

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on Thursday, 7th February, 2019 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

Cllr Bell, Francis (Vice-Chairman), Hodson, Hunt, F. Miller, O'Neil, Rowntree, Samuels, Scullion, P. Smith (Chairman), Tye and K. Wood

Coopted Members – Mrs. A. Blakey and Ms. J. Graham

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	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
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E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance,
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

30th January, 2019

At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 10th JANUARY, 2019 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Smith in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Hodson, Hunt, F. Miller, O'Neil, Rowntree, Samuels, Scullion and Tye together with Mrs. A. Blakey

Also in attendance:-

Ms. Jill Colbert, Chief Executive, Together for Children and Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Sir Paul Ennals, Independent Chair of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board

Mr. Joshua McKeith, Sunderland Youth Council

Ms. Jacqui Reeves, Services Manager, Washington Mind

Ms. Gillian Robinson, Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Jane Wheeler, Quality Assurance and Performance Manager, Sunderland City Council

The Chairman opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Francis and K. Wood and also on behalf of Ms. J. Graham.

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 29th November, 2018

Councillor Rowntree referred to the first paragraph on page six of the minutes and informed Members that the reference to paragraph 3.4 of the report and the comments made had been made by herself and not by Councillor Hunt as set out.

1. RESOLVED that subject to the above comment the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 29th November, 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report April 2017 – March 2018

The Chairman of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2017-2018 to provide assurance on the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements for children in Sunderland.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Sir Paul Ennals, Independent Chairman of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board, presented the report advising that an annual report must be published in the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. Submissions of the annual report to the Committee should provide assurance that the SSCB is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities.

Sir Paul Ennals gave Members an overview of some of the key highlights which had been identified within the Annual Report and what actions had been undertaken since its publication, drawing their attention in particular to the key sections; Section 1 – Foreword by SSCB Independent Chairman and Section 145 – How safe are children and young people in Sunderland?

Councillor Tye commented that it was refreshing to hear the comments of the SSCB and their confidence in Together for Children services being on the road to improvement, with the appointment of the new Chief Executive and the improvement in performances made so far. He then referred to the SSCB Board Membership and queried the inclusion of representatives from Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust. Sir Paul Ennals advised that the 0-19 children's health services was contracted out and that this was no longer provided by South Tyneside but that services delivered in the city were commissioned by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and that this was the reason for their inclusion in the membership of the board.

Councillor Tye referred to the information around the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and commented that he would like to see this strengthened further in the next annual report and advised that he continued to remain concerned about these services. Sir Paul Ennals advised that this was an area they would continue to monitor and that he would take on board Councillor Tye's comments when producing the next annual report.

Councillor Tye also commented that it had been unfortunate that Sunderland had been unsuccessful in their bid to be named as one of the twenty five Trailblazer areas in the country for children's mental health and wellbeing.

Councillor Tye raised concerns with regards to safeguarding in general and in particular the voluntary and community sector picking up the gaps left by the removal of service areas which used to be provided by the local authority and commented that he did not think that the SSCB were picking this up. For example, he referred to the verification of safeguarding measures and stated that the inspection regime now had completely gone. He advised that at the youth centre in his area they would get approximately 80 young people in attendance, and that 20% of those were looked after children, and there were no formal links between youth providers and Children's

Services. In the past each Area Committee had a Children's Services Officer link and that role had now gone, and he asked how those links were now being provided between safeguarding, Children's Services and the youth groups in the city.

Ms. Jill Colbert, Executive Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive of Together for Children, advised that she was currently in dialogue with the Chief Executive of the Council around strengthening the commissioning function and she realised the need to understand the quality and performance of safeguarding measures with all providers working with children in the city. Representatives from the voluntary and community sector do meet with officers from the Council and Together for Children and have routine conversation and dialogues but there was a need to have an infrastructure in place as this was not as robust as it could be. It was important to have an umbrella over the voluntary and community sector that could offer guidance and advice to them. Ms. Colbert advised that Simon Marshall, Director of Education, and his team would be happy to look at visiting any voluntary and community sector groups where Members may have issues or concerns and she was happy to discuss individual cases outside of the Committee.

Sir Paul Ennals commented that the SSCB had felt a real need to streamline the SSCB agenda in the first instance and had felt that it was necessary to deal with the highest priority issues facing services and be in a comfortable position that they were improving. The Committee were informed that it was now felt that the Board were in a position to be able to legitimately challenge groups and look into how well they were being monitored and oversee the safeguarding responsibilities of groups working with young people in the city and he was happy to take this back to the SSCB.

Councillor Rowntree referred to only 24% of schools in Sunderland having rated themselves as fully compliant within the SSCB Section 157/175 audit and commented that this seemed quite low. Sir Paul Ennals commented that this was an area the Board had identified they were uncomfortable with but that it was all around the quality of interaction with schools. The Committee were informed that when schools were faced with having to make budget cuts then they would look to protect the curriculum and in turn could lose the level of pastoral support they could offer to vulnerable families; further cuts were making it more difficult for schools to engage fully. Members were advised that it was difficult for the schools to measure their compliance but were assured that not a single school in the city had failed an Ofsted inspection based on their safeguarding standards.

Councillor Smith advised the Committee that Mr. Marshall, Director of Education, was invited to a future meeting of the Committee and they could look to raise this issue with him directly at that time also.

Councillor Hunt referred to the rate of children who were being electively home schooled and asked how services were looking to engage with those families as they could be from the most vulnerable families. She asked in particular how schools were looking to engage with those children and was informed by Sir Paul Ennals that every local authority in the north east was seeing an increase in the number of children and young people being home-schooled and it was of ongoing concern to Board members. Members were advised that there had been a Government consultation undertaken with the expectation that new guidance was to be published in September, 2018 but as to date it had not been published and therefore they may

need to start working on their own arrangements to investigate the issue and the reasons behind the choices being made by parents to home school.

In response to concerns from Councillor Bell around the migration of residents in the city onto Universal Credit, Sir Paul Ennals advised that the Secretary of State had recently announced a pause in the roll out of the Universal Credit programme and therefore it was evident that some problems must have been identified. Members were advised that the first evidence of the impact on residents in Sunderland had been more positive than expected. The roll out of Universal Credit had caused massive problems elsewhere in the country but due to the planning that the Council and partners, such as Gentoo, had undertaken, the data and evidence was showing that it was not as big a problem in the city as first may have been feared.

Councillor Smith referred to the increase in the numbers of children and young people attending accident and emergency departments for self-harm incidents and was informed that the way in which the data was coded and recorded had changed and made the numbers look completely out of trend, almost tripling some figures. Work had been carried out and the data had been refreshed and the numbers were beginning to reduce but this was still an area that the SSCB needed to monitor. Ms. Colbert also commented that the reduction in numbers could have some correlation between the reduction in waiting times for young people accessing CAMHS; as a result of this could be that young people are less likely to present at one of the urgent health facilities having self-harmed.

There being no further questions or comments the Chairman thanked Sir Paul Ennals for his attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Voice of Child – Participation and Outcomes for Children

The Chief Executive of Together for Children submitted a report (copy circulated) advised Members that Ms. Jane Wheeler (Quality Assurance and Performance Manager) would provide a presentation on the action being taken to hear the voice of children and young people in the city.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Wheeler provided Members with a comprehensive presentation advising that every child or young person who comes into contact with their services should have the opportunity to express their views and that they engaged with young people through a range of methods and tools to gather these views; such as through looked after reviews, viewpoint questionnaires, Mind of My Own (MOMO), the complaints and compliments service and focussed engagement groups. The presentation provided the Committee with information around the gender and age breakdown of the young people using the particular tools and the general themes of the statements made. Ms. Wheeler informed the Members that these tools do not replace contact with the children and young people but enhances the range of methods that they have to engage with services.

(for copy presentation – see original minutes)

Ms. Wheeler advised that she was happy to meet with any Members individually to take them through the MOMO app if they wished to see what the children and young people experienced when using it. In relation to a question under the previous item around the monitoring of youth services she advised that this would be something that the service would be happy to look into undertaking as they used to perform a similar function when those services were commissioned by the Council.

Councillor Rowntree commented that she was really encouraged to hear that the voice of the children opportunities were being taken up by children and young people and acted upon in a positive manner and went on to ask what provision there was for the views of children and young people with profound disabilities or sensory issues to be gathered and was informed by Ms. Wheeler that the Children's Disability Service were looking at alternative ways for those children and young people to engage and share their views and have their voices to be heard also.

Councillor Rowntree asked if she could receive more information on this issue when available and Ms. Wheeler advised that they were committed to listening to the needs of those children and young people through their Educational Health Care Plans; but that she would continue to update Committee Members as further work was undertaken on alternative ways for them to engage and share their views.

Councillor Samuels referred to the number of statements being received being lower than the number of young people and worker accounts in the MOMO app and asked what was being done to increase participation. Ms. Wheeler advised that workers opened accounts originally and allowed young people to use their account to make statements if they did not wish to open their own. Workers would support the child or young person if they wished to then open their own account but it was always the choice of the young person and not mandatory that they had one. The Committee were informed that some young people open an account and then never felt the need to use it but they are reminded that it is there if they wished to engage in that way. Other young people may have only used the application once over the two years it had been available and then not needed to use it again but their account would remain open so the option was there for them if they wished to access it in the future.

In response to a query from Councillor Miller regarding what was done for those children and young people who may not have access to the app, Ms. Wheeler advised that social workers, schools and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO's) were all aware of and briefed on the system so they could help support the young person if they wished to make a statement using the MOMO app.

Councillor Smith referred to the Engagement Groups set out within the presentation and referred to the City Equals group, which had been a group of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Ms. Wheeler advised that all youth groups the services engaged with aimed to have representations from young people with disabilities or learning difficulties and they were also included through the local offer.

Councillor Tye asked when the Youth Parliament had changed their name to the Youth Council and was advised that the young people had not liked the term 'Parliament', so had agreed to change it approximately eight months ago.

Councillor Tye asked how the service were looking to capture the voices of a wider range of young people in the city and Ms. Wheeler advised that they continued to also work with the Youth Offending Services and the Youth Drug and Alcohol Project and all of the youth groups wishing to engage. She explained that they looked to capture as many views and opinions as they could but ultimately they could only work with those young people who wished to work with them.

There being no further questions or comments for Ms. Wheeler the Chairman thanked her for her report and presentation and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that
 - the information contained within the report be received and noted; and
 - the Quality Assurance and Performance Manager provide further detail to the Committee on the work of the Children's Disability Service as discussed when it is available.

Compliments, Complaints and Feedback

The Director of Quality and Performance submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information regarding compliments, complaints and feedback received by Together for Children.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Jane Wheeler, Quality and Performance Manager presented the report advising that it presented an overview of complaints and feedback received by the Council for the period April – September, 2018.

Ms. Wheeler took Members through the report advising of the number of complaints at stages one, two and three which had been received during the quarters one and two period and informed the Committee of the main themes of the complaints. Members were informed that the overall responses to complaints was improving and the number of complaints made by young people had decreased by 70.6% compared to the same period in 2017.

In relation to pre-complaints, the Committee were informed that through responding to issues or concerns at the outset, services had helped customers to receive satisfactory resolutions informally, with just three of the forty received pre-complaints progressing to a formal stage one complaint.

In closing, Ms. Wheeler advised the Committee that it was important to recognise positive feedback to inform service development and best practice and 125 compliments had been received compared with 46 in the same period in 2017 which showed a 172% increase.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Wheeler for her report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the information contained within the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2018/19

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work for the 2018/19 municipal year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Tye referred to the number of items outstanding in the work programme to be considered over the remaining three meetings of the municipal year and asked if it may be beneficial to schedule an extraordinary meeting of the Committee. Ms. Gillian Robinson, Area Co-ordinator, advised she would discuss the work programme with the Chairman and come back to the Committee in due course.

5. RESOLVED:-

- that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted;
- the Area Coordinator discuss the remainder of the work programme with the Chairman and advise the Committee accordingly.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 13th November, 2018.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) P. SMITH,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Corporate Parenting Annual Report to provide assurance on the effectiveness of corporate parenting arrangements for children in Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee requested an update on the operation of Corporate Parenting Board.
- 2.2 The Corporate Parenting Board take lead oversight in exercising the City Council's responsibilities as Corporate Parent, and ensuring that all Council policies reflect this.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 A report setting out the work of the Corporate Parenting Board 2018 is attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 3.2 Sheila Lough (Looked After Services Strategic Service Manager) will be in attendance to introduce the report.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The report will provide members with an overview of the work of the Corporate Parenting Board.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

6 Background Papers

Annual Corporate Parenting Report 2018.

Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Director of Children's Social Care

Corporate Parenting Annual Report

1. Purpose of Report

To provide a report to the Committee on the previous 12 months functioning of the Corporate Parenting Board.

2. Current Position since the last report to the Scrutiny Committee

Change Council Update

At the Corporate Parenting Board held in January 2018 Members were advised that the second Regional Children in Care Conference had been held on 3rd November and had been a very successful event. Sunderland's Young People had led a workshop on mental health and the care system which had been well received. The Regional Children in Care Council had also been nominated for the Children and Young People Award and a member of our young people travelled to London to attend the Ceremony. Although not successful the young people were pleased to have attended the event.

The second LAC Celebration Event had been held on 8th December 2017 and had been another great success. Over 200 had attended and there was excellent feedback from carers, young people and social care staff.

A representative from Washington Mind has been invited to attend the Change Council and has visited the Next Steps building for young people to be available for those who wanted to talk or if they were on a waiting list for CAHMS/CYPS.

A Mental Health Conference had been held at the Stadium of Light on 16th January and during the event the Mental Health Charter Mark which had been supported and designed by Sunderland Youth Parliament was launched. Two of Sunderland's care leavers presented the mental health workshop which had previously formed part of the Regional Children in Care Conference.

The Change Council was pleased to welcome some new members to its January meeting which had focused on revisiting the Change Council

Agreement and working on the annual action plan. Themes and actions to focus on included:-

- Finance
- Accommodation
- Storage Units
- Mental Health Services
- Training for newly qualified social workers
- Apprenticeships for care leavers
- Fostering training
- Access to files
- Local offer for care leavers
- Promises/commitments (formerly known as the Pledge)

At the July Corporate Parenting Board Members were advised that after a lot of hard work the pledges had been revised and re-launched as 'commitments'. The young people decided that they did not want the commitments to be matched to elected members or service managers as this had not always worked in the past. The commitments were:-

- When you come into care we will make sure you feel like you have a sense of belonging
- If you need to come into care we will make sure that you are safe and properly cared for
- We will make sure your voice is heard and listened to
- We will make sure you get a good school education and support you to go into higher education if you would like to
- We will make sure you have opportunities to keep you fit and healthy
- We will make sure you don't need to leave care until you feel ready and have the right support into independence

Members were informed that preparations for this year's regional children in care conference will be taking place in October/November had begun and a residential planned for July to enable the young people to plan the event.

The Change Council had looked at a draft local offer in February and identified areas which they thought should be included.

The Board were informed that five looked after/care leavers had won awards at the Sunderland Young Achievers 2018.

Sunderland had joined in on a supported 'Care Day' this year. This was a joint initiative between children's charities across the UK under the 5 Nations 1 Voice Alliance. Care Day on 16th February 2018 looked at the rights of the child and Sunderland had a large number of Together for Children staff and young people taking part in writing placards for Care Day including Next Steps staff, residential staff, service managers and many more.

The Change Council informed Members about how to spread MOMO (Mind of My Own) further and to encourage more people to use it. The group thought that training foster carers would be a good idea because they could encourage young people to use it and support them.

It was confirmed to Members that all SENDCOS in primary and secondary schools have been trained.

The Change Council Young People discussed pets and that a number of young people – children's homes are missing out on having their own pet. It was agreed that a report should be presented to the Board around this issue.

At the Board on 2nd July 2018 members were advised that the Change Council had recently had the Annual Away Day at Moor House Adventure Centre to review the work plan for the year and also have fun. Simon Marshall, Director of Education and Sue Carty, Director of Quality and Performance also attended the day.

The Children Looked after Nurse was invited to one of the sessions and this had led to the development of a Healthcare Action Plan. The group spent time discussing the Children Looked after Celebration and Awards Evening which would take place on Friday 14th December with the young people wanting to plan the event to mirror the success of last year's event.

The Regional Children in Care Conference was discussed at the away day. This was scheduled to take place on Friday 2nd November and tickets were already available at a cost of £80. The focus of the Conference was to be 'entitlements' and 'family visits'.

The Local Offer is now complete and available in hard copy or on the Together for Children website.

At the Board meeting in October the Change Council advised that Sunderland and South Tyneside have chosen the topic of Life Story Work and it is the intention that a number of workshops will take place on 2nd November 2018:-

- It's a family affair
- It's my life
- Right here, right now
- Who cares

The Change Council advised that they played 'The Change Game' with TfC Board members in August. Members at the Change Council have recently been involved in the recruitment for a new Director of Social Care and the Virtual Head Teacher.

Young people met with HR and developed questions for the young person's panel.

CYPS Data Dashboard

At the January Board Members received a report presenting the data for looked after children currently accessing services from CYPS.

In relation to the referrals received the report also highlighted that referrals which were not accepted to the service. Board members felt it would be useful to have more information about what each pathway was and that further information about diagnosis and treatment offered would also help the Board to understand issues. Members requested further information about trigger points, for an urgent referral and representative from CYPS were asked to provide this information at future board meetings.

The Board were provided with a breakdown of the age groups accessing CYPS and it was noted that the greatest proportion of Children – Young People were aged 6–13 years of age. It was reported that there have been an increase in young people waiting between 18-30 week from referral to Treatment. CYPS advised they have appointed two new Clinical Psychologists, recruited purely for children looked after.

At the April Board Meeting data for children looked after currently accessing services from CYPS was shared.

The report explained that NTW were in the process of agreeing reporting mechanisms with the CCG and would produce a more narrative report once these were aligned. The figures quoted in the report were up to the end of February 2018.

CYPS advised that there continues to be concern in relation to the waiting list but some improvements were being noted with the service. The Board were updated about the Intensive Care Treatment Service which was equivalent to the Adult Crisis Team and operated to someone quickly. It was suggested that TfC together with NTW could bring some anonymised case studies to a Board Meeting to promote learning on both sides. Board members felt this would be useful. Dr Sarah Mills, Designated Doctor for Children Looked After is looking at improving working relationships with CYPS and the LAC Nurse advised she was hoping to link with a psychologist currently working with staff in the children's homes offering support and guidance.

At the Board on 7th July a report was presented showing the data for looked after children currently accessing services from CYPS.

Referrals received from March and May showed a total of 30 referrals with five not being accepted. The reasons for the referrals not being accepted were set out and included:-

- Not enough information with the referral
- Service users not ready to engage

The majority of the referrals were from social care. Between March and May there were 20 discharges. There was a slight improvement in relation to waiting lists and NTW advised that a Service Review is currently being undertaken to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the current service model and how this could be improved. In terms of the current caseload for CYPS in May 2018 5% of the total in Sunderland was Children Looked After, this was 117 out of a total of 2,216.

Health of Looked After Children

In January the Board were advised there has been a steady improvement in compliance with the initial health assessment to be completed within 20 days of a child becoming looked after. Compliance had been 80% in Quarter 1, 90% in Quarter 2 and 98% in Quarter 3. Compliance with Review Health Assessments had dropped from 94% in Quarter 2 to 87% in Quarter 3. This was due to children who had been placed out the area not having their health assessment completed within timescale by the host LAC health team.

The first 2 quarters of 2017/2018 had shown 100% compliance for the issuing of health passports however this had dropped to 73% in Quarter 3. There had been a total of 11 health passports due to re-issues, eight had been completed but three were due to young people refusing to attend appointments. A Consultant Child Psychologist was providing half day weekly sessions for professionals in residential care homes.

At the July Board the Board was reminded that local authorities were responsible for making sure that a health assessment of physical emotion and mental health issues was carried out for every child looked after.

Compliance in relation to IHA had dropped in Quarter 4 and this has been due to late notifications as a result of the migration of data from CCM to Liquid Logic. The compliance for health passports stood at 100% with the exception of Quarter 3, this had been the case for the whole year.

At the Board in October the Board members were advised there was an average of 630 children looked after, this has increased from the previous quarter. 41 were recorded as being placed outside of the North East this has reduced slightly. The compliance reduced in the Summer because of disruption to the process. A new more efficient system was to be implemented using the placing social worker notifying the looked after team.

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.

Review Health Assessment – Quarter 2

Number – 165

Compliance target 100% / 95%

Health passport issued - Quarter 1

Number compliance - 100%

The Looked After health team met with Sheila Lough to discuss improving the onset process. A leaflet for young people which will explain the health assessment is in development.

Dr Mills, Sheila Lough, Agnus Physic, Looked After Lead, CYPS Kelly Haslem met to begin working together on improving mental health support for Looked After Children and Young People.

Supported Accommodation for Care Leavers

The Strategic Service Manager submitted a report providing the Board with an update on supported accommodation for Care Leavers.

The range of accommodation available had remained unchanged since the last report and in January there were 11 vacancies across all provisions. The Board were advised that commissioned provision at Harbour View, Holmewood and Lewis Crescent had previously been funded by Adult Services as part of the housing contract but this had ended in July 2017. TfC had agreed to continue to commission this provision for a further 12 months and all of the current commissioning arrangements were due to review in July 2018.

In addition to the available accommodation spot purchase could be made from the YMCA and Centre Point and at the present time there were 2 young people who had chosen to access YMCA provision due to its locality. The commissioning officer undertook monthly monitoring visits to all commissioned providers and the service manager for accommodation advised that she chaired a weekly panel to consider all the referrals.

Virtual School Performance

The Board were provided with a summary of the Virtual Schools Performance January 2018. The Board were advised that during the previous academic year it has been agreed to implement a Governing Body Management Structure for the Virtual School. It had been felt that governance arrangements needed to be strengthened.

Of the population CLA it was highlighted 540 had been in the care of the local authority during the academic year. However 220 children and young people in the cohort were in care for at least one year as of 31st May 2017 and between ages 5 and 16 years.

In March 2017 58% of Sunderland's looked after children attended school in the city. 24% of the cohort had special education needs which was significant in terms of challenges to services in schools in terms of educational infrastructure and progress. 11.5% of the primary school cohort attended a

special school and 26.8% of secondary school age children were attending specialist provision.

Turning to attainment and progress six out of seven children in the Early Years Foundation Stage had achieved a good level of development and the phonics screen had showed a three year improving trend.

At Key Stage 1 the expected standard in reading had dropped but there was an increase in pupils achieving greater depth. Work was taking place to identify, analyse and create priorities for every Year 2, Year 6 and Year 7 child and the virtual school staff were receiving a lot of training looking at raising expectations of what children should be doing.

Improvements were being seen in Key Stage 2 and attainment had risen in reading and maths. Key Stage 4 was a significant issue for the Virtual School and the local authority of year 11 cohort 58% had special education needs of the young people currently in Years 12 and 13 13.5% were identified as not being in employment, education or training, this was in comparison with the estimated Northern Average of 33%. All of the NEET young people are encouraged to re-engage in education and training in collaboration with social workers, foster carers and care home staff

The Board were informed that in 2016-17 39 looked after children had been subject to fixed term exclusions (82) but that related to an increase in days lost (219). Protocols should be reviewed in order to support young people and the Virtual School had intervened to prevent exclusions.

The recommendations given to the Board in January were:-

- Refresher training to be arranged for designated teachers
- To further refine the quality of PEPS
- To make more effective use of data collated on a termly basis
- The Virtual head teacher would continue to work closely with local organisations to raise awareness of the value of PEPS
- Refine attendance management with the implementation of Welfare Call
- Close the attainment gap with peers of children looked after and young people within Sunderland
- Ensure the new established Virtual School Governing Body provides great support and challenge to Virtual school head
- Ensure the effective use of the pupil premium in raising standards if attainment and progress of all looked after children

Children Independent Reviewing Team Annual Report

The Board were given a copy of the Annual Report of the Children Independent Review Team in October 2018.

The report highlighted the roles and functions of the team:-

- Chairing initial child protection conferences and reviews.

- Chairing of placement order and adoption placements
- Chairing foster carer reviews
- The completion of monthly Regulation 44 visits to TfC Registered Children's Homes chairing and management of allegations against adults working with children.
- The chairing of management of allegations against adults who work with children
- The chairing of children's looked after reviews

The report identified areas of service improvement, emergency themes, examples of good practice and the CIRT priorities for next 12 months.

- That prior to every conference every child over the age of 4 years has the opportunity to communicate with ICPC chairperson.
- Every child looked after has a mid-way review, IRO to record every time they have seen the child thus evidencing the IRO footprint.
- Pre CLA visits to be completed in 5 days prior to capture the voice of the child.
- Increase use of MOMO and view point
- Work effectively with Change Council
- IRO Admin to support the service.
- Appoint Business Manager CIRT to maintain and develop links with Social Work Team.
- IRO Manager to meet with Service Managers to progress discussions around case themes.
- All IRO's to be registered on the hub
- IRO Management to undertake case audits
- Peer observation.
- All IRO's to identify a lead in key areas or work with Together for Children and Agencies.
- To ensure staff team afforded regular reflective supervision.
- All new staff to have an induction
- Every child subject to a CP Plan or Care Plan has a midway wait.
- Pre Looked After visits to take place
- Children to be supported to chair their own meetings
- To nominate children for awards
- Arrange annual open day

Sufficiency Strategy

The Sufficiency Strategy for the accommodation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2017/20 was submitted to the Board. The strategy outlined how Sunderland intend to meet the sufficiency of duty as laid out in 22G of the Children Act 1989.

The principles of the sufficiency strategy were:-

- Vision of children and young people is centre to our strategy and delivery
- As ambitious corporate parents we will only look at children who need to be looked after and to achieve this we will provide a range of support

- services as a company and as a partnership to support children and young people to stay with the family when it is appropriate to do so
- We aspire to a 'no disruption principle' and will ensure that placement stability is at the centre of our planning for children including stability of placement education provision and consistent health services.
- We want to ensure that children are cared for in family settings where possible.
- We will ensure that we have high quality services and a range of placement for all our children and young people in Sunderland to ensure sufficient choice – local area. We will work with all services and providers to ensure that services are child focus and high quality and represent value for money.

The strategy has been developed alongside an action plan and also includes a commitment to support children staying with their families and preventing them coming into care in the first place. Together for Children are also investing in foster care making sure that children's homes had appropriate facilities.

Annual Adoption Report

The Board received the TFC annual adoption report for 2017/2018. The Voluntary Adoption Agency has been in operation since 1st April 2017 and the main priorities of TFC Adoption Sunderland are:-

- To achieve the placement of children in care for when adoption is the care plan with appropriate adopters, matched accordingly to the children's specific needs and circumstances and within appropriate timescales.
- To recruit people and assess adoptive applicants who are likely able to meet the placement needs of the children waiting for families both locally and nationally.
- To provide post placement and post order support adoptive families.
- Birth record counselling for adopted adults.
- Both family support for families whose children are adopted.

The Board were advised that TFC was moving forward with plans to become a Regional Adoption Agency with Cumbria County Council and Durham. It was envisaged that the Regional Adoption Agencies would speed up matching, improve adopter recruitment and encourage specialisation.

There had been a steady improvement in the timeliness of each stage on the child's journey to adoption and adopter's assessments had also been completed in a timely fashion.

It was highlighted that Together for Children Adoption Sunderland had an enhanced support offer to adopters and had successfully claimed £150,000 from the Adoption Fund which benefited 63 families. The challenges and profiles for the next year are:-

- Sufficiency strategy for the Accommodation of the Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2017-2020.
- To continue to support the development of a Regional Adoption Agency (in line with Government expectations).
- To support TFC with their forthcoming OFSTED inspection with the intention of achieving Good for the company's adoption service.
- To continue to improve their excellent record of service in relation timeliness.
- To continue to see feedback from adopters with where we work regarding all aspects of the service and to establish a survey monitoring to enable adopters to anonymously provide their views.
- To establish a survey monitoring for children who have been adopted and to use the information received to judge and shape the service.
- To embrace the feedback process from birth family members who use services from ARC Adoption where they are spoken to directly and the verbal feedback is recorded to shape future provision.
- To continue to enhance therapeutic work that is provided to children pre and post adoption order and to continue to develop the engagement group recently established.

Annual Fostering Report

The Board received the first fostering service annual report since TFC Fostering Sunderland became an Independent Fostering Agency.

The report set out the summary data for foster carers and it was highlighted that the service had looked closely at improving foster carer training. There is to be a planned recruitment campaign when the new fee structure has been agreed to increase the number of in house foster carers.

The Board were advised that there are two fostering panels who meet each month. Panels are very busy and are considering a large number of assessments to be Connected Carers. This pattern may change once the issues around fees are resolved although there is a duty to look at family members if a child is to become looked after to see if they can provide appropriate care.

All complaints and compliments were recorded and the IFA has worked closely with the Designated Officer if concerns need to be referred. Work has been undertaken to increase the engagement with foster carers and a number of foster carers were nominated for Together for Children Spotlight Awards. An online survey has been rolled out to foster carers and a support group for children established which will feed into the Change Council.

Reg 44 Visits

The Board has received a report providing an update on the monthly Reg 44 unannounced visits from December 2017-April 2018 to each of the Together for

Children's children's homes in accordance with Regulation 44 children's home's regulations. There are also 2 foster care review officers who take responsibility for chairing foster carer reviews.

Colombo Road was found to have sustained effectiveness and young people had been encouraged to give their views as had parents.

Monument View was also judged to have sustained effectiveness and each of the six residents were attending education or training provisions. There was a reduction in missing incidents from the home and the views of the young people and parents were taken into account.

Grasswell House currently had four young people in the home but had six at the time of inspection. The home had been judged as inadequate by OFSTED in November 2017 but had shown improvement by January. The Regulation 44 visit found that young people and parents were consulted and positive recommendations were made.

There had been five young people resident in Revelstoke Road at the time of re-visit and the home had been found to have improved effectiveness. One of the young people was not attending school regularly and the staff at the home were working with him, the school and the Virtual School to improve on this situation.

Housing Officer

The Board were advised that the Council had recently approved a Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2017-2022 and one of the main priorities of the strategy was supporting vulnerable young people to access and maintain housing; within this priority there was a key action to develop a joint protocol with TFC and Housing Services to ensure that homeless young people and those leaving care were supported to find suitable accommodation. The Board were advised that the Government's Homeless Advice Service Team was visiting later in the month to meet with others from Housing and TFC. The purpose of the visit was to give advice and make recommendations in the context of homelessness. The Board were advised of the next steps to progress key actions.

- Robust data is gathered on future housing and support needs of young people and care leavers by March 2019.
- Recommendations made by HAST are considered and implemented following their visit to the city.

Recommendation

That the Committee consider the contents of the Annual Corporate Parenting Report.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive a position update on the mechanisms put in place to secure the stability of the TfC social care workforce against the context of continued regional and national recruitment pressures.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The TfC Social Work workforce was increased in 2015 at the recommendation of Ofsted who identified that higher than average caseloads had resulted in in unsafe practice. In response to this issue, there was an agreement to expand the number of social worker positions within TfC and re-invest in the wider workforce.
- 2.2 TfC's ability to fill the increased numbers of posts needed was impacted on by continued issues in the recruitment of post qualified social workers. This resulted in an increase use of agency workers. By the end of 2016, 37.7% of the social care workforce were agency workers (the national average was 16% at the time).
- 2.3 TfC produced a Social Care Recruitment and Retention Strategy in 2017 identifying a number of mechanisms to reduce reliance on agency social work staff; this included improving our recruitment processes, marketing TfC as a new and innovative organisation and helping our employees to feel valued by positively changing workplace culture and investing in our workforce.
- 2.4 Targets for Social Work appointments were identified by the TfC Improvement Board with progress reported into the Council at quarterly intervals. The target for TFC in the period 2019/20 is to reduce agency usage to 14% of the social work workforce.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Since the publication of the TfC Social Care Recruitment and Retention Strategy in 2017 considerable work has been undertaken to meet the identified targets and achieve greater stabilisation across the Social Care Workforce.

3.2 As a result of this work, TfC is now exceeding national targets across all areas; the most notable area of improvement is the percentage agency worker rate which has decreased from 37.7% to 13.50% as at the end December 2018. This means that the Operational Commissioning Group (OCG) target of 14% for 19/20 has now been met and exceeded.

3.3 The work undertaken as part of the Strategy has included:

- Improvements to the TfC Social Work offer (extending to application of a 2% recruitment and retention allowance for all Social Work qualified positions, a Golden Hello payment of £1000 and a relocation scheme for new Social Workers joining TfC).
- More manageable caseloads for experienced Social Workers and protected caseloads for ASYE (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment) Social Workers, which has created a supported and “safe” working environment for Social Work professionals.
- A renewed focus on flexible working for Social Work staff in recognition that our workforce is young and predominantly female.
- Greater investment in training and development provision for Social Workers with a clear career pathway now in place from student placement (TfC continues to partner regionally with local HEI providers and participates in Step Up and Frontline national campaigns), to completion of the ASYE year right up to Team Management level with investment in the First Line Management and Leadership programme.
- External engagement through the ADASS/ADCS North East Workforce Development Group secured a regional cap on daily rates for any newly engaged agency social workers. This was introduced on a phased basis from September 2017 and was fully implemented to all agency workers from July 2018 to provide a regional benchmark around the payments of agency workers. Through this group there was also a regional approach to the promotion of the North East at national social work recruitment events;
- Increased numbers of ASYE’s recruited in 18/19 by 50% which has created a potential influx of a further 21 Social Workers into the TfC workforce on 1 September 2019;
- Roll-out of a targeted digital recruitment campaign which made the Social Care ‘Work for Us’ pages on the TfC website the highest visited pages in the period and also a Recruitment Open day held on 27 September 2018;

- Investment in 'Grow Our Own' strategies with sponsorship of 3 existing TfC staff on the Postgraduate Social Work degree programme and 3 further places on the recently published Degree Apprenticeship programme. This will create a further 6 Social Workers who will progress automatically through the ASYE career pathway at TfC through Frontline and Step Up programmes;

3.4 The above offer is shaped through improved staff engagement including an annual Staff Survey, wholesale TfC Staff Briefings with Directorate and Board members, an annual Training Needs Analysis and regular HR, Training and Staff Wellbeing updates.

3.5 **Table 1** below shows the impact of the above interventions on the stability of the TfC social care workforce in the current period:

Table 1: National and local children's social worker workforce statistics

	England	TfC Sept 16	TfC present
Agency worker rate (%)	16.1	37.7	13.50
Turnover Rate (%)	15	19.2	12.29
Vacancy rate (%)	17	25.6	9.2

Statistics based on FTEs. National/regional statistics taken from DfE Children's social work workforce 2017 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681546/SFR09-2018_Main_Text.pdf

3.6 The TfC Social Care workforce continues to be scrutinised as part of routine workforce planning activity. This informs future recruitment needs and ensures that the right skill mix and expertise is secured across all frontline teams. We know from this that TfC needs to continue its rolling recruitment programme specifically targeting post-qualified workers who will counteract the influx of newly qualified social workers coming through.

3.7 TfC estimate that if turnover rates remain at the forecasted level for 19/20 that recruitment of 1.9FTE additional Social Workers per month, alongside the conversion of 21FTE ASYE's would secure 100% permanence by the end of this period.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the progress made and comment on the report.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

OVERALL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE DATA FOR THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To update members of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee on the verified overall school performance data for the academic year 2017 – 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996 to promote high standards in schools and to raise attainment. There is a strong commitment to achieving the best outcomes for children and young people across a full range of measures which includes raising standards of achievement across all key stages.
- 2.2 This report presents an overview across the range of academic outcomes and the key priorities for the school improvement service.

3. Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

- 3.1 Overall, 71% of children achieved a 'good level of development' compared to 70% in the previous academic year. In 2018 we ranked 80th out of 152 authorities. The national average was 71%

4. Phonics

- 4.1 All children in Year 1 of primary school undertake a phonics screening check. The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in phonics in 2018 was 82% compared to 83% in 2017. In 2018 we ranked 76th out of 152 authorities. The national average for 2018 was 81%.

5 Key Stage 1

5.1 Reading

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard for reading in Sunderland was 76% this was the same figure achieved in 2017. The 2018 figure was 1% below the national figure (77%). In 2018 we ranked 58th out of 152 authorities. The percentage of children achieving greater depth for

reading was 26% which showed an increase of 1% from the previous academic year, this was equal to the national figure.

5.2 Writing

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard for writing was 71% this was the same figure achieved in the previous year and was 1% above the national figure. In 2018 Sunderland ranked 58th out of 152 authorities.

The percentage of children achieving the greater depth standard for writing was 17%. This was the same figure as the previous year and is 1 percentage point (ppts) above the national figure.

5.3 Mathematics

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in mathematics was 77% and showed a 1% decline from the previous year. In 2018 Sunderland we ranked 50th out of 152 authorities. The national figure for 2018 was for 76%.

The percentage of children achieving the higher standard in mathematics in 2018 was 22%; an increase of 1% from the previous academic year. The national figure in 2018 was 22%.

6. Key Stage 2

- 6.1 The percentage of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing (Teacher Assessment) and maths in 2018 was 68%. This was the same figure as the previous year and was 4ppts above national. In 2018 Sunderland ranked 39th out of 152 authorities. The percentage of children achieving the higher standard was 11% this was the same figure as the previous year and was 1ppt above national.

6.2 Vulnerable groups data

Individual subjects are no longer reported in statistical release

Disadvantaged children		LA	Rank	Regional	National
Reading writing & maths combined	2018	57%	28 th / 152	55%	51%
	2017	54%	26 th / 152	50%	48%

SEN Support		LA	Rank	Regional	National
Reading writing & maths combined	2018	27%	42 nd / 152	29%	24%
	2017	26%	30 th / 152	24%	21%

EHCP		LA	Rank	Regional	National
Reading writing & maths combined	2018	12%	26 th / 152	9%	9%
	2017	9%	43 rd / 152	9%	8%

6.3 Progress scores - reading, writing and mathematics

	LA		Regional		National	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Reading	1.1	1.3	0.6	0.7	0	0
Writing	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.9	0	0
Maths	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.8	0	0

The table above demonstrates that overall progress data in Sunderland at Key Stage 2 in 2018 was above the regional average and performance reflects the level of support and challenge offered to schools to ensure positive outcomes.

7. GCSE results - Provisional results

- 7.1 In 2017 a revised method of grading both GCSE English and mathematics was introduced, replacing conventional A*-G with grades 9-1. Nationally 64.2 of children, achieved grades 9-4, (with grades 9-4 seen as an equivalent grade A*-C). Within Sunderland, 57.1% achieved this measure which was a 1ppt increase compared to 2017. Sunderland in 2018 ranked 132nd out of 152 authorities for this performance measure.

8. English

- 8.1 Analysis of the year-on-year variation at school level suggests there is more variation at grade 4 in English/English language than in other subjects.
- 8.2 The % of grades 9-4 GCSE English in 2018 increased by 2ppt to 71%, based on provisional data. Pupils across Sunderland achieved an average point score of 4.63 in English, compared to 4.94 nationally. Sunderland ranked 123rd out of 152 local authorities in 2018.

9. Mathematics

- 9.1 The % of grades 9-4 GCSE maths remained stable at 63% in 2018. Pupils across Sunderland achieved an average point score of 4.11 in Maths, compared to 4.52 nationally. Sunderland ranked 135th out of 152 local authorities for this performance measure.

10. English Baccalaureate / Performance 8 / Attainment 8

- 10.1 The percentage of pupils achieving the (Ebacc) has improved from 22% in 2017 to 23% in 2018, based on provisional data. Pupils across Sunderland achieved an average point score of 3.73 across all Ebacc subjects, compared to 4.04 nationally. In 2018, Sunderland ranked 108th out of 152 local authorities for this performance measure.

- 10.2 Progress 8 was introduced as a performance measure during the 2015 -16 academic year. This measure tells us how well pupils at this school have progressed between the end of primary school (Key Stage 2) and the end of secondary school (Key Stage 4), compared to pupils in other schools who got similar results at the end of primary school. This measure is based on results in up to 8 qualifications, which include English, maths, 3 qualifications including sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages, and 3 other additional approved qualifications.

The Progress 8 figure for Sunderland in 2018 was -0.36 and nationally this figure was -0.08, our gap compared to national, was 0.14 points which remained the same as the previous year.

- 10.3 Attainment 8 was introduced as a performance measure during the 2015 -16 academic year. Attainment 8 measures a student's average grade across eight subjects – the same subjects that count for Progress 8. This measure is designed to encourage schools to offer a broad, well-balanced curriculum.

The Attainment 8 figure in 2018 for Sunderland was 43.1 (43.6 previous year) and nationally this figure was 44.3 (46.1 previous year).

10.4 Vulnerable Groups

The current DfE Statistical release for Key Stage 4 does not contain a national analysis of vulnerable groups. However, internal data would suggest the following.

	SEN ALL		SEN EHCP		FSM	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Number of Pupils	458	424	85	86	560	556
Progress 8	-0.77	-0.84	-1.18	-1.39	-0.75	-0.74
Attainment 8	25.3	24.8	11.4	10.2	32.5	33.5

11. Actions taken by the School Improvement Service to secure improvements at a Secondary level included:

11.1 The following actions were taken / facilitated by the School Improvement Service:

- Termly meetings with representatives of DfE / Regional Schools Commissioner responsible for the performance of academies (in 2017-18 89% of secondary schools within the city were academies. This figure has now risen) in relation to the outcomes / performance of particular academies.
- In partnership with St Anthony's teaching school continue with the termly subject network programme across the city for curriculum area leaders.

11.2 In addition to building upon the good practice already developed last year the School Improvement Service will support / facilitate the additional activities:

- Work with headteachers to review alternative provision to secure better outcomes for pupils.
- Continue to utilise the monthly Secondary Headteacher meeting with an agenda focus of sharing of good practice, with particular reference to attainment in Year 11.
- Work with the University of Sunderland, to develop a suite of programmes to develop and enhance school leadership.
- Provide bespoke training events to improve standards in core subjects at Key Stage 4 utilising Specialist Leaders in Education and examination boards.

12. A level results – Provisional Results

12.1 3 A-levels grades A, A,B or higher

The comparative measure of 1 A-level graded A* - A is nationally no longer used and is replaced by 3 AAB instead.

- 15% of young people achieved 3 A-levels graded A, A and B or higher. This was a decline of 3.8% reported in 2017. Nationally, the rate has improved to 20.6%. Sunderland in 2018 ranked 114th out of 152 authorities.

12.2 Individual school outcomes % A*-A grades

- St Aidan's Academy – 18%
- St Anthony's Academy – 24%
- St Robert's School – 23%
- Grindon Hall Christian School – 30%
- Southmoor Academy – 21%
- Sunderland College – 13%

13 City Wide

- Achievement of grades A*-A improved from 18% to 20% in 2017 and has remained stable at 20% in 2018, with improvements at St Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland College and Southmoor Academy.

13.1 City wide A* - E grades

- City wide (LA and College) – 98% of young people achieved A* - E grades, remaining stable, for the past three years.

14 Recommendation

- 14.1 The Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee are recommended to consider and comment on the information provided regarding school performance data.

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCHOOLS EXCLUSIONS AND ATTENDANCE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1 Purpose of the report

To provide members of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee with an overview of both fixed term and permanent exclusions in Sunderland for 2018-19.

2 Central Provisions Panel (CPP) 2018/19

- There have been 65 referrals considered by the CPP this academic year to date. Indicating a potential decrease compared to 2017/18. The potential decrease could be as a result of the increase in the number permanent exclusions this academic and previous academic years resulting in a limited number of placements available.
- The majority of referrals have resulted in 22% of cases being allocated to KS2 Link School placements and 22% increased to home and hospital.
- 77% (50) of the referrals were for male students.
- 12 (18%) of the referrals are yet to be confirmed. These are referrals where schools have been requested to supply some additional information prior to a decision being finalised.
- 40 school/academies in Sunderland have submitted referrals to CPP during 2017/18. 13 secondary schools, 23 primary schools, 2 all through schools and 2 Link Schools have submitted referrals to the Central Provisions Panel.
- 55% of the referrals were for secondary aged pupils and 45% for primary age pupils.

3 Permanent Exclusions 2018/19 - (Provisional) Sunderland All Phases – Permanent Exclusion Data

- There have been 28 permanent exclusions this academic year across all schools¹, resulting in a 47% increase compared to the same period in 2017/18.
- The increase in permanent exclusions is primarily pertaining to the increase in the number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools (93%), in particular Key Stage 4 pupils (61%).
- Of the 28 permanent exclusions, 89% were male.

¹ Schools – does not include 6th form schools

- Of the 28 permanent exclusions 4 are yet to be considered by schools governing bodies. The outcome of such meetings may have an impact on the final permanent exclusion figure.
- Of the 28 pupils permanently excluded (50%) were registered on the SEN Code of Practice as receiving SEN support. 8 of the 28 (28%) with SEN had SEMH and 3 (11) had ASD as their identified primary needs.
- 1 pupil permanently excluded during 2018/19 had previously attended places at the Link School/KS1 PRU.
- The main reason that pupils were permanently excluded was due to persistent disruptive behaviour (34%).

4 Fixed Exclusions 2018/19 (Provisional – 03/09/18 – 22/11/18)

- **All Pupils**

There have been 431 pupils fixed term excluded across **all** schools (including Special and alternative provision schools) in Sunderland this academic year. This equates to 800 fixed term exclusions and 1,422.5 days excluded. These figures indicate a potential decrease compared to the same period in 2017/18.

- **Provisional secondary school FTE data indicates:**

- There have been 322 **secondary** school pupils fixed excluded in 2018/19 to date, which equates to 610 fixed term exclusions over 1,155.5 days.
- Provisional data therefore indicates a 34% decrease in the number of fixed term exclusions compared to the same period in 2017/18.
- Of the 322 secondary school pupils fixed term excluded to date, 62% were registered on the SEN code of practice. 36% of those were registered on the SEN code of practice with an **identified need for social, emotional and mental health difficulties**, at the time of the exclusions.
- The main reason secondary pupils were fixed excluded was due to persistent disruptive behaviour (31%).

5 Managed Moves 2018/19

- Data indicates there are 27 new managed moves for Sunderland pupils this academic year, showing a 13% decrease in the number of managed moves that took place compared to the same period of 2017/18.
- Of the 27 pupils who have participated in managed moves, 13 (48%) were male and 52% (14) were females. Early indications show a slight increase in females.
- It is too early to determine the success rate of the managed moves for this academic year.

- To date, Year 8 (31%), closely followed by Years 9 and 10 (28% respectively) have been the most popular year groups for engaging in managed moves this academic year.
- of the 27 pupils have participated in their 2nd managed move. 1 has failed, 1 has been successful, and 1 still on-going.
- 15 secondary mainstream schools and academies have participated in managed moves this academic year.
- Together for Children has been informed of 2 primary aged pupils that have participated in managed moves this academic year. Both managed moves have failed.
- There were 137 managed moves in 2017/18 of which 15(10%) are still outstanding. The success rate is currently at 29%, indicating a potential decrease compared to 16/17, where the success rate was 34%. There has been a steady decline in successful managed moves over the last four years.
- It is understood that one secondary school/academy has been involved in one cross-border authority managed moves during 2018/19, to date.

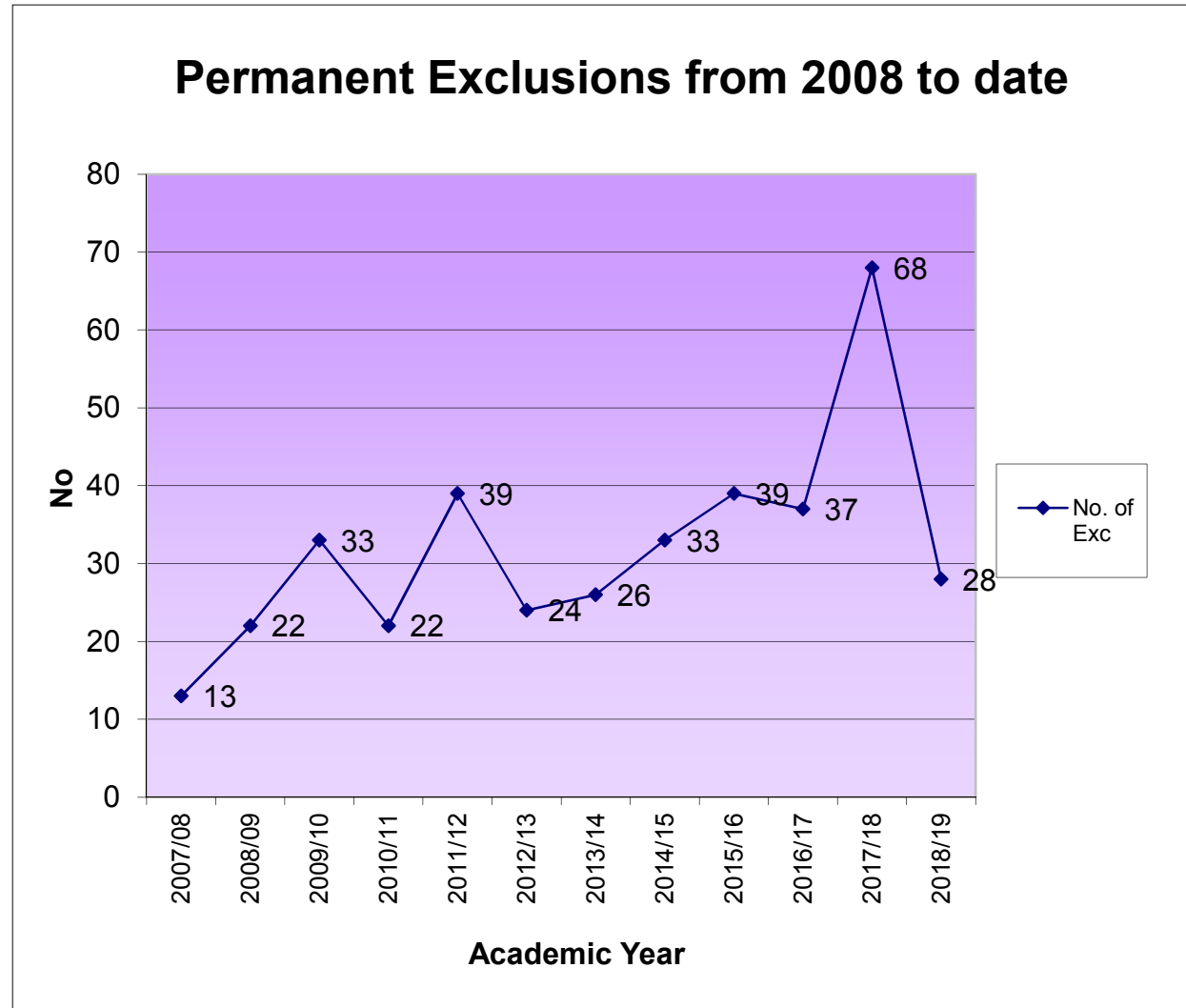
6 In Year Fair Access

To date, there has been 32 cases referred through Fair Access – Pupil Placement Panel of which 27 were eligible, therefore compared with 2017/18 Fair Access cases we do expect a significant increase in the number of cases considered under Fair Access Protocols.

Fair Access Protocols have been updated and are currently under review.

APPENDIX

The number of permanent exclusions in Sunderland over the last 10 years.



Breakdown of the number of fixed time exclusions from Sunderland Secondary schools/academies (03/09/18 – 22/11/18)

Exclusion on Rate 2017/18	Exclusion on Rate 2018/19	Secondary School	Fixed Term Exclusions			Days Excluded			2016/17					2017/18					2018/19				
			2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	ALL	LWTH SEN	% of Exclu Pupils with SEN	LWTH BESD/ SEMH Need	BESD/ SEMH %	ALL	LWTH SEN	% of Exclu Pupils with SEN	LWTH BESD/ SEMH Need	BESD/ SEMH %	ALL	LWTH SEN	% of Exclu Pupils with SEN	LWTH BESD/ SEMH Need	BESD/ SEMH %
0.43	0.22	A	0.0	3.0	1.0	0.0	2.5	1.0	0	0	0%	0	0%	2	1	1%	1	50%	1	0	0%	0	0%
5.88	0.83	B	29.0	73.0	11.0	55.0	99.5	20.5	19	15	79%	10	53%	40	20	50%	11	28%	9	5	56%	5	100%
2.48	1.16	L	18.0	28.0	9.0	60.5	133.0	40.0	15	12	80%	12	80%	15	15	100%	11	58%	9	6	67%	3	33%
19.10	10.03	D	111.0	443.0	183.0	317.5	724.0	253.5	95	36	65%	22	40%	139	73	53%	33	24%	77	43	56%	20	26%
4.75	0.00	E	37.0	11.0	0.0	71.0	22.5	0.0	23	11	48%	5	20%	3	5	67%	2	22%	0	0	0%	0	0%
8.16	3.67	F	50.0	114.0	27.0	41.0	158.1	41.5	26	17	43%	8	26%	51	38	75%	27	43%	16	11	69%	5	57%
2.78	0.89	G	78.0	43.0	18.0	247.5	99.5	48.0	50	30	60%	18	32%	28	17	61%	8	29%	9	7	78%	6	87%
4.47	0.37	H	52.0	73.0	10.0	132.0	234.5	36.0	32	7	22%	4	13%	37	20	54%	6	22%	6	5	83%	3	38%
4.07	1.42	I	57.0	62.0	15.0	250.0	251.5	57.0	44	14	32%	13	30%	43	31	72%	19	37%	5	13	87%	9	60%
50.20	10.00	J	28.0	1364.0	52.0	49.5	2939.0	225.0	11	10	91%	10	53%	254	103	61%	51	20%	51	23	57%	14	27%
2.59	1.90	K	28.0	42.0	15.0	47.5	71.5	21.0	17	6	35%	4	24%	20	14	70%	6	40%	10	9	90%	7	70%
3.30	0.87	L	49.0	52.0	10.0	258.0	227.5	50.0	33	9	27%	6	18%	34	21	62%	11	32%	9	6	67%	4	44%
7.00	3.00	M	69.0	65.0	45.0	166.0	336.5	66.0	40	34	74%	24	55%	51	31	61%	21	41%	20	10	50%	0	20%
2.60	0.97	N	35.0	33.0	10.0	73.0	65.0	24.0	20	5	25%	2	10%	27	10	37%	5	19%	10	1	10%	0	0%
4.58	0.35	O	68.0	74.0	14.0	165.5	252.0	30.0	57	14	25%	6	11%	51	22	43%	9	18%	11	5	62%	7	64%
4.27	1.90	P	15.0	47.0	22.0	54.5	115.5	42.0	10	5	40%	4	35%	38	20	53%	10	26%	16	10	61%	9	56%
5.04	3.30	Q	62.0	57.0	25.0	343.5	185.5	106.0	48	15	40%	12	25%	25	15	52%	10	34%	19	9	47%	5	26%
10.12	4.92	R	69.0	102.0	61.0	227.0	406.0	104.0	36	19	53%	13	33%	66	34	62%	19	29%	36	10	62%	7	27%
24.94	6.39	Sunderland Total	843.0	3439.0	610.0	2541.5	6353.5	1155.5	554	264	48%	171	31%	925	557	60%	255	28%	322	199	62%	115	36%

CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN - QUALITY ASSURANCE
FRAMEWORK**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TOGETHER
FOR CHILDREN**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider a report on the development and operation of the Quality Assurance Performance Framework developed by Together for Children to improve social work practice and the quality of the service provided.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 29 November 2018, the Committee considered a report monitoring the performance of Together for Children. At the meeting, it was agreed that the Committee receive a presentation providing details on the Quality Assurance Framework which has been developed in respect of the performance of Together for Children.
- 2.2 The Quality Assurance Framework offers a comprehensive view of services through the triangulation of multiple sources of evidence at a point in time and makes recommendations to drive improvement.
- 2.3 Sue Carty (Quality Assurance and Performance Manager) will be in attendance to provide the presentation and answer any queries from Members.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the issues raised during the presentation on the Quality Assurance Framework.

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report sets out for members' consideration the work programme of the Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2018-19.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19

REASON FOR INCLUSION	14 JUNE 18 CANCELLED	5 JULY 18	6 SEPTEMBER 18	4 OCTOBER 18	1 NOVEMBER 18 CANCELLED	29 NOVEMBER 18	10 JANUARY 19	7 FEBRUARY 19	7 MARCH 19	4 APRIL 19
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses										
Scrutiny Business			TfC Ofsted Feedback (Jill Colbert) SEND Update – (Simon Marshall)	Independent Review Officer Annual Report (IRO) Local Authority Designated Officer Annual Report (LADO) (Gavin Taylor)		Access to T2 & T3 Mental Health Services (CCG, NTW & TFC) Early Help Strategy - Update (Karen Davison)	Safeguarding Board Annual Report (Paul Ennals-Independent Chair) Voice of the Child – Participation and Outcomes for Children (Jane Wheeler)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Martin Birch) Educational Attainment Schools Results (Simon Marshall) School Exclusions and Attendance (Simon Marshall) Social care Workforce Update (Martin Birch)	Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing Children – Progress (Jill Colbert) Regional Adoption Agency (Martin Birch)	Scrutiny Annual Report (JD) Education, Employment and Training Opportunities (Karen Davison / Martin Birch)) Access to T2 & T3 Mental Health Services (CCG, NTW & TFC) – Update
Performance / Service Improvement		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report Children's Services Complaints (Jane Wheeler)		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (with a specific focus on the ICRT service) Ofsted Improvement Plan	Children's Services Complaints (Jane Wheeler)	Quality Assurance Framework (Sue Carty)	Ofsted Improvement Plan/Monitoring Visit Feedback Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report
Consultation / Awareness Raising	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 18-19

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda
-

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions (including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting:-

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
180418/252	To consider and approve corporate proposals in respect of Siglion LLP.	Cabinet	Y	30 January 2019. This item has been published on the notice dated 18 December 2018 with an anticipated decision of "During the period 16 January to 31 March 2019."	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181102/313	To seek Cabinet approval for the Council and Sunderland Care and Support to participate in the All Together Better Alliance.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
180830/293	To approve for recommendation to Council, the Capital Programme 2019-2020 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2019-2020 including Prudential Indicators for 2019-2020.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180830/294	To approve for recommendation to Council, the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2019-2020 and MTFS 2019-2020 to 2021-2022.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
180830/295	To approve for recommendation to Council, the Collection Fund 2018-2019.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
181206/318	To approve the business case to develop a new Civic Centre and Public Sector Hub on the Vaux Site.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181218/320	To consider the outcomes from the public consultation in regard to the Revised Housing Allocations Scheme for Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181218/321	To approve a proposal to develop a new city centre car park.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
190103/322	To approve the proposed acquisition of land and buildings at Pallion Industrial Estate, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
190103/323	To approve the Together for Children Business Plan for 2019 and the future governance arrangements	Cabinet	Y	13 February 2019	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council and its employees and information in respect of which legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report Business Plan	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
170927/212	To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 13 February to 31 March 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181019/309	To authorise the sale of land at Hillthorn Farm, Washington and to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Economy and Place in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Secretary to grant consent to the assignment of the sale contract to the purchaser's preferred developer if required by the purchaser.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 13 February to 31 March 2019.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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181217/319	Proposed Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing development proposal and related matters	Cabinet	Y	During the period 13 February to 31 March 2019.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
190114/325	To procure a contractor to undertake works at Jacky Whites Market.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 13 February to 31 March 2019.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
181024/312	To approve the Final Business Case in relation to the development of a Regional Adoption Agency and agree next steps leading up to the establishment of the Regional Adoption Agency	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2018	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
190107/324	To approve the proposed disposal of land at Clinton Place, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	27 March 2019	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Note; Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Governance Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Governance Services team PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Who will decide;

Cabinet; Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Michael Mordey – Deputy Leader; Councillor Paul Stewart – Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children, Learning and Skills; Councillor Geoffrey Walker – Health and Social Care; Councillor John Kelly – Communities and Culture; Councillor Amy Wilson – Environment and Transport; Councillor Stuart Porthouse – Housing and Regeneration

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh,
Head of Law and Governance

15 January 2019