

**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.

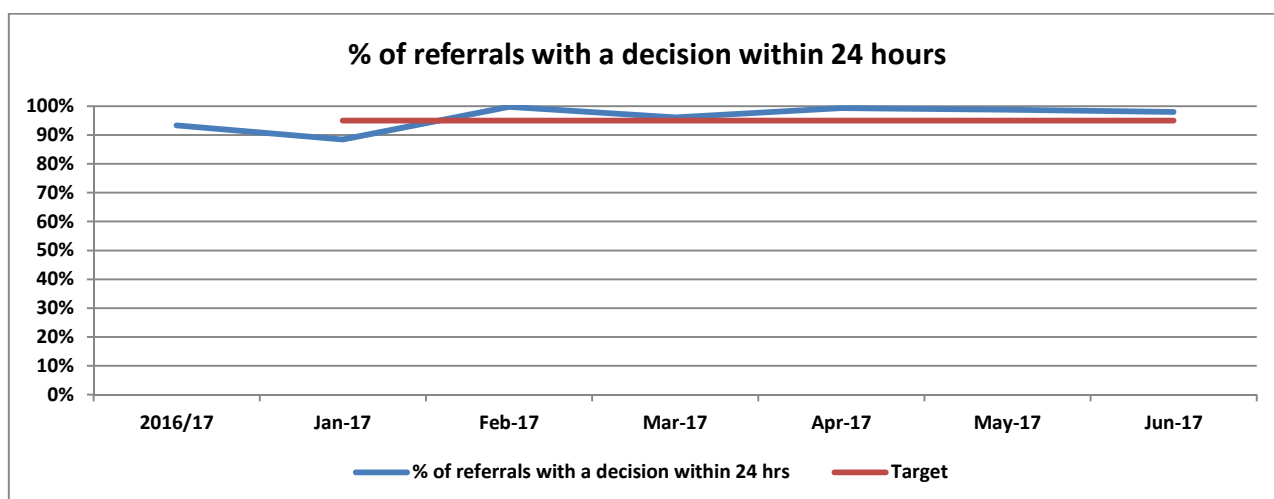
2. Background

- 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 (54,403) based upon the latest mid-year estimate figures, currently 2015

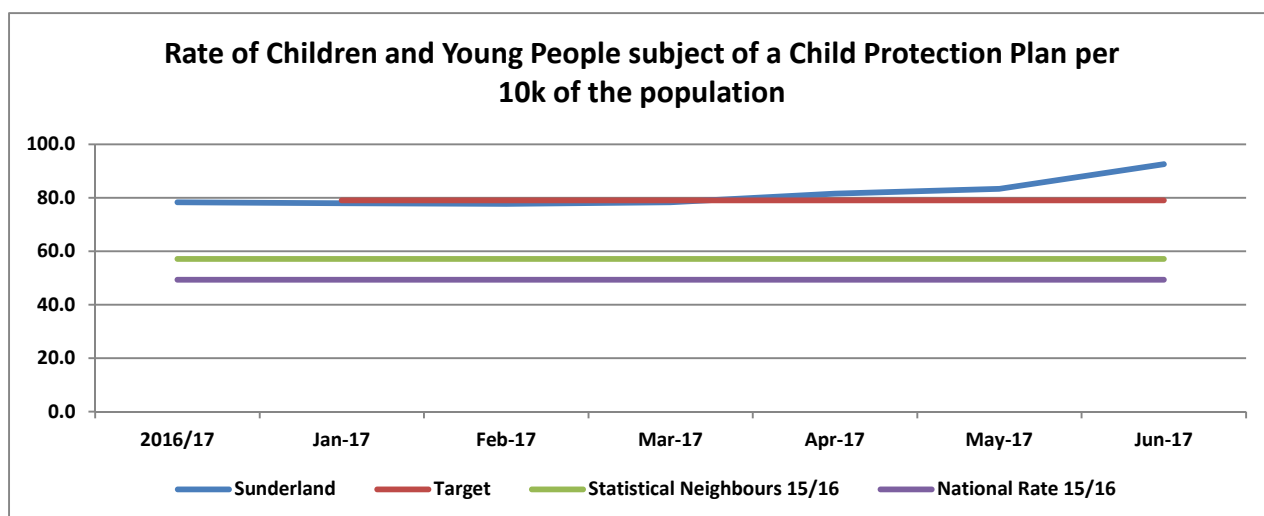
3.3 Key Performance Indicator 1 - % of referrals with a decision within 24 hours Tolerance 85 – 100%



April to June 2017 has seen the timeliness of decision making within 24 hours for referrals exceeding the target. In June 98% of referrals received a decision within 24 hours.

This remains ahead of the target of 95% for 2016/17.

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



There continues to be an increase in the rate of children and young people subject to a child protection plan from February, with an increase of 50 children subject to a plan at the end of June 2017 compared to May. The rate has increased in June to 92.6 from 83.4 in May.

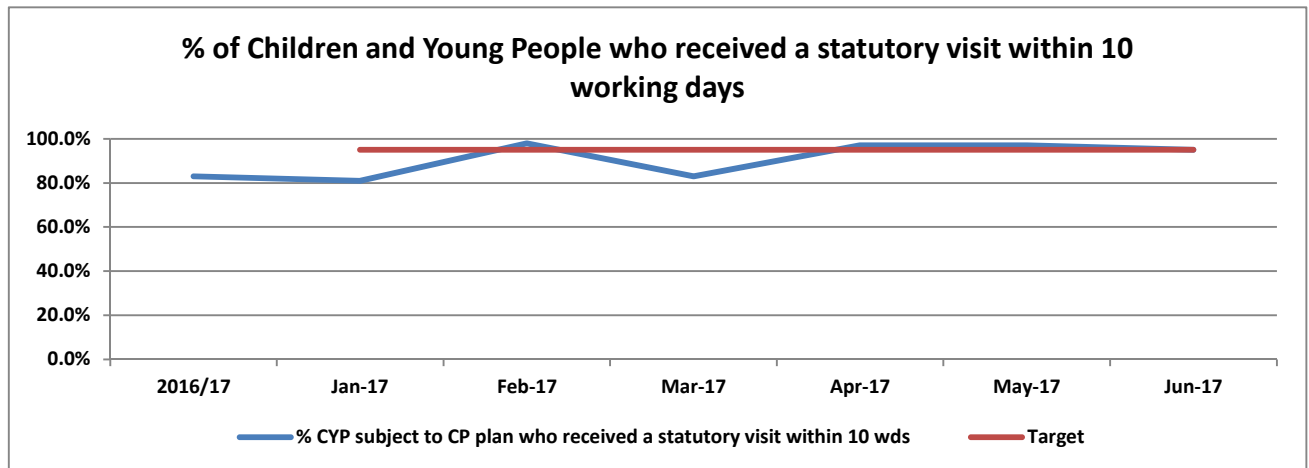
There continues to be a higher number of referrals throughout May and June 17 and a significant proportion of these cases have appropriately progressed to initial child protection conference and child protection plans.

Each plan is reviewed through the child protection processes and where safe and appropriate to do so is so is stepped down. In addition as the Early Help offer is embedded it is expected that this will support prevention at the earliest opportunity.

This measure is now above target and outside of tolerance levels and will continue to be monitored closely

The performance remains within tolerance and this rate be affected by improvements seen in the system in relation to Looked After Children, if cases are being stepped down.

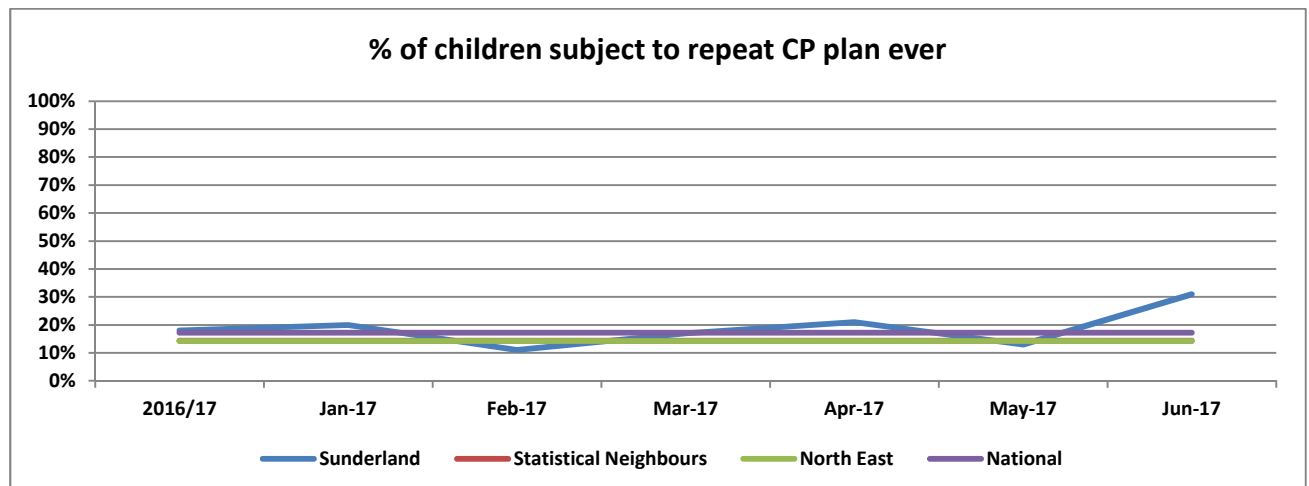
3.5 **Key Performance Indicator 2 - % of Children and Young People subject to Child Protection plan who received a statutory visit within 10 working days** **Tolerance 85 – 100%**



From April – June there has been an increase in the performance against this KPI, with 95% of children receiving a visit within 10 wds of the previous visit in June 2017.

Current performance is achieving target.

3.6 **Management Information 2.7 - % of children subject to a repeat CP plan ever** **No tolerance/target**

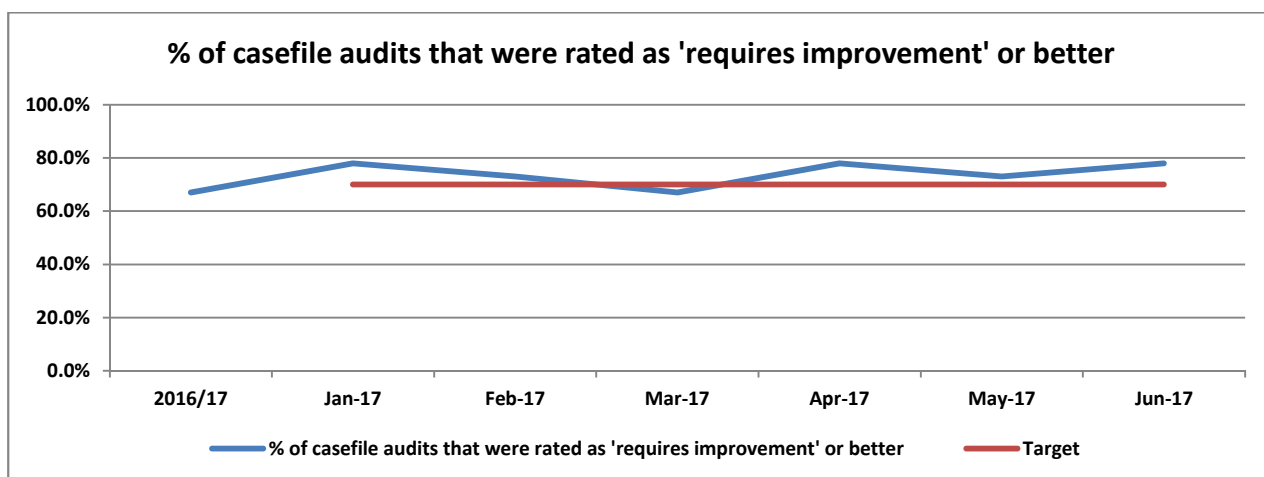


There were 25 children in June 17 who became subject to a repeat child protection plan.

There were 7 of the children whose last child protection plan ceased within the last 2 years, including 2 sibling groups. There were 18 children whose last child protection plan ceased over 2 years ago including 3 sibling groups accounting for 11 of these children.

Performance in this area has been impacted in June by the high number of sibling groups and the size of those sibling groups.

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

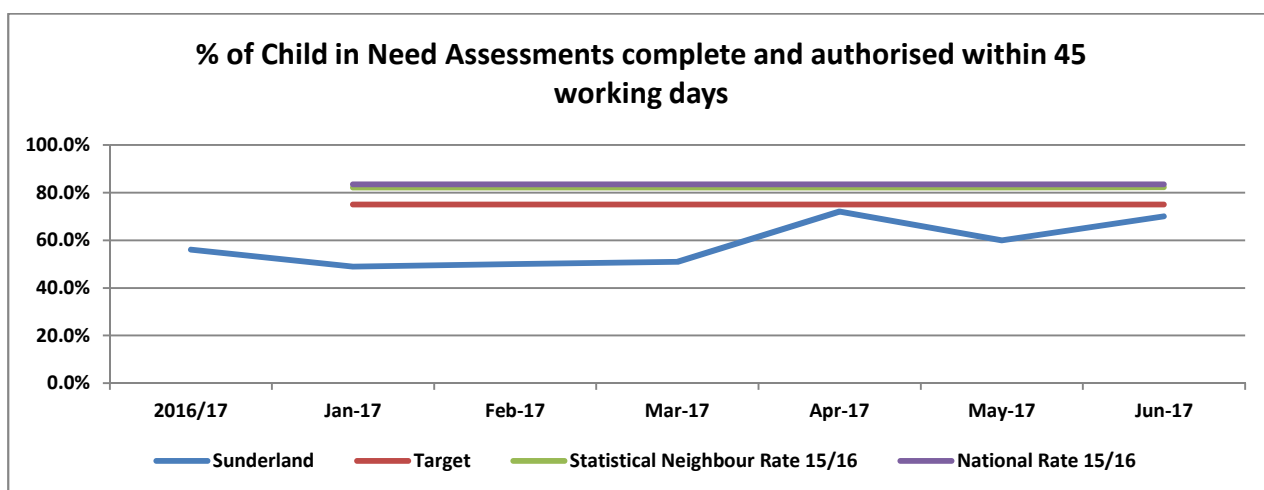


In April – June 73 case files audits have been completed across the service of which 47 (64.4%) were rated as requires improvement or better. The latest figures show that there has been an improvement in the findings of the audits, in June of the 20 audits completed 2 were found to be 'good' and 12 found to be 'requires improvement'.

In May and June a reduced number of audits were undertaken as TfC were preparing for and taking part in the Ofsted monitoring visit.

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

3.8 Supporting Measure 3.1 - % of Child In Need assessments completed and authorised in timescales within 45 working days Tolerance 65 – 100%



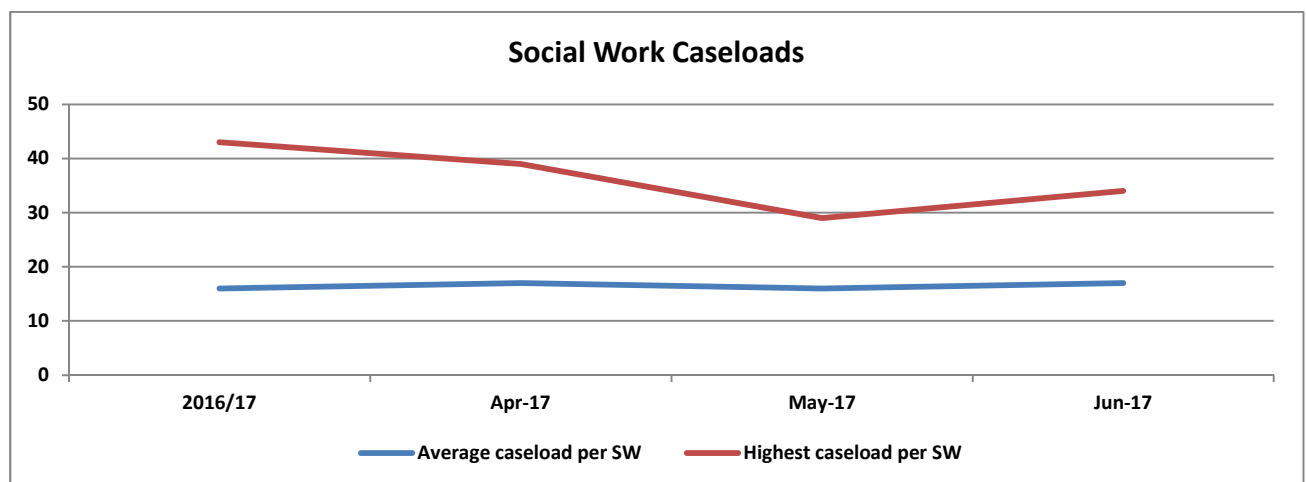
Child in Need assessments completed in timescales has improved throughout April to June 17, with 70% of assessments in June being completed in timescales and the year to date rate (April – June) at 68%.

Performance in this area has been impacted by high rates of referrals progressing to assessment in May and June, higher volumes of agency staff within the team and the turnover associated which has meant case being reallocated for completion of the assessment.

The service are recruiting a team of six practioners who will come into this area for a period of 13 weeks to support the staff to clear the backlog of activity whilst managing new assessments within timescales. It is expected that this will support the team to enable the team to sustain the improvements in timeliness.

Performance in this area is below target but within tolerance levels.

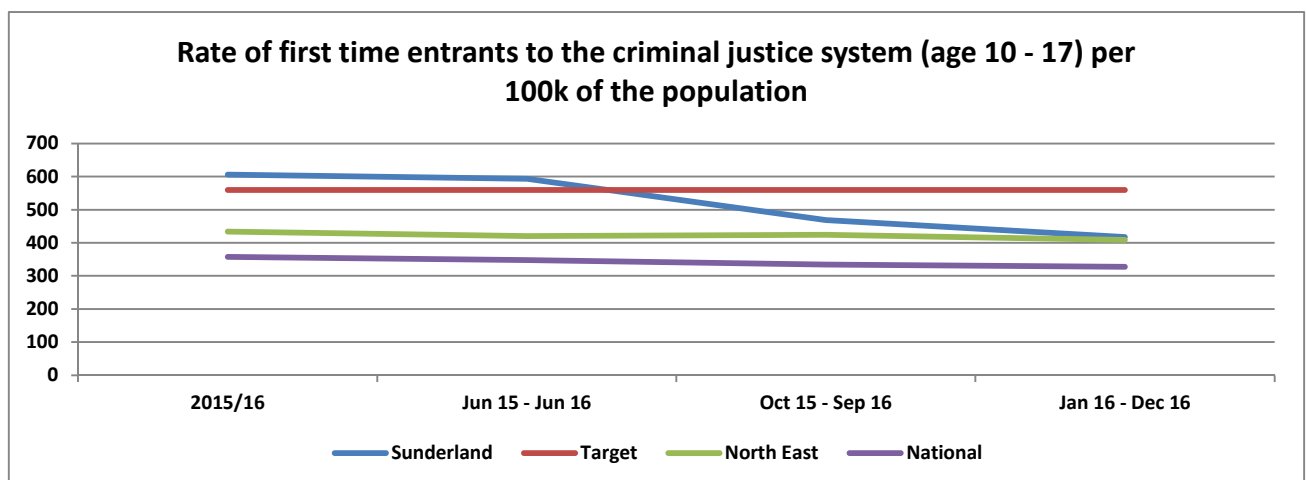
3.9 Management Information 3.5 and 3.6 – Average and Highest caseload per SW (not including the assessment team) No target or tolerance



There has been an increase in average and highest caseloads for social workers (not including the assessment teams).

Whilst the average caseload remains within reasonable expectations the highest caseload exceeds the recommended 25.

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



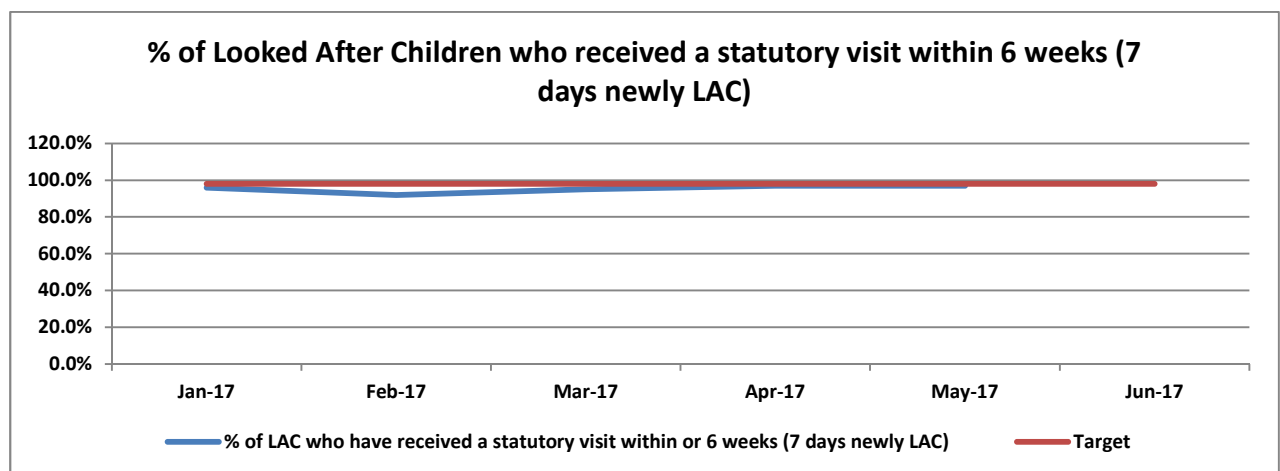
There is a data lag on the data metrics as the data source used is the Police National Computer; data reflects the most recent publication as at May 2017.

The figures within this measure are measured quarterly but have been included for information purposes.

The rate of first time entrants has decreased over the last 2 reportable quarters up to December 2016 with the latest reported figures at 417 per 10k of the 10-17 year old population; this is a positive decrease from 606 2015/16 and 469 for the period Oct 15 – September 2016.

This measure is exceeding target.

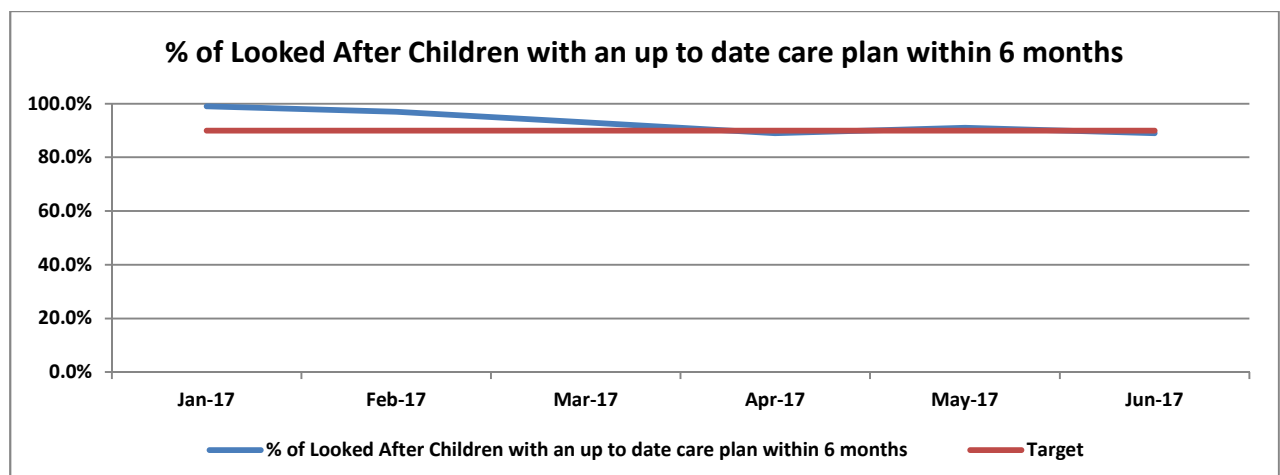
3.11 Key Performance Indicator 5 - % of Looked After Children who have received a statutory visit within 6 weeks (7 days newly Looked After Children)
Tolerance 95 – 100%



Performance against this measure has improved in throughout April to June 2017 with the latest performance in June reporting 97% of visits in timescales. There has been no significant change (increase or decrease) in the numbers of looked after children with 532 children looked after at the end of June slightly more than the 531 at the end of May.

The current system does not allow for variations in visiting schedules where Looked After Children may be in stable placements and only require a visit 12 weekly. There were 15 visits out of time in June of which 12 were on a 12 week visiting schedule and therefore were not out of time.

3.12 Supporting Measure 5.1 - % of Looked After Children with an up to date care plan within 6 months
Tolerance 90 – 100%

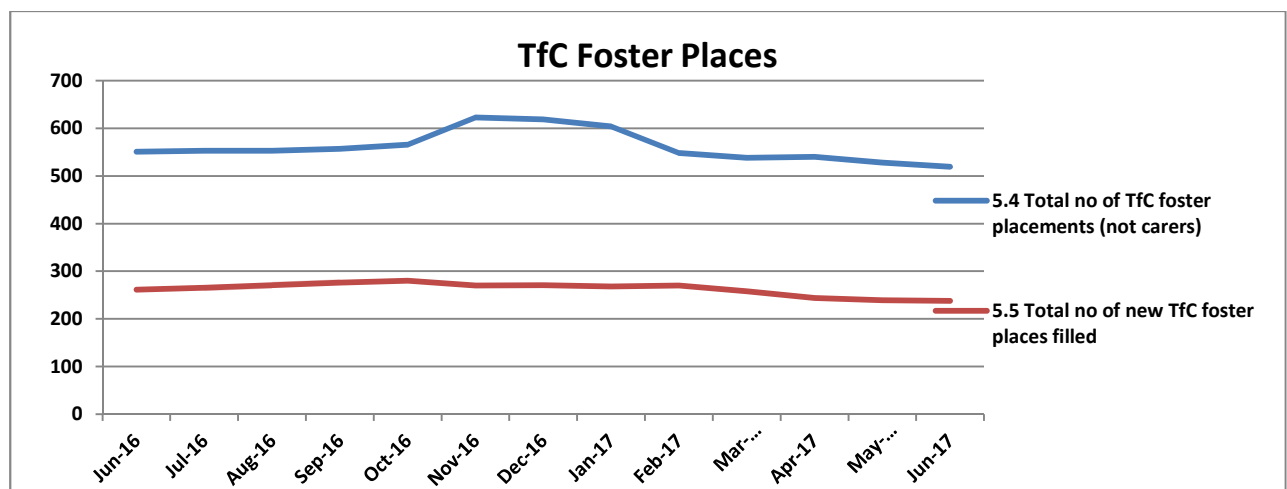


Performance against this measure remains just below target at 89% of Looked After Children with an up to date care plan in June 2017. Currently the care plans are completed outside of the case management system with shell information being input onto the system.

The shell information has not been updated routinely on the case management system. The service will ensure this happens in the future and are pursuing a system fix in the case management system to allow the actual care plan to be recorded fully.

The measure is not meeting target but is within tolerance levels.

3.13 Management Information - 5.4 Total number of Together for Children foster places (not carers)
Management Information - 5.5 Total number of Together for Children foster places filled
No Tolerance set



The number of TfC foster places and TfC foster places filled has reduced through April – June 17.

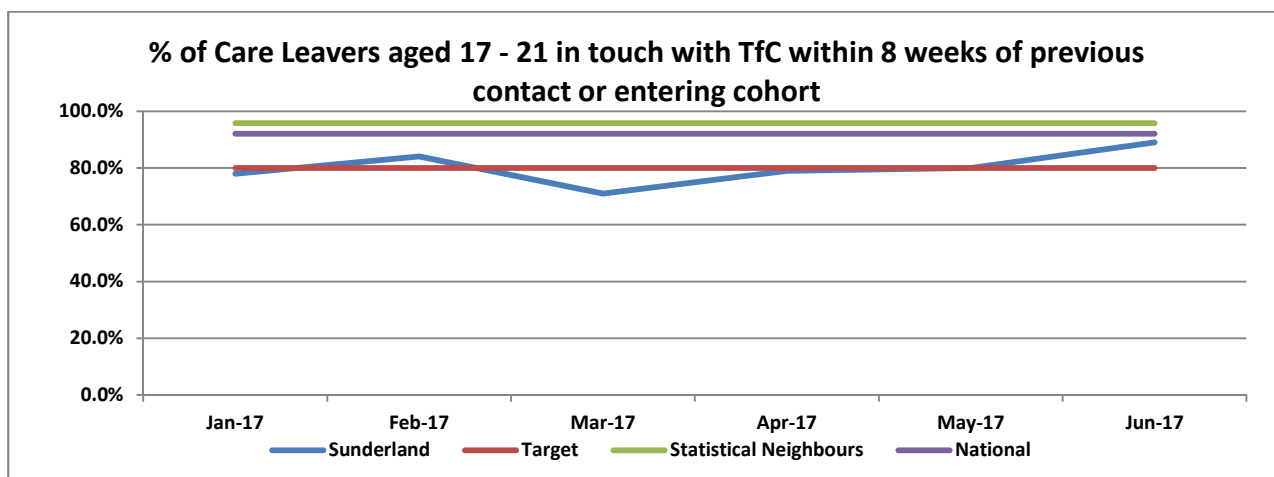
There is a national issue with the recruitment of foster carers for both Local Authorities and Independent Fostering Agencies. In particular there is a need to recruit carers for adolescents, children with complex needs and for large siblings groups.

Nationally, the reported number of applications to become a foster carer fell by one third. There were 11,460 applications in 2015 to 2016, compared to 16,920 the previous year.

The current position is 194 foster carers looking after 238 children, with 6 vacancies at the end of June 17.

TfC continue to recruit and more recently a consultant has been appointed who will complete a needs analysis of the TfC fostering service and support the transition.

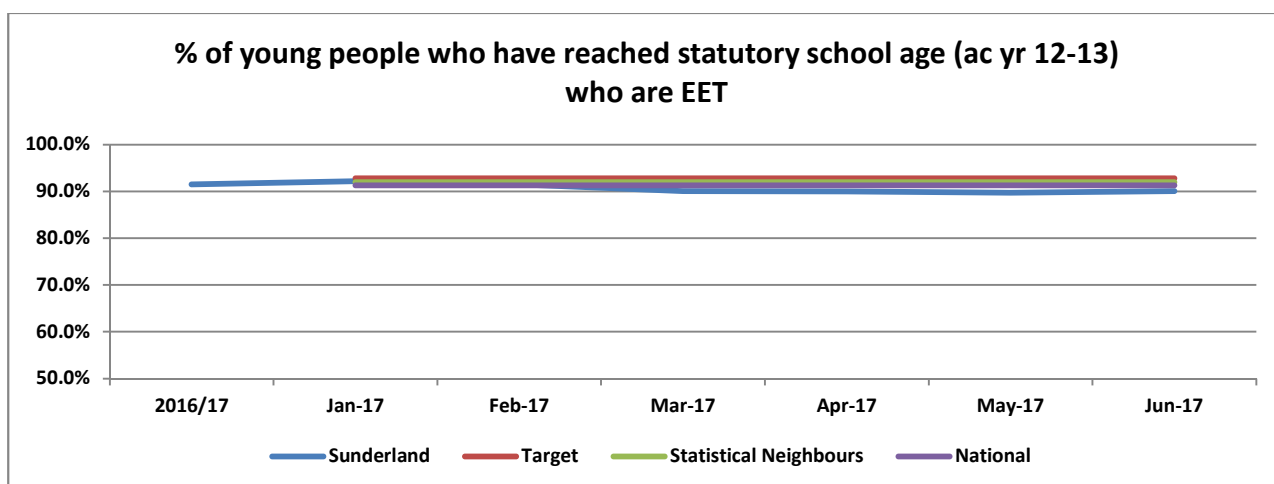
3.14 Key Performance Indicator 6 - % of care leavers in touch with Together for Children within 8 weeks of the previous contact age 17 – 21
Tolerance 72 – 100%



There has been an increase in the number of care leavers in touch with TfC throughout April – June with to 89% care leavers in touch within 8 weeks of the previous contact. This is a key measure of the reach and effectiveness of the care leavers service, nationally the measure is those in touch within the 'birthday window' which is a 4 month period within the year, so contact within TfC is measured at a greater frequency.

This measure is now exceeding target.

3.15 Key Performance Indicator 7 - % of young people who have reached statutory school age (academic year 12 – 13) who in Employment, Education or Training
Tolerance 92.3 – 100%



Cohort	Apr-17		May-17		Jun-17	
	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent
EET	5541	91.8%	5510	91.3%	5547	91.9%
NEET	264	4.4%	272	4.5%	285	4.7%
Unknown	229	3.8%	254	4.2%	203	3.4%
Meeting Duty	5430	90.0%	5414	89.7%	5435	90.1%
Cohort Total	6034		6036		6035	

At the last meeting members requested the detail of the numbers within the NEET/EET cohort and these have been included above for the last 3 months.

The target and tolerance agreed for this measure is annual based upon November to January average as per the DFE methodology, which is the duty to participate. Data is provided on a monthly basis but actual YTD data is only available after January each year.

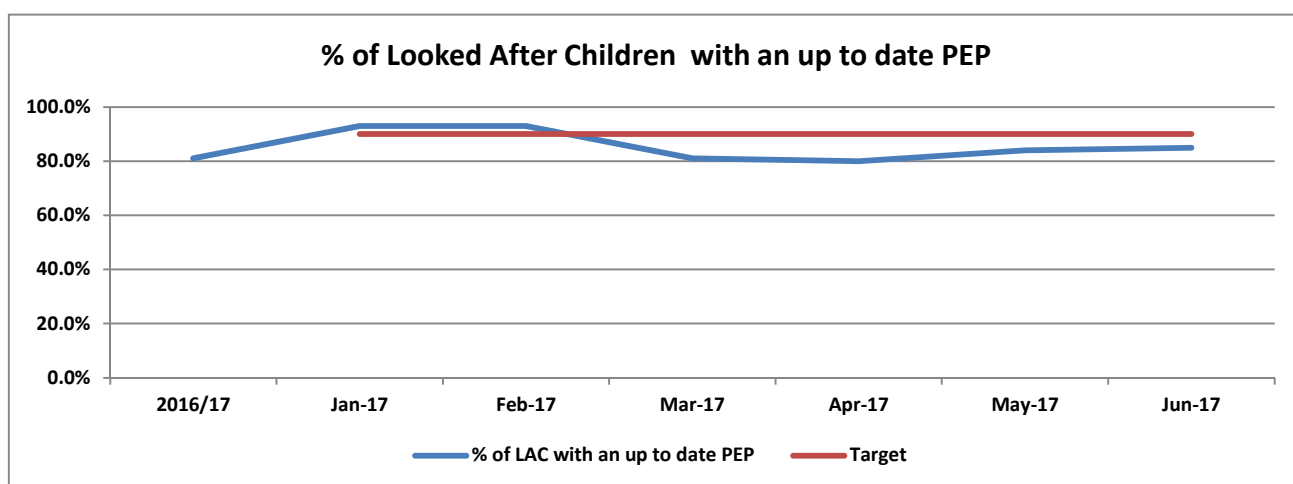
There has been a slight increase in performance from 89.7% in May to 90.1% in June however the target has not been met and is outside of the tolerance range.

A number of arrangements are being put in place to increase performance against this indicator including:

- Increase focus on tracing and tracking from Connexions Workers across the summer and autumn period.
- Training more members of Early Help staff to undertake basic tracking and reporting. Carry out regular “tracking blitzes” throughout year focussing in particular on Year 12 young people.
- Opportunities and benefits for partner agencies to work with TFC to support tracking arrangements to be reinforced and awareness raised July to September.
- Work to re-establish controlled data sharing arrangements with partner LAs and partner colleges has started and will continue across summer to ensure our data is updated on a timely and accurate basis.

Whilst this activity identifies improvements in tracking young people and will improve the data particularly in relation to those whose status is unknown. What is the activity that will be undertaken to help young people to access employment, education or training as appropriate.

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

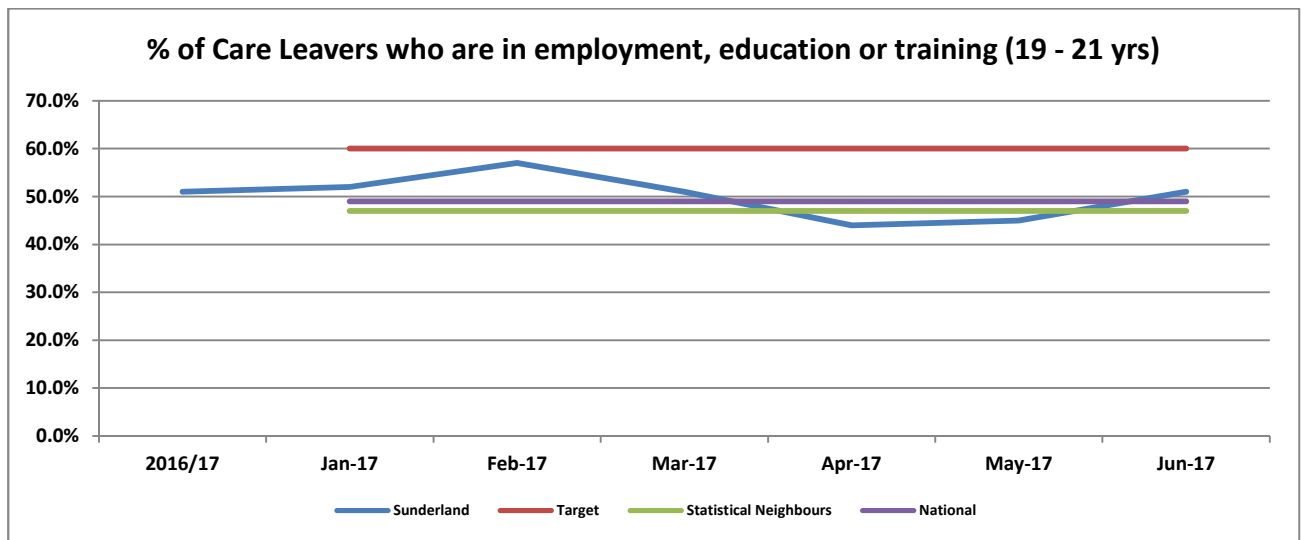


In June 2017 performance for this indicator has improved by 1% compared to May, but remains d within tolerance levels.

The virtual school continues to request outstanding PEPs from schools. Some PEP's have been returned to schools due to the poor quality of the submissions. TfC anticipate more PEPs being submitted by schools during the summer break.

30% of outstanding PEPS are from out of area (OOA) placements and these are proving very difficult to action at the end of the academic year group.

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



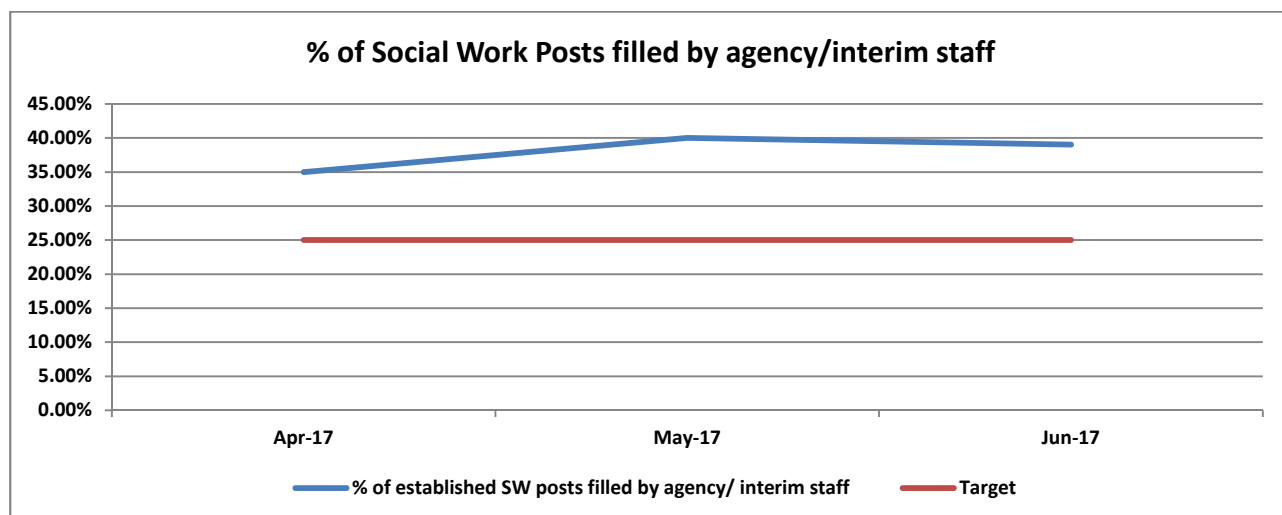
The % of care leavers aged 19 – 21 who are in education, employment or training has increased to 51% in June 2017 compared with 45% in May. This is above statistical neighbours and the national average.

Current performance is below target. 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.

In order to address this and increase the numbers further the service has established the ELEET (Engage Learning-Education, Training, Employment and Training) team that is a multi-agency co-located team designed to offer targeted interventions to NEET young people and to also offer support at sustaining EET. This team comprises of a Re-engagement Support Worker, Connexions Advisor and Virtual School representative. Strength of relationships between professionals and consultation has increased and there is very positive feedback from the colleagues re improved outcomes for young people. Whilst the team have supported many young people the impact has been less than desired and we are more aspirational for our young people. Team Managers are currently reviewing the impact of this team and developing a strategic plan and proposal to senior management to strengthen this.

In terms of those Young people in touch this is increasing week on week which in turn will have a positive impact upon the data for those in EET.

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



The performance against this KPI is not being measured until period 7 (October) as per the agreements contained within the contract.

The measure has been included in the report for information purposes only and is reported a month behind due to availability of information from HR.

Currently performance is below target and outside of tolerance through April - June. It has been confirmed that recent recruitment has been successful with 15 Social Work Managers recruited, 10 Social Workers recruited and the conversion of 12 AYSE to social work posts in September.

TfC have developed a workforce strategy to address and enhance the recruitment and retention processes.

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