1651
Total % Children After	5.7%	5.4%	5.3%

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD	
DATE:	7th March 2022
REPORT AUTHOR:	Linda Mason HEAD TEACHER Virtual School
SUBJECT:	Head Teacher's Report
PURPOSE:	FOR INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with updated information about the education of cared for children since the last report on 17th January 2022, a period of 5 school weeks. Therefore, this is a short update report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Board is requested to receive the report for information

3. Context - Cohort and Characteristics

Currently as of 28 February 2022 (report written) we have 561 Cared for Children aged 0 – 18 a reduction of 3 compared to 564 Cared for Children in November 2021.

Historical cohorts (when report written)

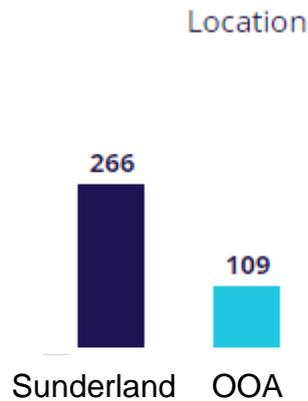
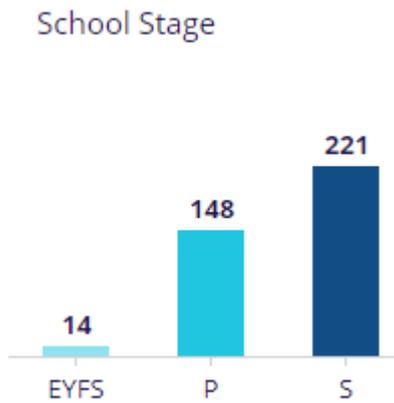
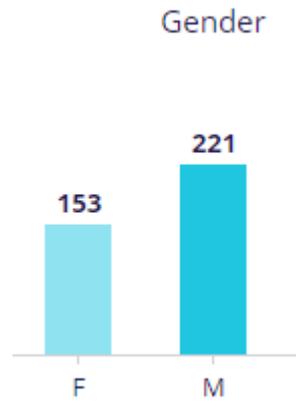
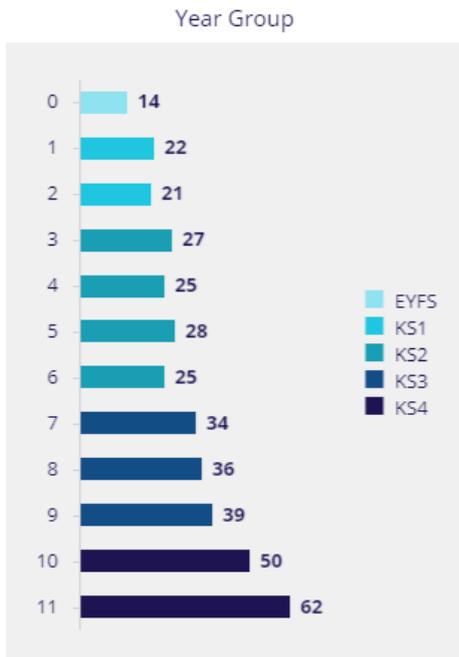
February	2022	561
November	2021	564
September	2021	586
April	2021	625
January	2021	633

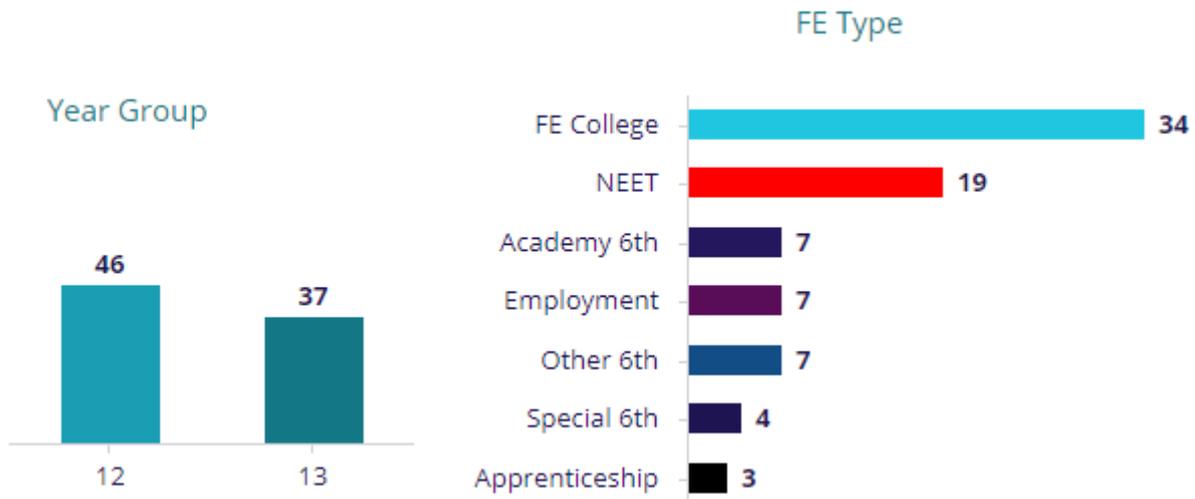
3.1 COHORT

Source Virtual School Data February 2022

Of the 561 :

- 90 are Pre School (0 – 4+yrs)
- 40 attend nursery or early years provision (2/3 and 3/4yr)
- 389 are school age Reception to year 11
- 82 are Post 16





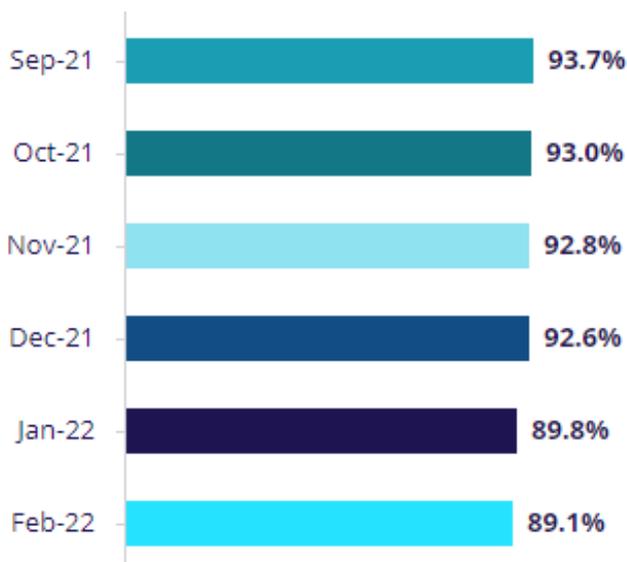
4 Progress and Achievement

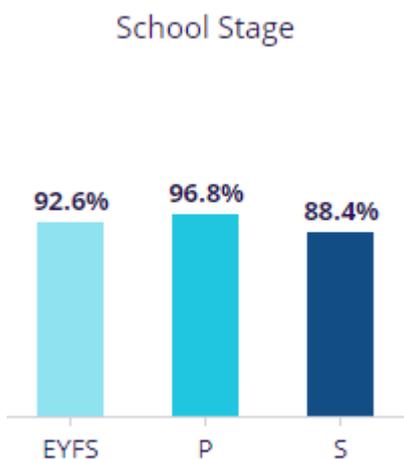
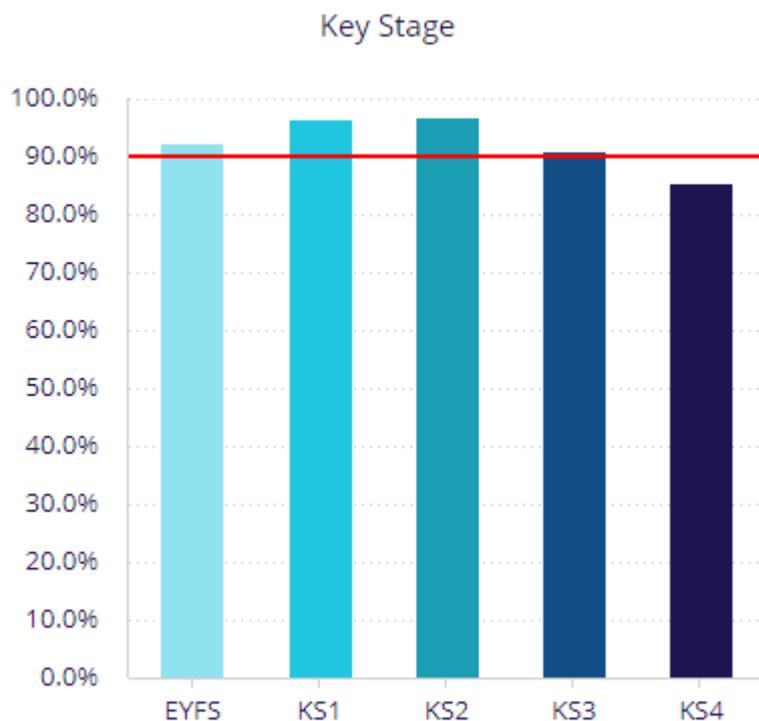
There is no progress and achievement data to report.

5 Attendance and Absence monitoring

Current attendance of cared for children for September 2021 – 18 February 2022 is **92%**, this is better than all children nationally and better than the attendance of vulnerable children nationally.

National attendance for this period is 90.3% and 83% for vulnerable children (with a social worker)





Attendance in state-funded primary schools was **93.2%** and was **91%** for pupils with a social worker (DfE data). **Attendance for Sunderland cared for children is better than the national data for all children and for vulnerable children with a social worker.**

Attendance in state-funded secondary schools was **87.3%** and was **75%** for pupils with a social worker (DFE data). **Attendance for Sunderland cared for children is better than the national data for all children and for vulnerable children with a social worker**

Nationally Covid has had a significant impact on attendance this academic year.

The Virtual School monitors attendance daily through Welfare Call and contacts carers to ensure attendance at school is a key priority if concerns arise. Analysis of the detail behind the data occurs termly and virtual school staff work closely with schools, carers and social workers to ensure attendance is improved.

6 Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions

Autumn 2021/Spring Term 2022 (18 February 2022)			
Permanent Exclusions	0	0	0
Fixed Term Suspensions	33 episodes	80 days	18 children

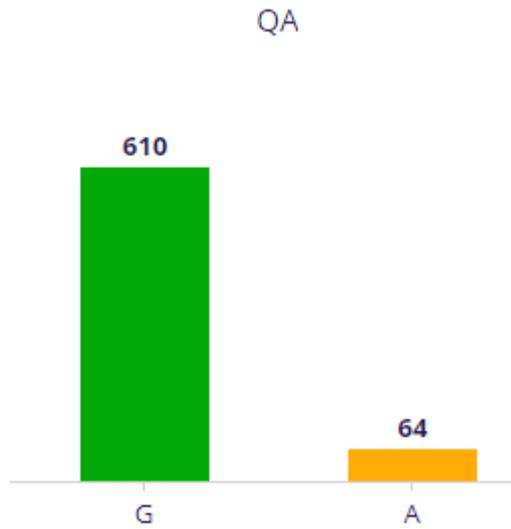
- 8 Cared for Child received more than 1 exclusion
- 3 live in a children's home
- 6 have an EHCP
- 8 attend specialist educational provision
- 7 receive SEN support
- 1 attends a Pupil Referral Unit
- 5 currently live outside of Sunderland LA

The Virtual School works closely with schools, carers and social workers when suspensions occur to understand the antecedents and to ensure appropriate support and plans are put in place to prevent further suspensions. This includes the use of the SEND ranges to ensure needs are identified and resources are put in place, but also referrals to other agencies are aligned such as CYPS, CAMHS for example. The EPEP should include targets related to any social and emotional or mental health needs.

7 EPEPS

Quality assurance continues to be a key area of focus this year. Each section of the EPEP is assessed and this is fed back to schools using a RAG rating. If there are concerns about the quality of the EPEP a meeting is held to consider how it can be improved. Virtual School staff are also involved in moderation exercises to ensure a consistency of judgements. This will be expanded in future training with Designated Teachers.

90.5% of EPEPS have been quality assured as Good and 9.5% as Amber.
(2021/22 up to 18th February 2022)



Current EPEP Statutory Compliance is 98.5%.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9 CONTACT

Name: Linda Mason
Position: Head Teacher Virtual School
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Tel: 07900 350502