

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)

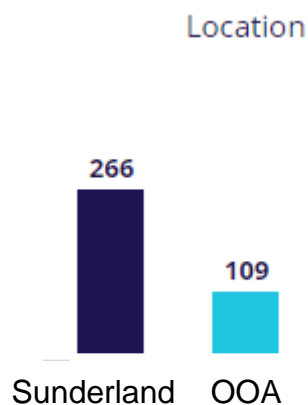
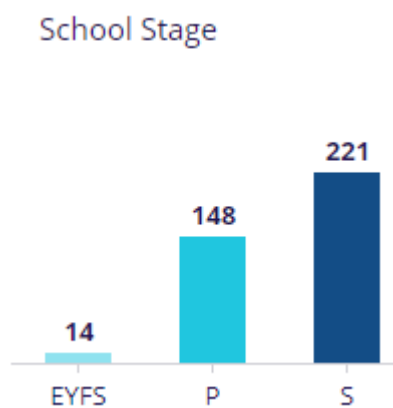
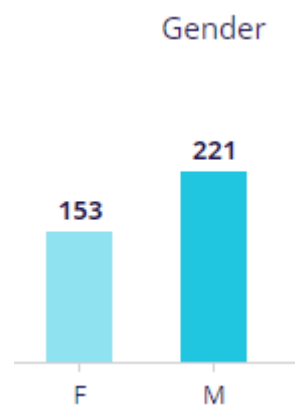
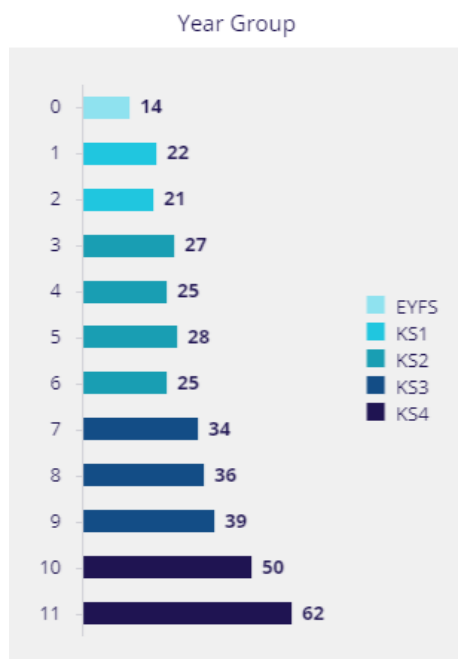
February 2022	561
November 2021	564
September 2021	586
April 2021	625
January 2021	633

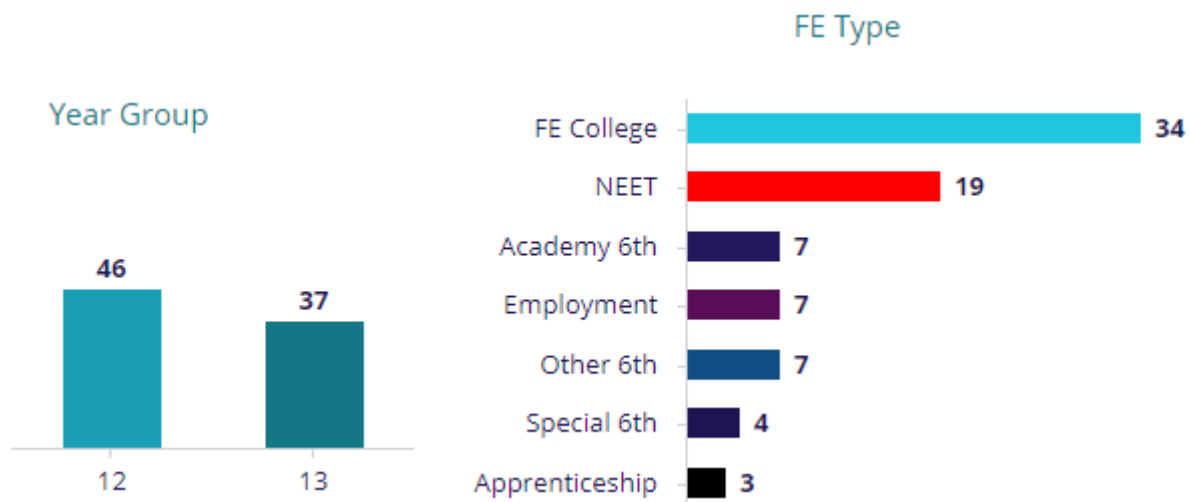
3.1 COHORT

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





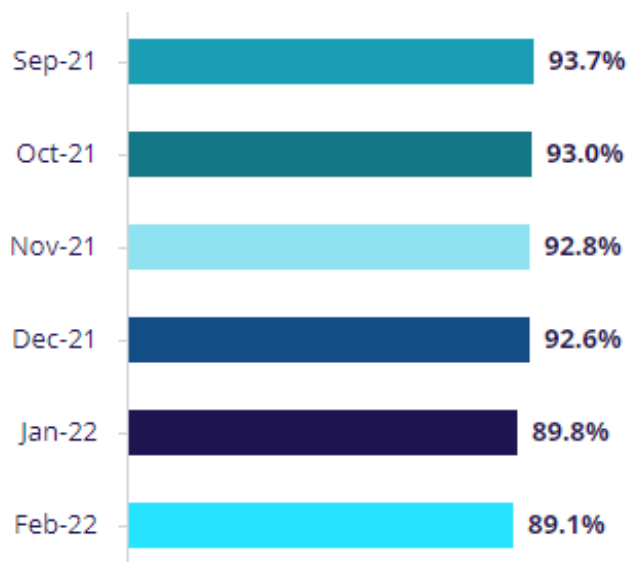
4 Progress and Achievement

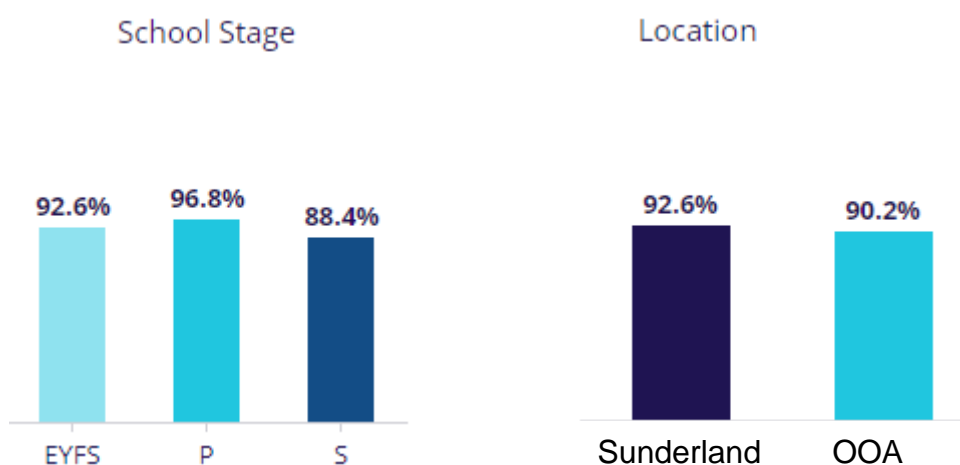
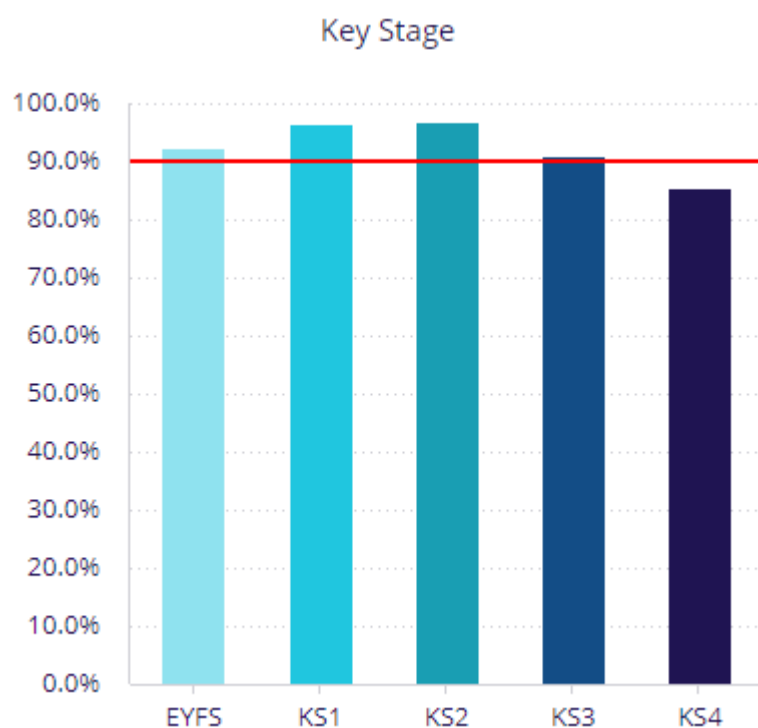
There is no progress and achievement data to report.

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

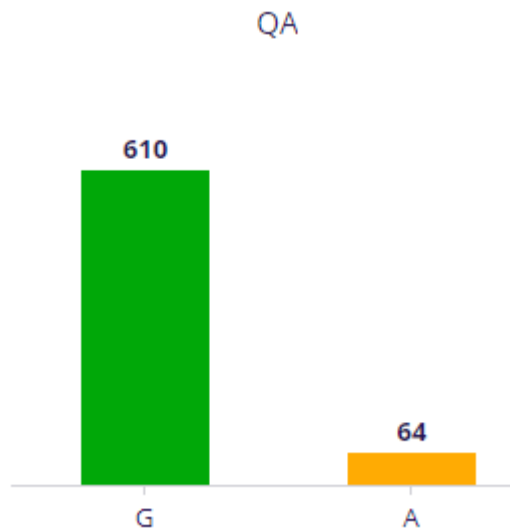
The Virtual School works closely with schools, carers and social workers when suspensions occur to understand the antecedents and to ensure appropriate support and plans are put in place to prevent further suspensions. This includes the use of the SEND ranges to ensure needs are identified and resources 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
Email: linda.mason@togetherforchildren.org.uk
Tel: 07900 350502