

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN PERFORMANCE UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

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

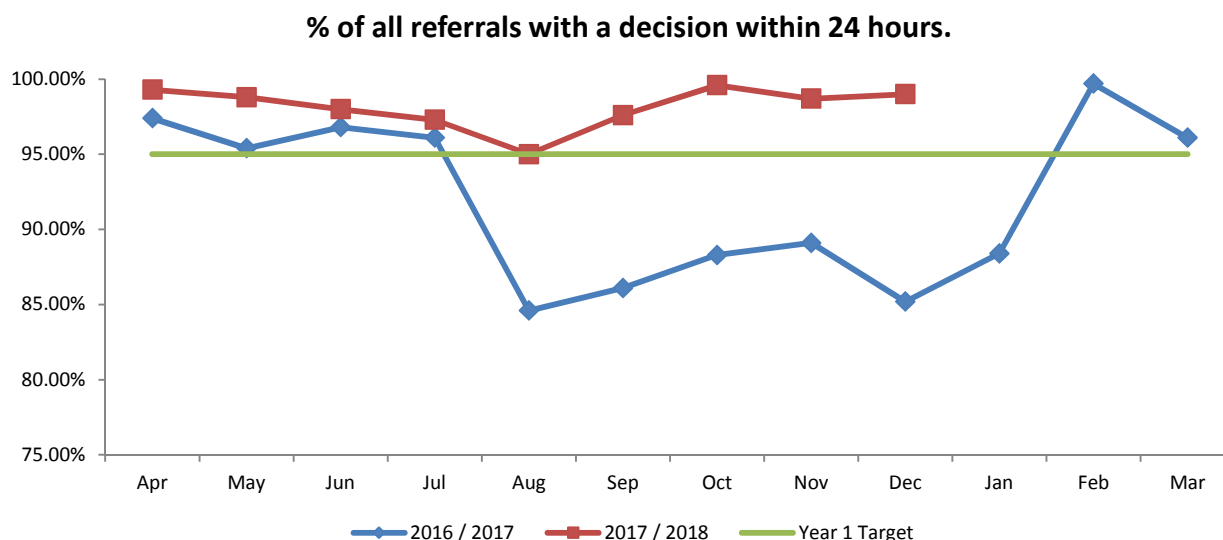
2. Background

- 2.1 The guide to contractual and governance arrangements has been shared with members and outlines the governance and how the company will be held to account for delivery/performance.
- 2.2 The Performance Framework arrangements under the Service Contract are described within the aforementioned guide and were developed in consultation with elected members to put arrangements in place which provide assurance that the relevant statutory duties and functions of the Council are being met and that services are being delivered to meet the agreed requirements.
- 2.3 The contractual and performance of Together for Children is monitored on a monthly basis through the Operational Commissioning Group and the Chief Executives Performance Clinic.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The Operational Commissioning Group and Chief Executives Clinic are meeting on a monthly basis to consider information and progress made.
- 3.2 Information contained within this report will include all 9 of the Key Performance Indicators, those supporting measures that are not meeting target and some areas of management information. The tolerance levels for each of the measures will be included within the report.
- 3.3 Each graph will include current Sunderland Performance, the target for the year and Statistical Neighbour and National Rates for the measure where this is available.
- 3.4 The population figures used to calculate the rate in some of the measures are the number of children and young people in Sunderland aged 0 – 17 (54,260) based upon the latest mid-year estimate figures, currently 2016
- 3.5 The performance information contained within the report relates to the period April 2017 – December 2017.

3.6 Key Performance Indicator 1 - % of referrals with a decision within 24 hours Tolerance 85 – 100%

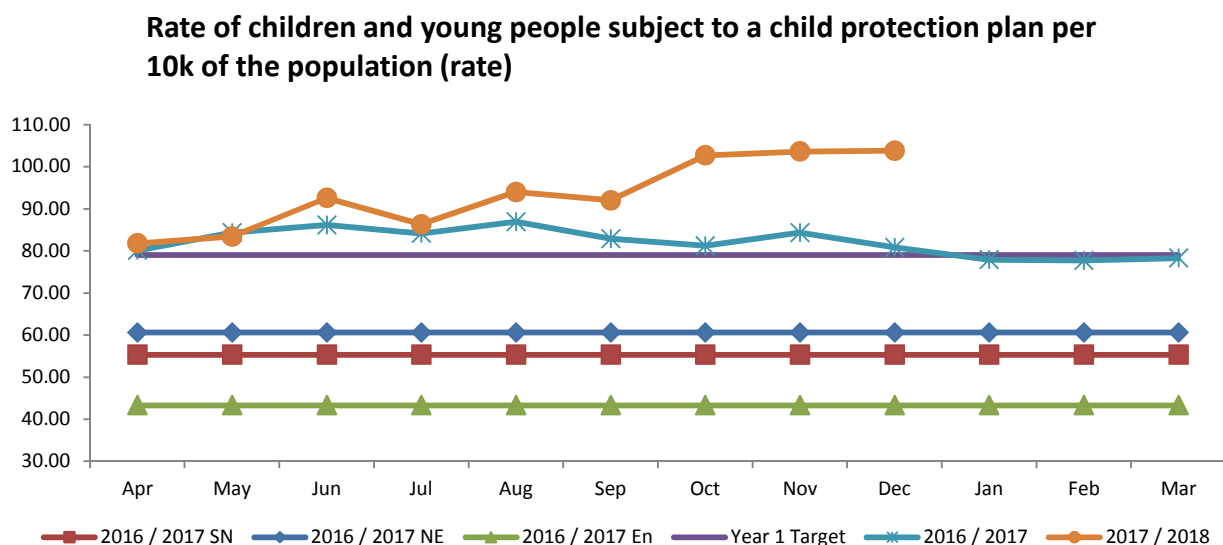


The timeliness of decision making within 24 hours continues to be maintained and exceed target at 99% in December 2017.

The number of referrals into the service has increased in October (449) and November (447) but has decreased in December to 312.

This measure is achieving the target of 95% for 2017/18.

3.7 Supporting Measure 1.1 - Rate of Children and Young People subject to Child Protection plan per 10k of the population Tolerance 69 - 89



There has been a continued increase in the rate of Children and Young People subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10k of population from 92.0 in September 2017 to 102.7 and 103.8 in December 2017; this rate remains outside of target and tolerance.

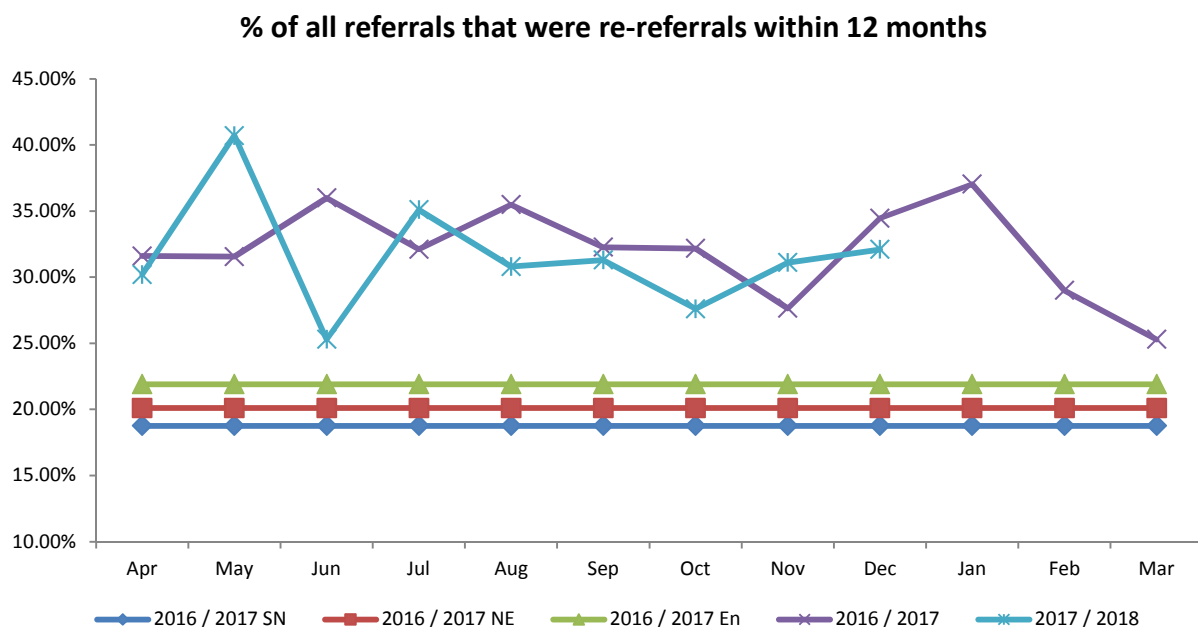
The rate reflects an increase in the number of Children and Young People on a Child Protection Plan from 499 in September 2017 to 563 in December 2017.

Due to the continuing increase in demand over a number of months, the Operational Commissioning Group have requested an investigation and analysis is undertaken, reviewing all those cases where a child has become subject to a Child Protection Plan in the last three months. The audit should breakdown whether the child was open to children's Social Care pre Child Protection Plan, was not known to children's Social Care, or historically known to children's Social Care.

The audit and findings are expected back at the March Operational Commissioning Group.

This measure is not meeting target and is outside of tolerance range.

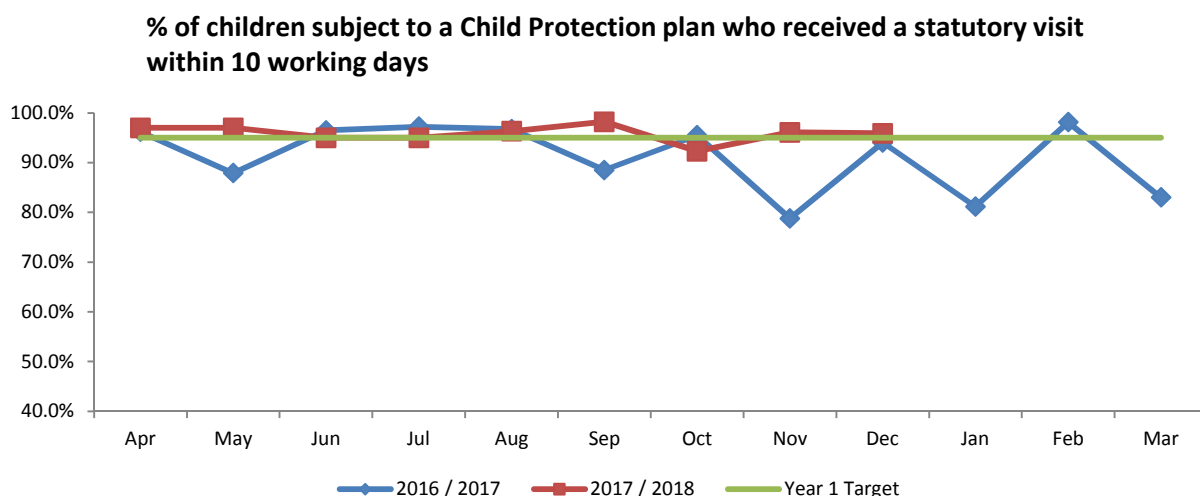
3.8 Management Information 1.6 - % of all referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months No target or tolerance set



Throughout November and December 17 there has been an increase in the rate of referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months to 31.1% then 32.1%. As there were less referrals received in December compared with November the actual number of re-referrals received in December has reduced from 139 to 100.

The re-referral action plan continues to be embedded within the service and an updated position against activity and progress is expected back to the Operational Commissioning Group in March 2018.

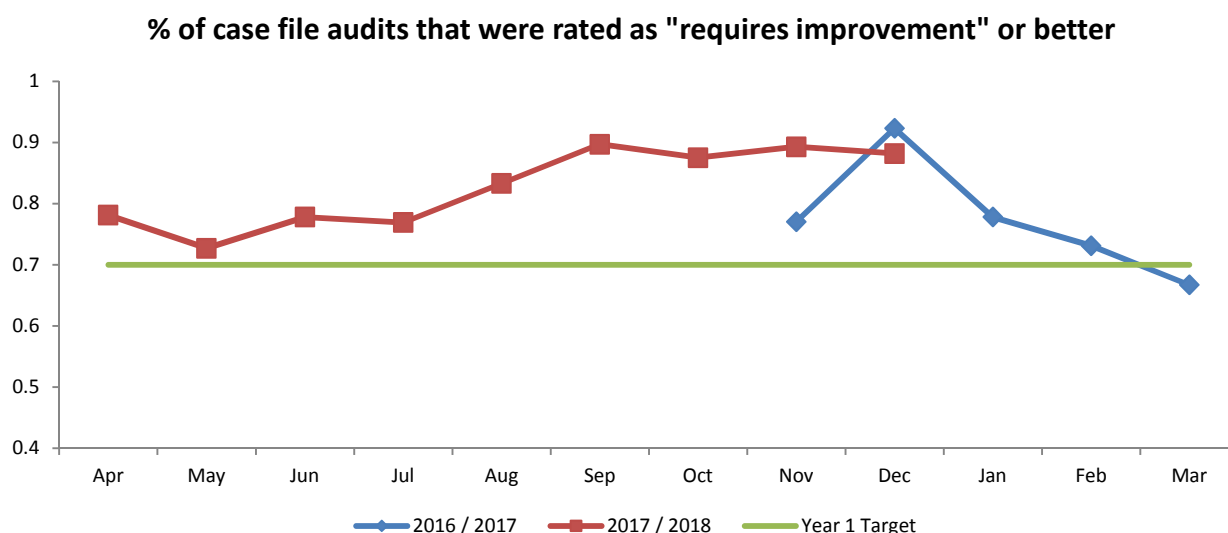
3.9 Key Performance Indicator 2 - % of Children and Young People subject to Child Protection plan who received a statutory visit within 10 working days
Tolerance 85 – 100%

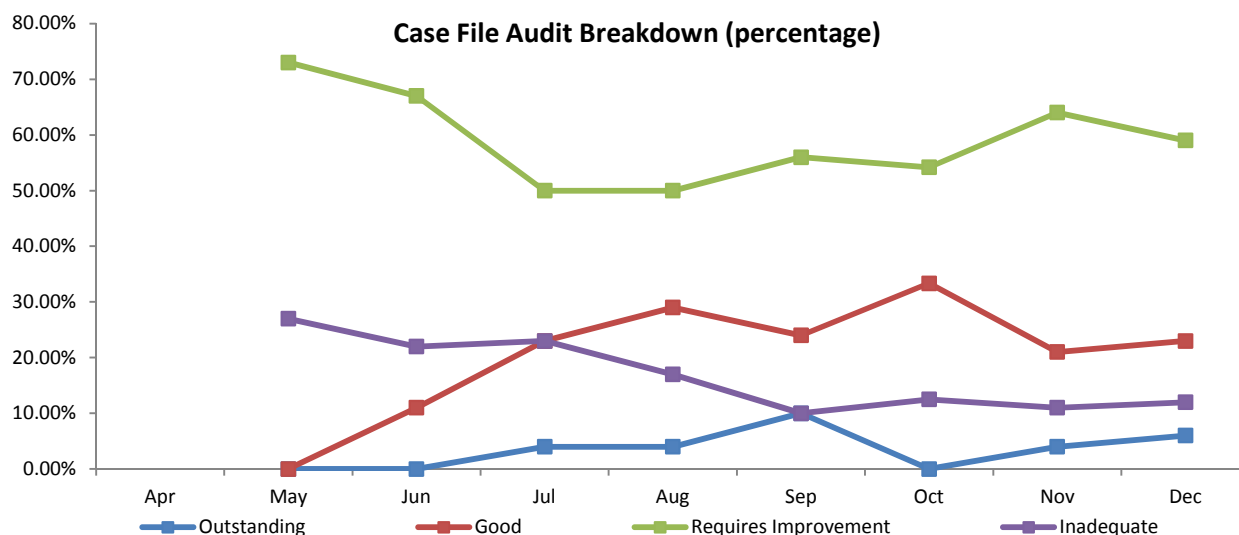


After a brief dip in performance in October 2017 performance against this measure has improved in November and December 2017, with the latest data reporting 95.9% of visits being completed within timescales.

This measure is achieving the target of 95% for 2017/18.

3.10 Key Performance Indicator 3 - % of casefile audits that were rated as 'requires improvement' or better
Tolerance 60 – 100%



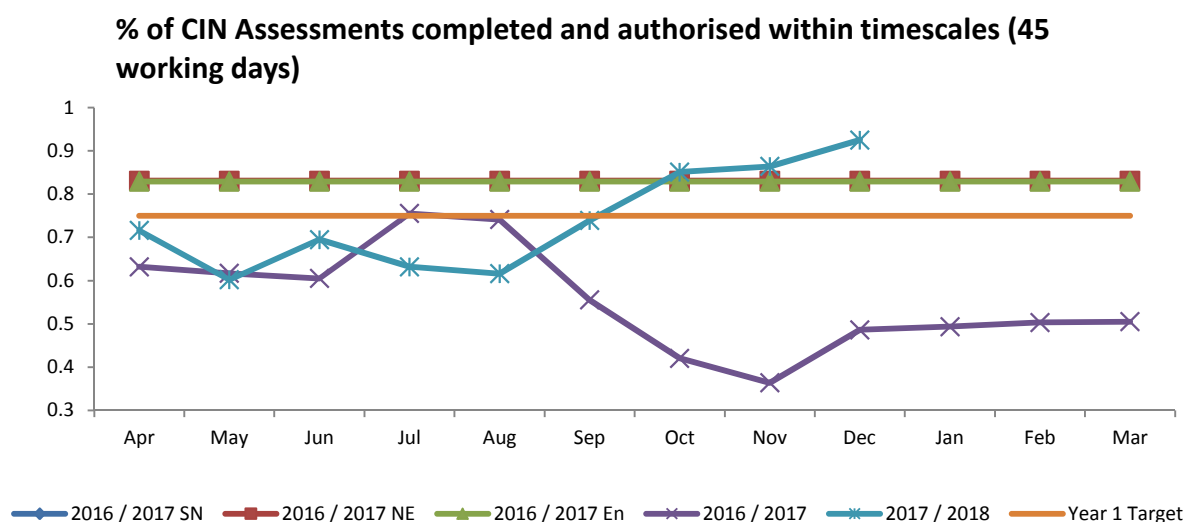


During April – December 17 221 case files audits have been completed across the service of which 174 (78.7%) were rated as requires improvement or better. The latest figures for December are 17 audits completed, with 1 outstanding, 4 found to be good, 10 requiring improvement and 2 found to be inadequate.

In month and year to date performance continues to exceed the target of 70%.

3.11 Supporting Measure 3.1 - % of Child In Need assessments completed and authorised in timescales within 45 working days

Tolerance 65 – 100%

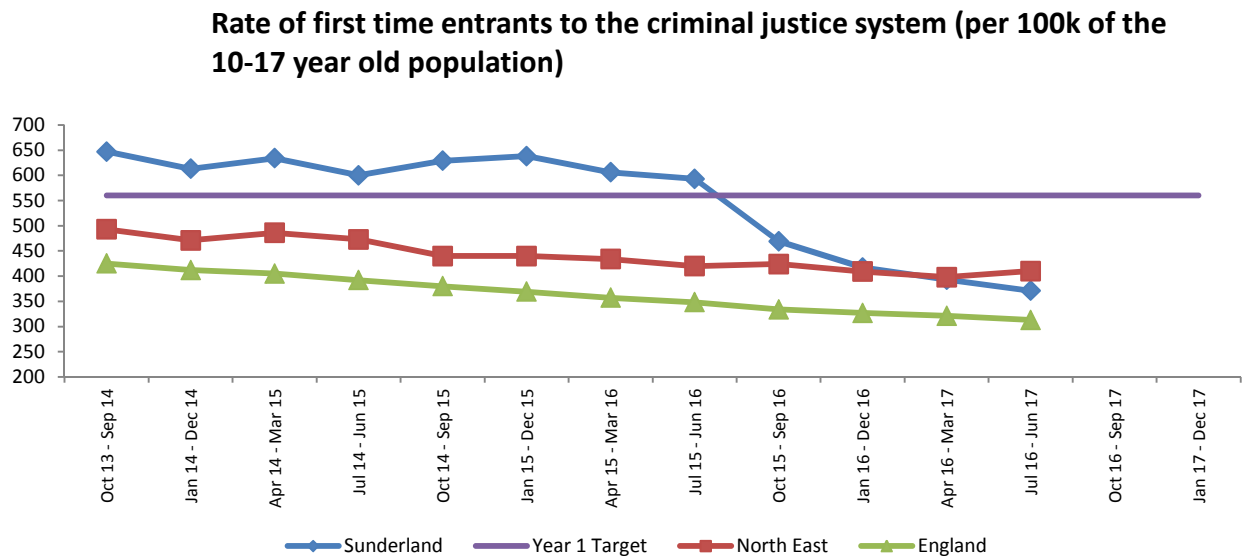


Child in Need assessments completed in timescales has increased in performance in November and December to 86.4% and 92.5% with the year to date figure at 73.5%.

Performance continues to improve further in this area with the compliance improvements and continued management of demand despite spikes in the numbers of referrals received.

Performance against this measure is now exceeding the target of 75%.

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

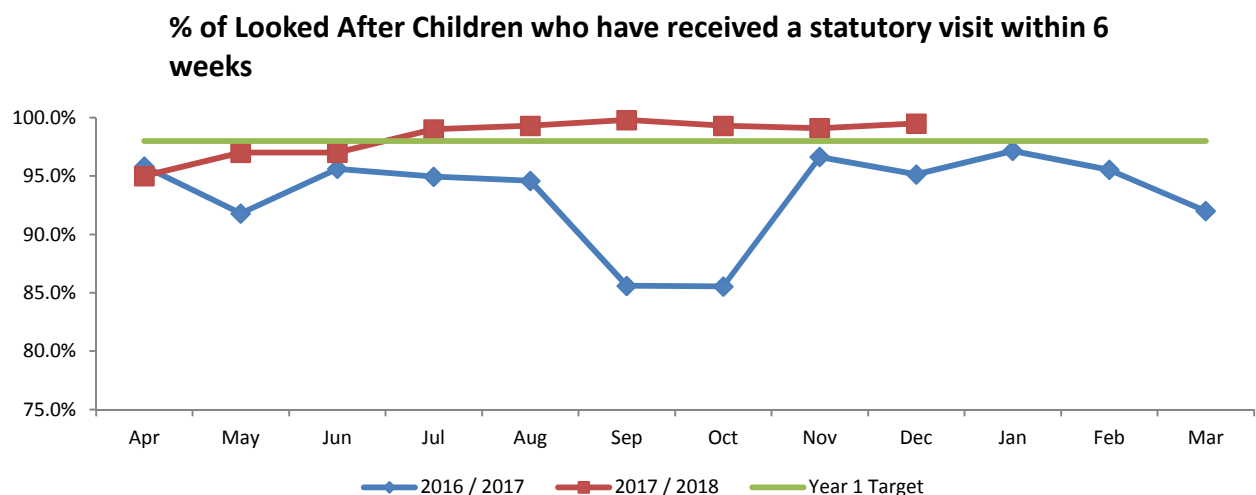


There is a data lag on this metric as the source of the data is the Police National Computer; data reflects the most recent publication as at August 2017

The rate of first time entrants has decreased over the last four reportable quarters up to June 2017 with the latest reported figures at 371 per 10k of the 10-17 years population. A further positive decrease from the 393 reported for the period April 2016 – March 2017.

Performance in this measure remains ahead of target of 560.

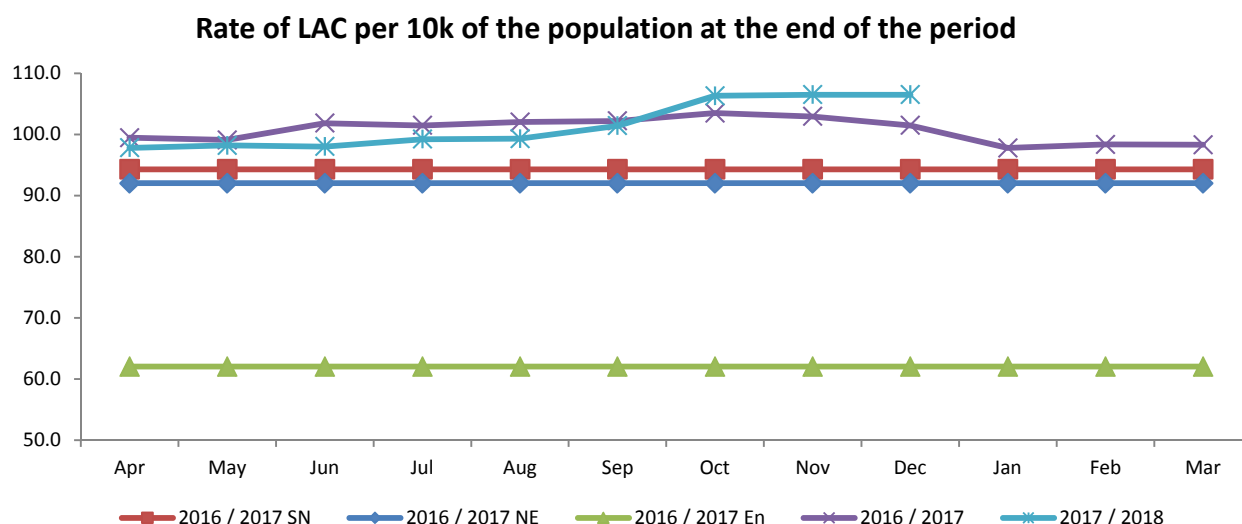
3.13 Key Performance Indicator 5 - % of Looked After Children who have received a statutory visit within 6 weeks (7 days newly Looked After Children)
Tolerance 95 – 100%



The % of Looked After Children who have received a statutory visit within 6 weeks has been maintained throughout November and December 2017 at 99.1% and 99.5%.

This measure continues to exceed the target of 98%

3.14 Management Information 5.19 Rate of Looked After Children at the end of the period No target or tolerance set



The rate of Looked After Children has continued at the higher rate seen in October. In December the rate of LAC per 10k of the population was 106.5 which is 578 children. This is the highest it has been since April 2016 and significantly higher than the latest figures available for our usual comparators. As at 31st March 2017 the average rate of Looked After Children for statistical neighbours is 94.3, the average for the North East is 92 and average for England 62.

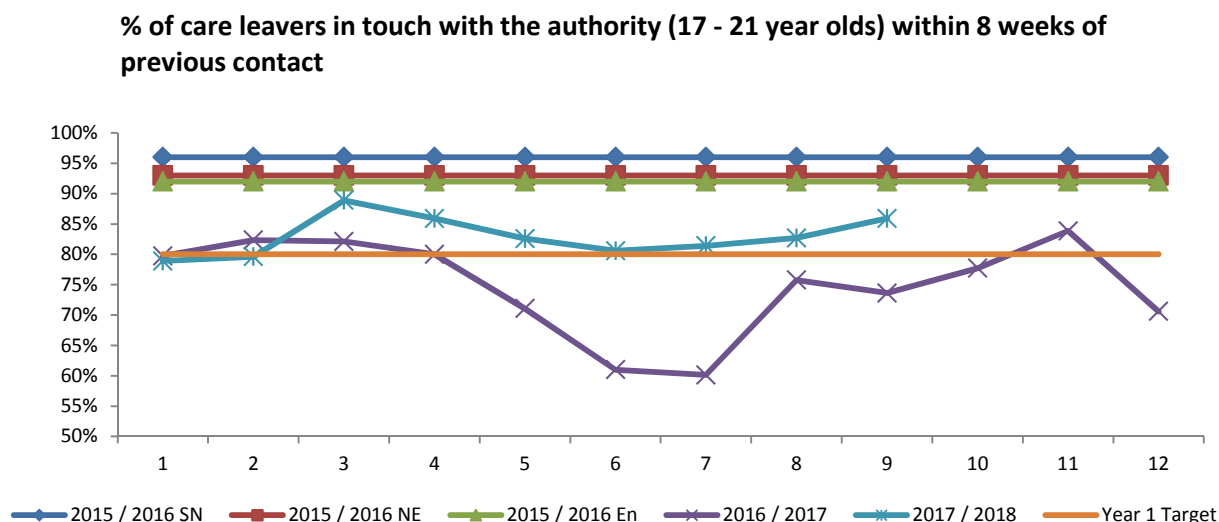
Due to the continuing increase in demand over a number of months, the Operational Commissioning Group had requested an audit of those children who had become Looked After over the last 3 months be undertaken, with the findings and recommendations reported back to Operational Commissioning Group.

The report was presented to February Operational Commissioning Group and is attached at Annex 1.

The key findings were:

- 76 children accommodated in September and October
- 63% of those accommodated were part of sibling groups
- 59% of the children accommodated were age 9 or under
- The majority of cases had management oversight in terms of the decision to accommodate
- 71% of those accommodated were already on a child in need or child protection plan
- 25% of those accommodated was due to a serious safeguarding incident that could not be predicted
- 80% of those accommodated were with Connected Carers or Internal Foster Carers
- There is a need for provision for a crisis intervention service to provide intensive support to families with complex needs where children are on the edge of care.
- There is a need for more or better access to services including Domestic Violence, health services and interventions.
- TfC are taking part in the 'Pause Approach', it is designed to break the destructive cycle of repeat removals by intervening at a point when women have no children in their care.
- Through the PLO process exploring the use of short-notice legal gateway meetings to ensure legal advice and direction is clearly recorded and shared with Service Managers to facilitate robust gatekeeping.
- Senior managers are liaising closely with colleagues in the CCG to ensure that discharge plans for children detained under the Mental Health Act support children to be safely rehabilitated home, wherever possible.

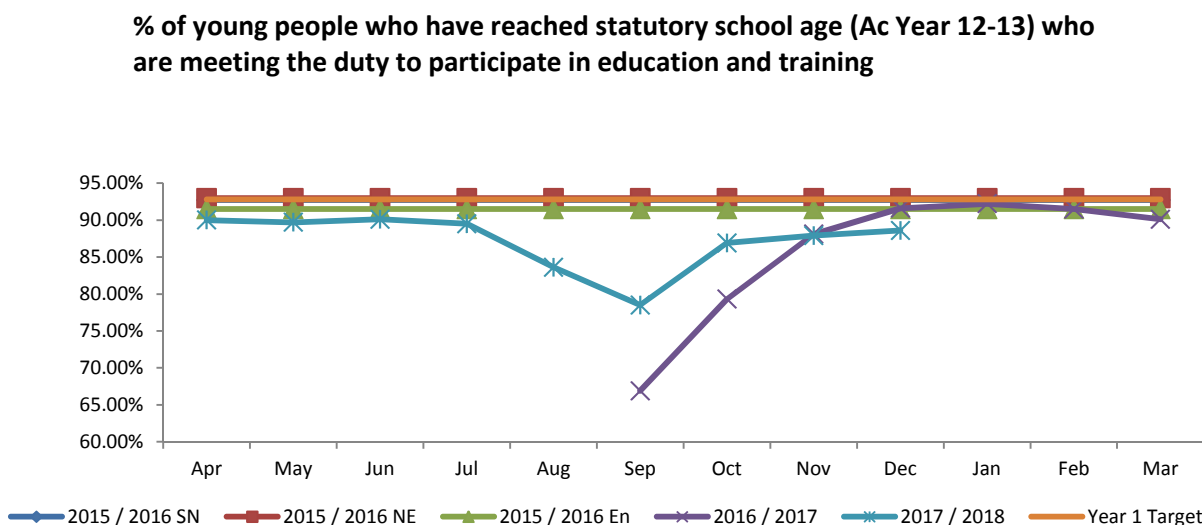
3.15 Key Performance Indicator 6 - % of care leavers in touch with Together for Children within 8 weeks of the previous contact age 17 – 21
Tolerance 72 – 100%



The % of care leavers in touch with Together for Children in December within 8 weeks of a previous contact is in December is 85.9% an improvement on recent performance. Whilst comparators are included in the graph within the report, they cannot be directly compared as published information is based upon a contact with Care Leavers within the 'birthday window' whereas TfC contact Care Leavers every 8 weeks which is a much more frequent contact.

Performance continues to be maintained against the target for this measure of 80%..

3.16 Key Performance Indicator 7 - % of young people who have reached statutory school age (academic year 12 – 13) who are meeting the duty to participate
Target 92.8%
Tolerance 92.3 – 100%



Cohort	December-17	
	Numbers	Percent
EET	5346	90.6%
NEET	196	3.3%
Unknown	356	6.0%
Meeting Duty	5220	88.5%
Cohort Total	5898	100%

Performance has continued to improve from 78.5% in September to 88.5% in December 2017; however this remains below target and outside of the tolerance limits.

The measurement of this data during the summer months is not an accurate indicator of performance. Further Education establishments do not count young people as having engaged until they have completed six weeks in placement, and there are delays in receiving a full data set from a wide range of schools, colleges and training providers, some of whom are outside Sunderland.

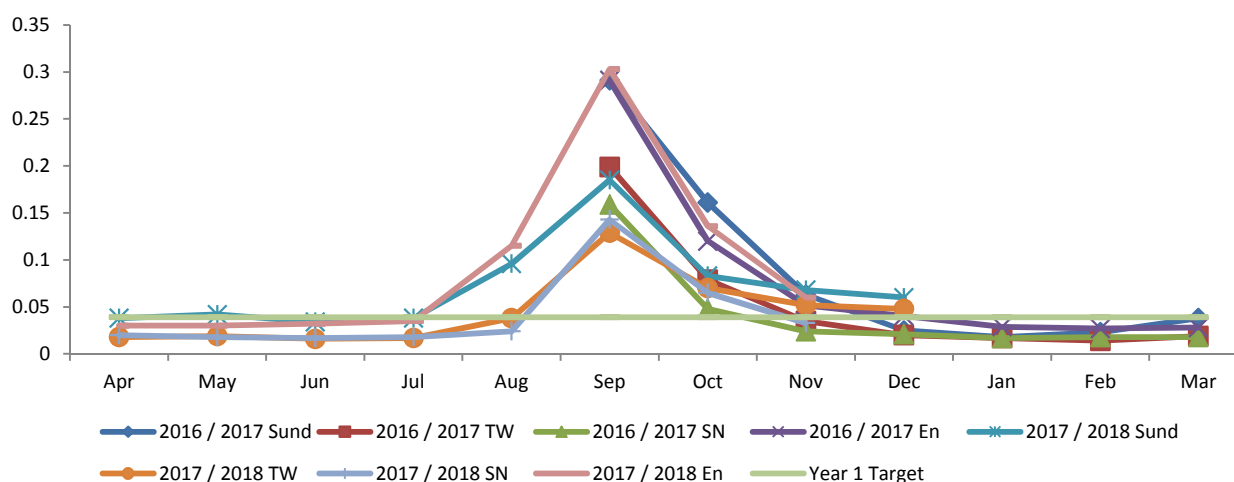
The key dates for measurement are November, December and January when students are settled in placement and this period is used nationally to measure performance. A significant improvement in this indicator is expected during these months.

The annual indicator will be received after February 2018.

This measure is below tolerance and outside of target of 92.8%.

3.17 **Supporting Measure 7.1 % of young people who have reached statutory school age (ac yr 12-13) whose status is unknown** **Target 3.9%** **Tolerance 0 – 3.9%**

% of 16-17 year olds with Not Known status

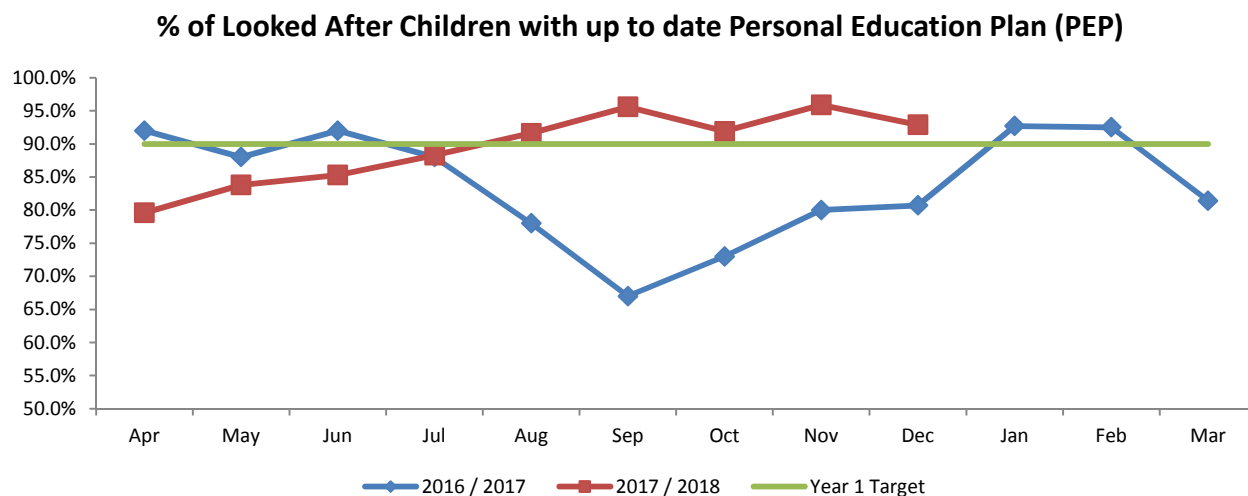


The % of 16-17 year olds with a Not Known NEET status has improved from 18.5% in September to 6% in December, however it still remains outside of target and tolerance.

As per KPI 7, this needs to be monitored over the next few months to ensure performance improves as expected.

This measure is not meeting target and is outside of tolerance.

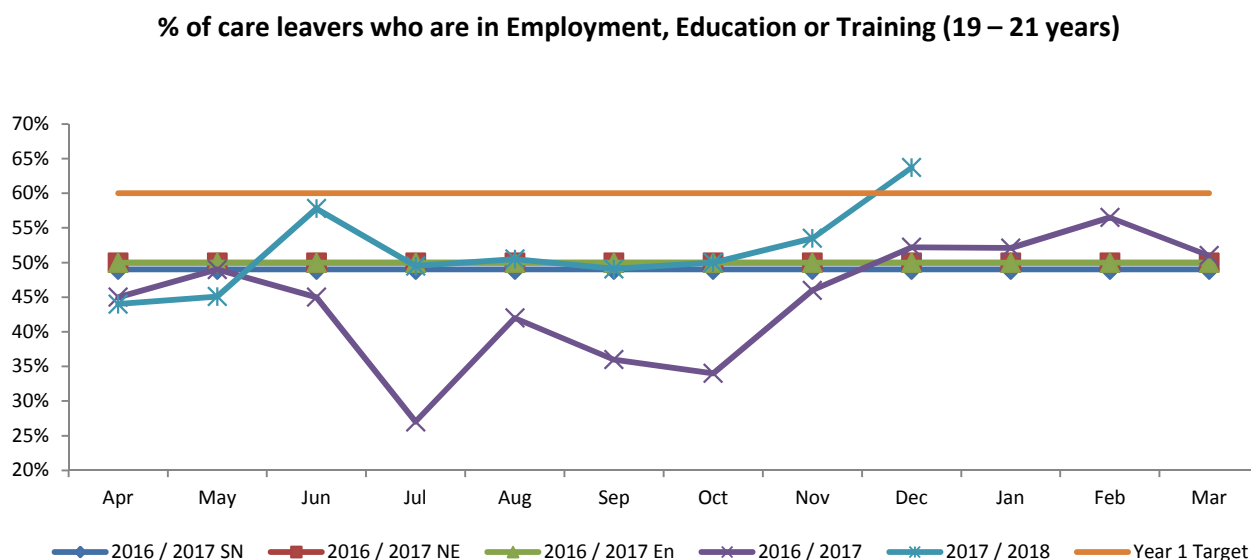
3.18 Key Performance Indicator 8 - % of Looked After Children with an up to date Personal Education Plan
Tolerance 81 – 100%



The performance for this indicator continues to maintain improvements seen with 92.9% of children having an up to date Personal Education Plan.

This measure is continues to exceed the target set of 90%.

3.19 Supporting Measure - 8.1 % of care leavers (aged 19-21) who are in Employment, Education or Training
Tolerance 40 – 100%

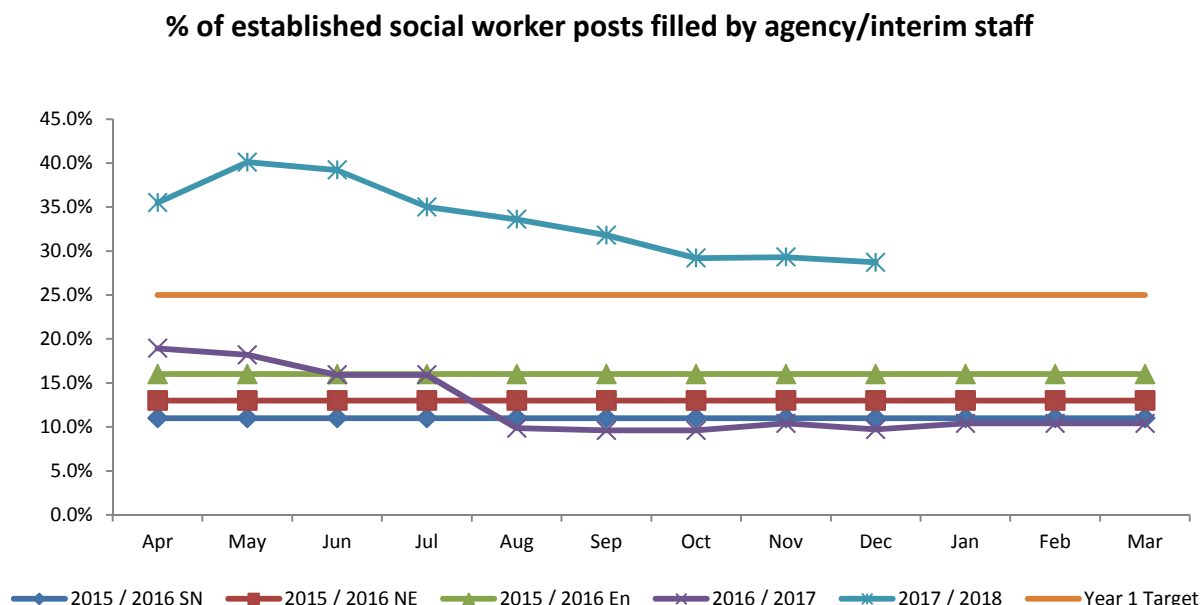


Performance against this measure has improved significantly in December 2017 to 63.7% of care leavers being in employment, education and training. This performance is exceptional when compared with average statistical neighbour (48%), regional (50%) and England (50%) averages.

It is acknowledged that this % will be affected by both the numbers in the cohort which will change each month as well as the performance of being 'in touch' with the young person within 8 weeks.

Performance has now exceeded the target for this measure at 60%.

3.22 Key Performance Indicators 9 - % of established Social Work posts filled by agency/interim staff Tolerance 25 – 27.5%



Performance against target has improved slightly from the October position of 29.2% to 28.7% in December 2017.

The performance report % is based upon a permanent structure of 151.8 full time equivalents social work posts within Children's Safeguarding.

In December there were three actual permanent Social Worker starts, as well as one Advanced Practitioner. There was also one permanent Social Worker that left the service.

There are currently six Social Care appointments awaiting clearances and 2 new starters scheduled for January and March 2018, respectively.

There are 2 live recurring vacancies for Social Workers in Assessment and Localities. Four vacancies have closed and will be processed for shortlisting in January 2018, and there are two vacancies which are currently at interview stage.

There is a Social Care open day which will be planned for February 2018 to target all Social Care recruitment. TfC continue to promote social care careers pages through targeted recruitment adverts on social media and through contribution at regional workforce groups.

This measure remains below target and outside of tolerance.

4. Recommendations

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

5. Background Papers

Guide to Governance and Contractual Arrangements