

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

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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

Performance at Quarter 3, 2012/13 - National Data taken from 2011/12 DfE Statistical Release													Comparators						
	Ref	Definition	2008/09 Outturn	2009/10 Outturn	2010/11 Outturn	2011/12 Outturn	3-Year Average	12/13 Target: ²		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 Neighbourhood
								Target	In-line?	Q1	Q2	Q3							
Placements		Number of Looked After Children ^S	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 ^S	-	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 ^S	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 ^S	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 ^C	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 ^C	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 ^C	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) ^C	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) ^C	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 ^C	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 ^C	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) ^C	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 ^C	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 ^C	2.6	1.2	2.0	2.8	-	-	-	1.4	1.8	N/A		-	6.9%	-	9.4%	12	-

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

² 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)

^R Rolling year data

^S quarter end Snapshot data

^C 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
Sunderland	73	390	71
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 31st 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 31st 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%)

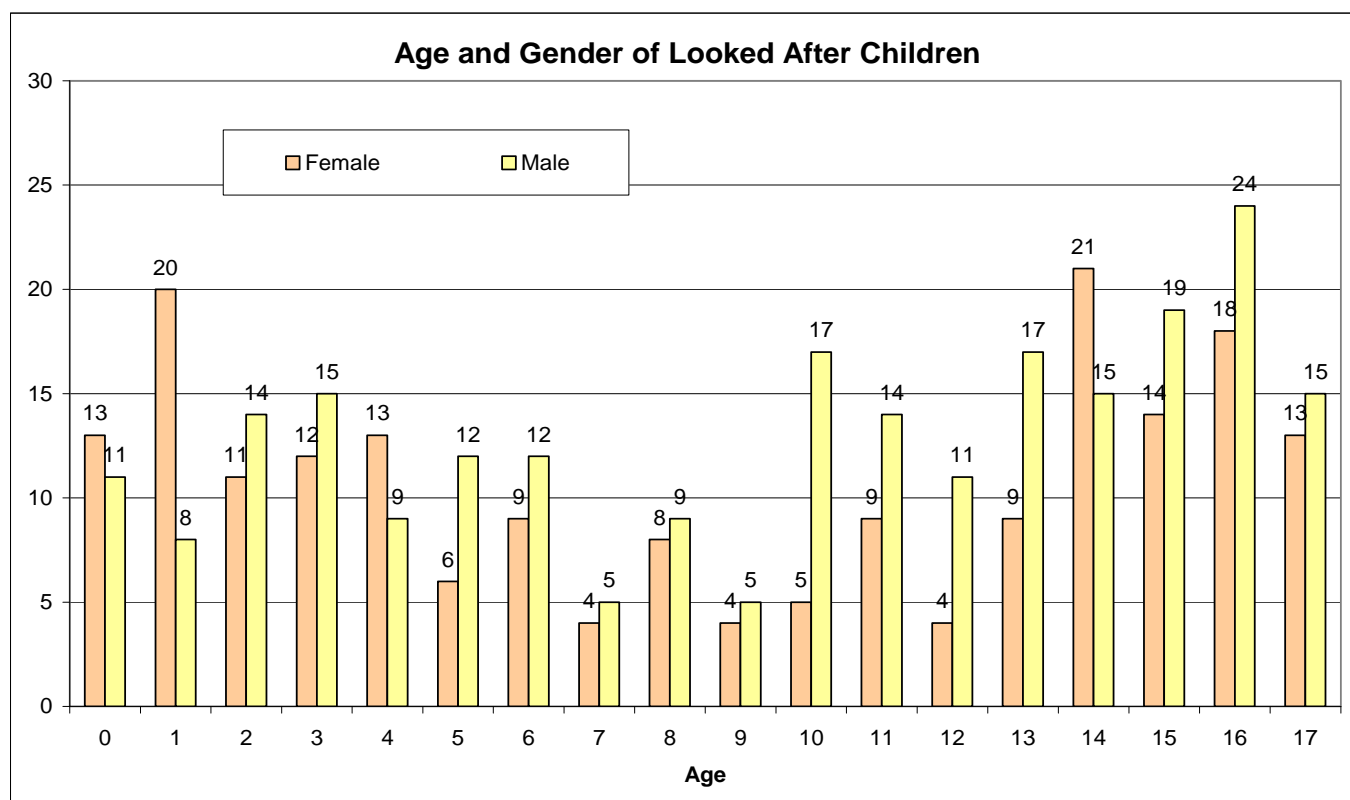
	Foster Placement Inside LA	Foster Placement Outside LA	Children's Home Inside LA	Children's Home Outside LA	Placed for Adoption	Placed with Parents	Independent Living	Other
LA Adoption					14			
Adoption Org					1			
OLA Adopters					5			
LA Foster Care	179	78						2
Relative/Friend Foster Care	39	8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

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 31st 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.



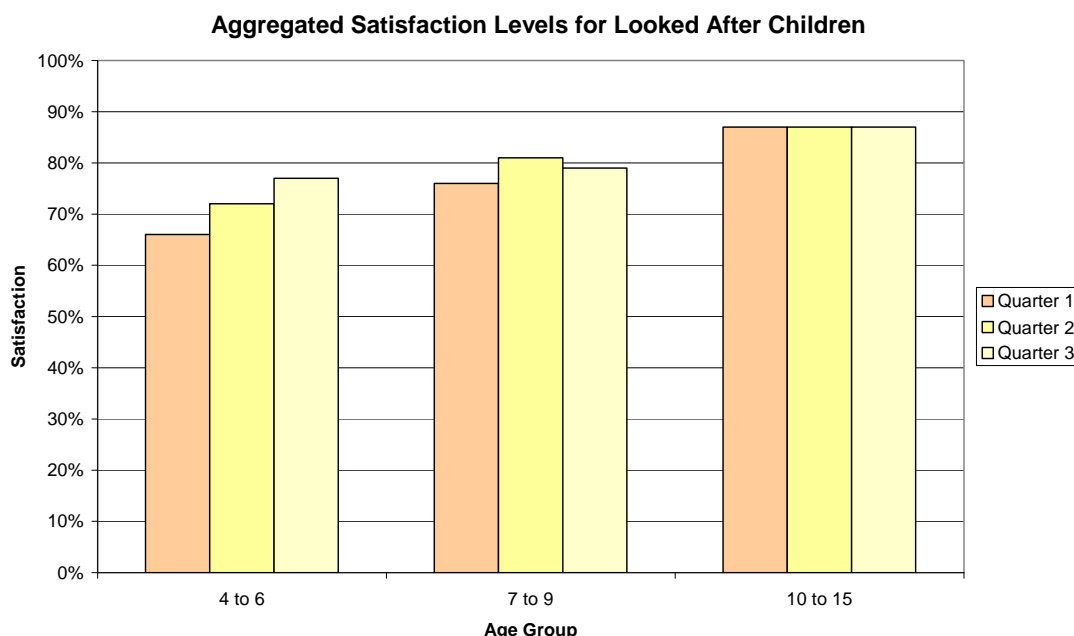
	Female	Male	Total
White British	181	222	403
Any Other Mixed Background (White & Any Other)	2	2	4
Other Ethnic Group Chinese	3		3
Asian Or Asian British Bangladeshi	1	1	2
Black Or Black British African		2	2
Black Or Black British		2	2
Not Yet Defined	1	1	2
Undeclared/Unknown	2		2
White Any Other White Background	2		2
White & Asian		1	1
White & Black Caribbean		1	1
Other Ethnic Group - Other	1		1
Total	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 31st 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

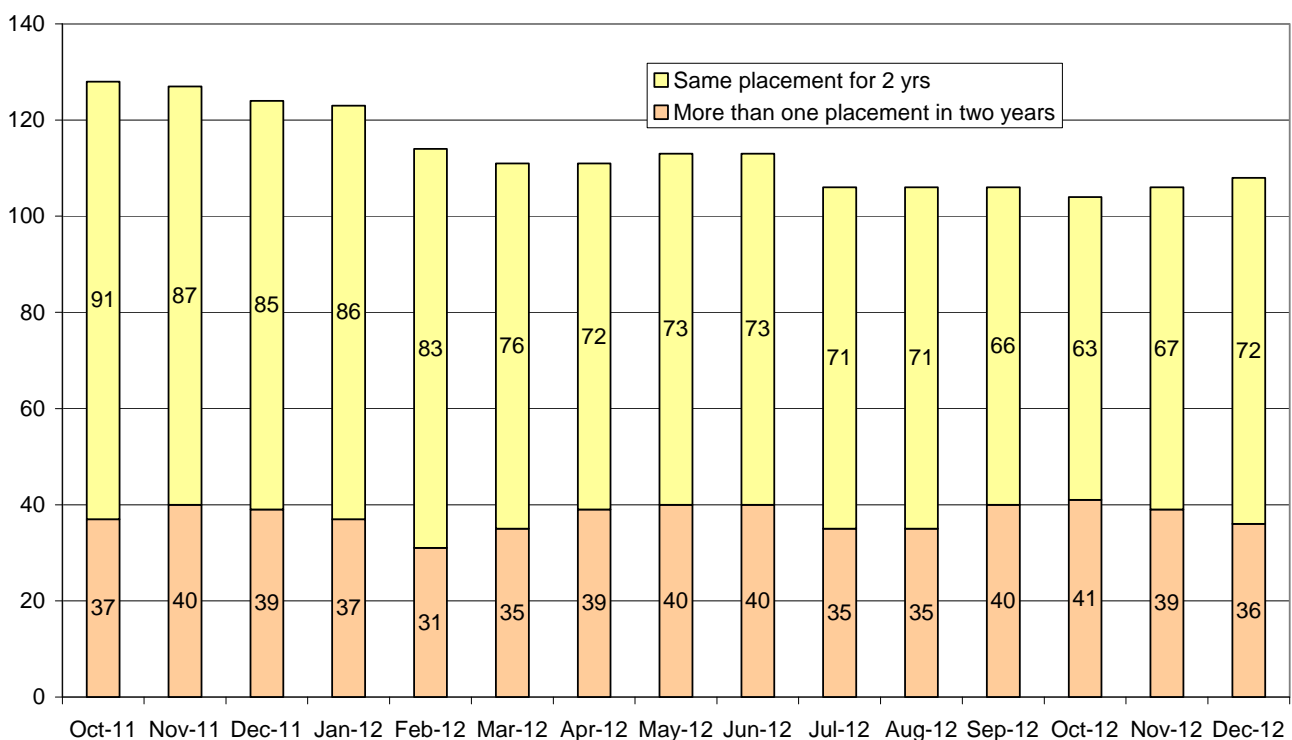
Fewer children have unstable placements compared to a year ago, although a smaller cohort means a reduced percentage. More children with stable placements have left care or turned 16.

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 31st 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

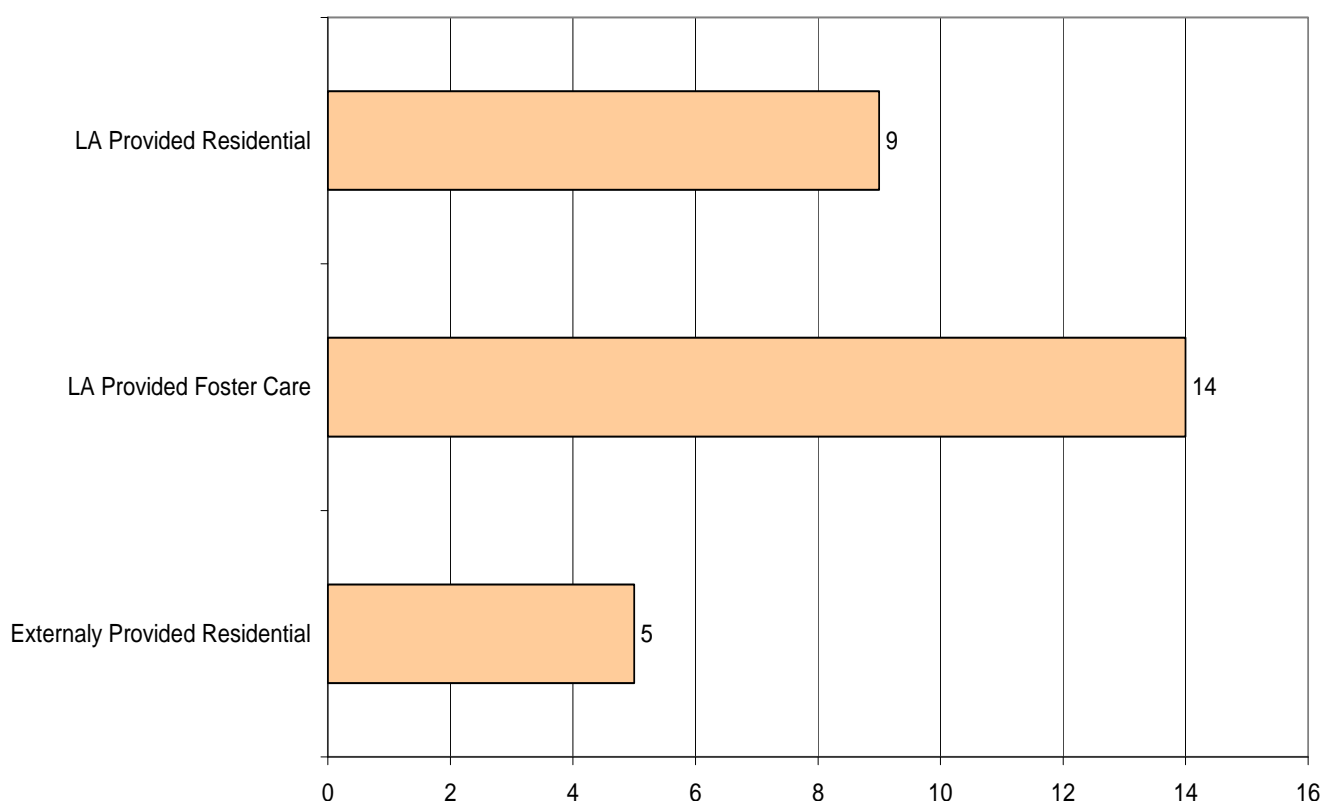
Long Term Stability: Under 16s Looked After for over 2.5 years



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 31st 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 30th 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
Total	16	3	19

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
Total	19

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
Total	36

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.

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

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 20th and 21st 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 19th birthdays since April. One young person was supported by the Learning Disabilities team.

During the 4 months around their 19th 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.

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

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 19th 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.

EET Situation	Total
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
Total	29

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 19th, 20th and 21st 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 31st 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
Sunderland LAC	78%	56%	67%
Sunderland All Pupils	86%	82%	90%
North East LAC	71%	64%	71%
England LAC	67%	57%	71%
England All Pupils	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
2012	78%	56%	67%	11%
2011	86%	71%	86%	0
2010	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
Sunderland LAC	36%	36%	36%
Sunderland All Pupils	81%	86%	86%
North East LAC	45%	53%	54%
England LAC	50%	60%	56%
England All Pupils	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
2012	36%	36%	36%	27%
2011	17%	42%	25%	17%
2010	64%	64%	64%	15%
2009	42%	42%	47%	n/a
2008	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
Sunderland LAC	50%
Sunderland All Pupils	89.7%
North East LAC	50.3%
England LAC	36.8%
England All Pupils	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
2012	50%
2011	34.4%
2010	41.9%
2009	27%
2008	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
Sunderland	14.2%
North East	12.2%
England	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
Sunderland LAC	24.6%	48.5%
Sunderland All Pupils (October 2012)	2.6%	16.6%
North East LAC	29.1%	42.1%
England LAC	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 31st 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 31st 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
Immunisations	95.8%	88.4%
Dental checks	88.5%	77.2%
Annual Health Assessments	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
Immunisations	88.4%	92.9%	83.1%
Dental checks	77.2%	88.8%	82.4%
Annual Health Assessments	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 31st 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.