



Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Tuesday 16 January 2018**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend. Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's agreement.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 7 and 21 November 2017 (Pages 3 - 18)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Media Relations
7. Neglect in County Durham (Pages 19 - 22)
 - a) Joint Report by Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Director of Transformation and Partnerships
 - b) Presentation by Carole Payne, Head of Early Help, Assessment and Safeguarding
8. Analysis of the Rise in Looked After Children Numbers (Pages 23 - 26)
 - a) Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships
 - b) Presentation by the Corporate Scrutiny Manager and Research and Equalities Manager
9. Quarter 2: 2017/18 Performance Management Report - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 27 - 50)
10. Quarter 2: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18 - Report of Head of Finance (Financial Services) (Pages 51 - 60)

11. Verbal Update on Role of the Social Worker from a Child's Perspective Review
12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
8 January 2018

To: **The Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)
Councillor H Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors B Bainbridge, D Bell, J Blakey, P Brookes, J Charlton, J Considine, R Crute, S Durham, N Grayson, C Hampson, K Hopper, I Jewell, L Kennedy, L Mavin, A Patterson, A Reed, M Simmons, A Willis and M Wilson

Faith Communities Representatives:
Mrs C Craig and Mrs C Johnston

Parent Governor Representatives:
Mr R Patel

Co-opted Members:
Miss K Ashcroft and Mr J Conlon

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 7 November 2017 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors D Bell, J Blakey, P Brookes, J Charlton, J Considine, R Crute, C Hampson, K Hopper, I Jewell, L Kennedy, L Mavin, A Patterson, A Reed, M Simmons, A Willis and M Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr J Conlon

Also Present:

Councillors L Maddison

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Bainbridge, N Grayson, H Smith and Mrs A Swift.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on the 11 September and 28 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to recent press articles relating to the remit of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The articles were:-

- More than 60 children a day calling Childline with suicidal thoughts;
- Children's door crush finger injuries 'can be life long';
- Over 4000,000 more children will live in poverty by 2021 due to benefit changes.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 School Funding Update

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources that provided details of the Council's proposals with regards to setting the funding formula for mainstream primary and secondary schools for 2018-19, taking into account the Government's announcements on the National Funding Formula for schools on 14 September 2017. The formula would apply to maintained schools from 1 April 2018 and academies from 1 September 2018 (for copy of report and slides, see file of minutes).

The Head of Finance and Transactional Services advised that three options were currently being consulted on. Members were given an overview of how the funding formula works, with members advised that the pupil led formula factors are basic unit per pupil (AWPU); deprivation; low prior attainment and English as an additional language (although this factor is not used in County Durham at the moment). It was highlighted that funding allocations to schools were sensitive to the number of pupils on the roll. School led funding factors includes the lump sum. Currently in County Durham the lump sum is - primary schools receive £160,000 per school and secondary schools receive £175,000. Under the NFF each school whether primary or secondary will receive £110,000. It was highlighted that under the NFF there was a sparsity factor within school led funding, that will only apply to schools in the limited examples and this funding was set at a maximum of £65,000 but tapered based on the size of the school. Premises led funding related to business rates and PFI costs, which are cost neutral for schools.

It was explained that the government had announced that the NFF would be implemented in 2020/21 but that Councils needed to set a local formula for 2018/19 and 2019/20. The DfE were encouraging all authorities to move towards the NFF based allocations prior to 2020/21. School funding formula changes year on year had been minor since 2013 and usually taken under a delegated decision but because of the NFF impacts changes the authority is consulting with schools forum and individual schools and taking a report back to Cabinet in December and formalised in January. The Council had modelled three options: initiate changes immediately from 2018/19; make incremental changes using a transition approach or do nothing until 2020/21. The impact on individual schools had been modelled and were attached to the report. The modelling was continuing to be refined.

The Head of Finance and Transactional Services provided members with a presentation that focused on:-

- Schools Local Formula Funding Arrangements and Regulations;
- National Formula Funding Announcements;
- Issues and Options arising from the National Formula Funding Announcements.

Councillor Brookes referred to the figures for Bluebell Meadow Primary School, which was shown on appendix 3 of the report and noted that this school would have a 5.2% increase in pupil numbers, yet funding had decreased under all scenarios. He highlighted that the National Funding Formula was the better option for that particular school, rather than the transition option, even though pupil numbers had increased. The Head of Finance and Transactional Services advised that some schools have historical allocations and were protected due to deprivation which would reduce over a period of time. He also highlighted that post that there were issues relating to the loss of lump sums following the merger. A breakdown of each individual school would have to be produced for a better understanding. He explained that if there was no change, Bluebell Meadow Primary School would lose £188,000 of funding, while under the NFF the loss would be a smaller amount. He added that a number of other schools would be in the opposite position and would be in a worse situation under the NFF. A breakdown to better explain the change for an individual school could be provided to members on request.

In response to a question from Councillor Blakey regarding how the NFF would apply to new schools and if any safeguarding was in place, the Head of Finance and Transactional Services explained that in terms of modelling, the NFF had been set based on the existing number of schools. Work would be carried out with individual schools to make sure they were factoring in resource impacts of the loss of lump sums upon amalgamation.

Councillor Jewell asked if individual schools that would have a negative impact had been identified and how that would be managed, particularly in light of the different amounts of reserves held by each school. The Head of Finance and Transactional Services advised that when determining the local formula the Council was not able to take into account any retained balances and individual schools and governors were required to consider resources during their MTFP planning. He added that the NFF formula was increasing the amount of funding allocated to the secondary phase and within the NFF increase the amount of funding distributed via Pupil Led factors so the more pupils on roll the greater the resources a school allocated. The government's aim was to reward high performing popular schools through attracting a greater proportion of the funding. This was one of the reasons why a report going to Cabinet on 15 November 2017 was seeking to launch a review of schools provision on an area by area basis.

Councillor Brookes challenged the rationale of driving schools to become bigger. He referred to the list of primary schools and noted that Bluebell Meadow would be the biggest loser in the county even though they had become a bigger school by amalgamating two schools. The Head of Finance and Transactional Services explained that it was possible that the 17/18 funding figures were distorted by the split site allowances and the base funding may have doubled lump sums. He advised that he would confirm the position with the school and forward the information to Councillor Brookes.

Mr Josh Conlon asked if a small school was to close would the funding go with the pupil. The Head of Finance and Transactional Services advised that the funding would follow the child definitely in the following year and as a transition if the child left midway through.

The Head of Finance and Transactional Services added that all members and governors were being asked to consider the proposals and subject to consultation, the consensus from responses so far was that the transitional option was fair to everyone in that every school would change.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Finance and Transactional Services for the detailed presentation.

Resolved:

- (i) That the information contained in the report and the consultation currently underway via the Schools Forum and will all Primary and Secondary Schools across the county be noted;
- (ii) That progress towards implementation of the NFF in 2020-21 continue to be monitored.

8 Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services - Crisis, Liaison and Intensive Home Treatment Service

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Service, CAMHS Durham and Darlington that provided an overview of the Children and Young People Mental Health Crisis, Liaison and Intensive Home Treatment Services. The Project Manager, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust provided members with a presentation detailing the current provision and future developments (for copy of report and slides, see file of minutes).

The CAMHS Crisis and Liaison service ran an open referral system that meant that in some cases young people could refer themselves. Members were advised that a crisis was defined as whatever it was to a young person. The service was both flexible and responsive and was provided to children and young people up to the age of 18 years. The aim of the service was to reduce the waiting times for psychiatric assessment for when young people faced a crisis; to reduce the impact on accident and emergency services and paediatric beds and to reduce emergency admissions to CAMHS in-patient beds by supporting children and young people and their families in their homes in the community.

The Project Manager informed members that patients, carers and families receiving a 24/7 dedicated contact resulted in immediate de-escalation of emotional difficulties. The new service had resulted in a reduction on the pressure within CAMHS community services, greater working relationships within teams, there had also been a reduction on the pressures within emergency departments, and there was a stronger working relationship with external stakeholders.

Members learned that the Crisis, Liaison and Intensive Home Treatments service had won several awards and were shortlisted for more since they began three and half years ago. The Project Manager advised that Durham was leading the way and was being used as a national benchmark. The service was also helping to set up provision in other areas.

Councillor Kennedy asked if young people would be signposted and transferred to Adult Services when they turn 18. The Project Manager explained that from a wider county perspective a transition policy was in place. Many go back to community based services such as GPs and not all transition to Adult Services. She added that the transition should be as seamless as possible and there were many good examples of young people that have transitioned to adults who have had multiple complex needs.

In response to a question regarding telephone assessments and how to judge if that young person requires follow up without any face to face assessment, the Project Manager advised that the telephone assessment would include talking to family and carers as well as the young person before making any decision. From a crisis perspective, the motto is 'if in doubt go out.' Anyone that phones with concerns has a reason for calling therefore the team would do a face to face assessment with the young person and their parent/carers for their perspective.

Responding to Councillor Kennedy's query regarding assessment times, the Project Manager advised that for non-urgent calls, every young person would have their first assessment within 4 weeks and a second assessment within 9 weeks which was on target. Regarding a crisis perspective, the target to start assessment was within 4 hours which would also include a safety plan and was 92% on target, the remaining 8% was in some cases the patients or family's choice not to compete within the 4 hours.

Councillor Hopper asked if there were any issues in recruiting or retaining staff to maintain service delivery. The Project Manager advised that the crisis and liaison team have a low turnover of staff and currently retain 80% of the workforce and the remaining 20% had left due to promotion.

Councillor Blakey queried the time scales for referrals to the CAMHS team. The Project Manager clarified that the first appointment by open referral would take place within 4 weeks and would receive an assessment by telephone or face to face. The target for a second appointment was within 9 weeks in total and in some cases they may have had 4 or 5 appointments within that timeframe.

Referring to key issues and the need for a non-medical place of safety, Councillor Patterson asked if there was any scope to use community hospitals. The Project Manager explained that some young people end up in medical beds that actually require a safe place with support rather than treatment. She highlighted that some buildings have restrictions as to what they could be used for.

Councillor Maddison referred to the recent publicity around the general shortage of psychiatrists and asked what the position was in County Durham. The Project Manager advised that she was not aware of any vacant posts currently across the County, however a couple of retirements were coming up that were being planned for. She added that the Crisis Service was a nurse-led service which also helps with cost efficiencies as well as making sure they remain connected to the locality psychiatrist.

Councillor Wilson asked if work had been carried out with schools to publicise the service and get the information out to parents and children. The Project Manager advised that school resilience nurses, the crisis team and wider service all publicise for each other and

they were promoting whichever service was approached, they would be signposted to the relevant service. She assured that the information was out there, however, they were conscious that many families were still not aware of the service.

Mr Conlon referred to media updates regarding the increase of children calling Childline with suicidal thoughts and asked if the crisis team had experienced a similar increase. The Project Manager explained the lethality challenge the service was facing in that there had been a change from overdosing, injecting and cutting which have a period of time to seek help, support and treatment, to an increase in the use of substances and methods that have a more immediate impact. She recalled a number of cases where young people who had attempted to use those methods had all been regretful. The Project Manager also explained that many young people act impulsively which was not always driven by mental illness but by environmental factors. The impulsivity as an adolescent presents a risk that requires creative thinking to educate young people, manage and contain the risk through positive risk management and helping young people and families to understand the triggers.

The Chairman thanked the Project Manager for Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust for her presentation and commended the team for the positive impact the service has provided to young people in County Durham.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

9 Growing Healthy 0-19 in County Durham

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health that provided an update on the 0-19 Growing Healthy service (0 – 5 Health visitor and 5 – 19 school nursing) (for copy see file of minutes).

The Public Health Portfolio Lead reported on the Service Developments, Performance and Training over the last 12 months ensuring the workforce remain skilled competent practitioners who deliver an evidence-based service.

Members were advised that the contract with HDFT was coming to an end in April 2019 so work would be starting to look at future contracts.

Councillor Brookes commented on the progress being made and suggested that it would be helpful if statistics on the numbers of nurses, health visitors and children contacted were included in the report. He noted many positives within the report and felt it would be useful to include the issues and challenges the service was experiencing. The Head of Children's Public Health Nursing County Durham advised that extensive robust performance data was produced which could be made available to members. She gave a brief overview and highlighted challenges the service was facing which included improvements to the model structure by looking at the SEN school nursing service to introduce a skill mix team within the next 3 months and the issues of recruiting school nurses, which was a national problem.

Councillor Patterson referred to appendix 2 of the report and asked if in future a list of abbreviations used could be included. The Portfolio Lead apologised and agreed that this would be included.

The Chairman thanked the Public Health Portfolio Lead and Head of Children's Public Health Nursing County Durham for presenting the update.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

10 Revision of Framework for the Prevention of Unintentional Injuries in Children and Young People (0-19 years) in County Durham 2017-2020

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health detailing the revised delivery framework for the prevention of unintentional injuries in children and young people (0-19 years) in County Durham 2014-2017, which now requires further consultation and approval (for copy see file of minutes).

The Consultant in Public Health reported that a workshop to assess progress in implementing the strategy was held in November 2016, which included partners representing different sectors involved in delivering the plan. Following a review to see if the strategy was still fit for purpose, the refreshed strategy had now been developed as a delivery framework, reflecting the various delivery strands, along with a forward plan to represent key actions and outcomes to be addressed during 2017 to 2020.

Councillor Crute welcomed the centralisation with the Children and Families Partnership Board and was pleased the strategy had been developed as a delivery framework as his main concern was how to deal with the separate issues internally through the individual scrutiny committees.

Councillor Brookes asked about the relationship between unintentional injuries and the issue of neglect where a child has had multiple admissions to hospital for unintentional injuries. The Consultant in Public Health advised that all practitioners use a home environment tool and have training to identify triggers that are linked with the early help work in make sure the information is shared.

The Head of Early Help, Assess and Safeguarding added that practitioners and accident and emergency teams were well-versed with non-accidental injury issues. It was explained that when a child was seen with injuries, they have to decide if the explanation given was plausible. If the explanation given does not add up then the safeguarding referral would be reported.

It was noted that the home environment tool was used universally to make an assessment on whether the environment was a risk to the child. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board were looking at regular patterns, capturing information such as missed GP and Dental appointments.

The Head of Early Help, Assess and Safeguarding agreed that deprivation would have an impact and advised that an analysis of child poverty was being produced to show the

impact of inequality between areas of the County resulting in circumstances in which a child was born into that would impact on education attainment and mental health issues.

Councillor Patterson referred to depravation, childcare arrangements and universal credit implications and commented on the figures and proportions moving forward.

Councillor Crute added that the impact of the Welfare Reform and the Economy in County Durham requires considering the framework had implications for the remit of many of the scrutiny committees especially the impact of Universal Credit on County Durham communities.

The Consultant in Public Health advised that she would be happy to give a presentation to each individual scrutiny committee.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

The Chairman informed the committee that co-opted member Mrs Andrea Swift would be resigning from the Committee in December 2017 to take up a new post in Stockton. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Andrea for her valuable contribution and commitment to the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee and wished her luck for the future.

The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting had been arranged for Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 9.30am.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors B Bainbridge, D Bell, J Blakey, P Brookes, J Considine, R Crute, C Hampson, K Hopper, I Jewell, L Kennedy, M Simmons and A Willis

Faith Community Representative:

Mrs A Swift and Mrs C Craig

Also Present:

Councillors M McKeon and L Maddison

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Smith, J Charlton, S Durham, N Grayson, L Mavin, A Patterson, A Reed, M Wilson, Miss K Ashcroft, Mr J Conlon and Mr R Patel

2 Substitute Members

Councillor L Maddison for Councillor N Grayson

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review Process

The Committee received a report of the Independent Chair Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board that provided information on the processes involved in the Local Safeguarding Children Board Serious Case Review (SCR) (for copy see file of Minutes).

The LSCB Business Manager gave a presentation that highlighted the following:-

- Serious Case Review Criteria
- Additional Criteria
- Who can refer a case
- Notifications to Government and Regulatory Bodies
- Aims of a Serious Case Review

- Learning and Improvement
- How reviews are conducted
- Published Findings
- Monitoring and Learning
- Current Published SCR
- Learning from published SCR
- What happens next
- Actions Taken by the LSCB
- Additional Actions Taken by the LSCB

Councillor Maddison referred to the last slide of the presentation regarding working together and asked the LSCB Business Manager to expand on the barriers. She advised that the main barriers were about people understanding the thresholds, for example the health professionals giving a level 2 or 3 for a case in terms of need but that another professional would give a different level. A Task and Finish Group had been set up to address that. She also advised that there was a communication and information sharing barrier when the practitioner was not known or there were no contact numbers. A third barrier was systems as all services used different systems and the board was looking at how to reduce this barrier.

Referring to an outcome where a child was not brought to an appointment, Councillor Brookes asked if the LSCB had the authority to ensure that this was followed up. The LSCB Business Manager said that the NHS had an action for that and that work was ongoing with GPs and dental practitioners to identify the people involved. She added that the LSCB could escalate a case higher if it was not being addressed locally. The LSCB Business Manager in response to a further question from Councillor Brookes in relation to organisations implementing recommendations advised that the LSCB in terms of working together can escalate if no action against recommendations.

Councillor Brookes went on to ask if the figures for serious case reviews were published. He was interested in benchmark data suggesting serious case reviews per 1,000 population might be a useful measure for comparing with other local authorities. He was informed that they would be included in the published annual report.

Councillor Kennedy was concerned when the whole family was not looked at when a problem with an elder sibling was known. The LSCB Business Manager said that risks to a baby were not always assessed when looking at another child in the family but due to the findings of the serious case review this learning was being shared that families as a whole should be assessed..

With reference to the Adoption Panel, Councillor Jewell pointed out that problems were identified pre-birth and flagged up quickly through a very rigorous process. The LSCB Business Manager said that in adoption cases there was involvement from the local authority but in this situation where the family was not known to statutory services issues were identified.

Councillor Blakey picked up on the point that communication was a barrier and said that over the last nine years of being on this committee the non-communication or lack of communication between all agencies was still being reported as a problem. She was informed that this was a national issue but would improve with sharing protocols in place.

The Strategic Manager Children's Services explained that the service carry out a large assessment of cases and that information sharing comes up as an issue time and time again. The service were getting things right for so many people and families. She added that in future even when no previous involvement with the family was known a team around the family would look at all aspects of family life. For example, when a child had poor school attendance a health visitor and midwife would be involved. The SCR allowed the service to revisit the findings with all of the practitioners.

The LSCB Business Manager explained that there were flags used on systems where one practitioner had safeguarding concerns, further to a question from Councillor Bainbridge. She added that the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) worked with a number of agencies in the same office with access to the same information.

Councillor Maddison referred to access to information and asked if there was a limit to those people who had authorised access. With early intervention she asked if a midwife would be able to access any flags on the system about safeguarding concerns with a family. The LSCB Business Manager explained that all individual agencies had their own systems and that it did become more difficult when sharing information across all agencies. This was now being addressed and each partner was looking into it. She added that the LSCB had promoted clearer information sharing and further guidance from the Government for 2018 was currently being consulted upon.

The Chairman thanked the LSCB Business Manager for her presentation.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

5 Case File Audit

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services that provided an overview of the Audit Programme being delivered in Children's Services (for copy see file of Minutes). Members were advised that following the Ofsted Inspection in 2016 Ofsted had recommended the improvements were required in case file auditing and that a quality improvement framework had been established which aimed for excellence with high expectations, high challenge and high support. The improvement framework had drawn on research from Ofsted and reports from other local authorities that were judged good or outstanding by Ofsted.

The revised audit programme would bring a culture of quality where only good was good enough. Random audits and moderation would be carried out and clear feedback would be given, there would be escalation for inadequate and requires improvement cases. The group auditing process would be led by senior managers to calibrate standards. However the case file audit was not a standalone tool and part of a much larger quality improvement activity.

Members were advised of the quality improvement activity, which included quality improvement champions, training and development workshops and Head of Service quality clinics. Members learned that each quarter 5% of open cases were audited which included case file audits and moderation and thematic audits. Members were given performance information for audits on Early Help cases, which had seen 65% of good or

better cases in quarter 2, however, statutory services cases that were good or better had fallen to 43%.

The Children's Services Strategic Manager gave a presentation that highlighted:-

- Audit Programme
- Quality Improvement Framework
- Ofsted Recommendation
- Revised Audit Programme
- Audit Tool & Practice Standards
- Quality Improvement Activity
- Annual Audit Programme
- Outcomes to Date – Early Help
- Outcomes to Date – Statutory Services
- By Service
- External Validation
- Next Steps
- Additional Factors

Referring to the Implication Appendix of the report Councillor Blakey noted that there were no disability issues and was advised that this area was supported by the disability team and was dealt with.

Councillor Brookes was advised that the previous LAC service had one assessment tool and a progress record. When audited previously the assessment and record were looked at and the service had taken the decision to remove the assessment part so that everything was in one place. This was in line with other authorities and had led to a reduction.

Councillor Brookes was concerned about the amount of time staff had to record information especially with staff shortages and the volume of case loads to deal with. He asked if the same staff come under audit as being inadequate and if these things were taken on board. The Strategic Manager explained that there was a clear HR process with regards to competency and capability and actions would be put in place when required. The Children's Services Service Improvement Manager confirmed that this was effective and some staff did have action plans in place. The Strategic Manager added that when anything was identified below a good standard there would be an action for each manager and the practitioner would be held to account. The Heads of Service also held quality clinics to work with all managers. She added that there were issues with agency workers and this sometimes affected the stability of the service. The service were attracting staff through a university programme to the social worker academy. The Strategic Manager assured members that the service would continue to strive to improve quality.

With regards to the audit inspection Councillor Jewell asked about the independent inspection and what expertise the auditors had and how consistent the inspections were. The Strategic Manager advised that the service was commissioned following a rigorous process to identify external validators and extensive research had been carried out and that the process was robust. Members were informed that an audit carried out in December 2016 reported that none of the cases were good however significant improvements had been made during the year. The Children's Services Service

Improvement Manager reported that the external auditors carried out two audits a year and the service had recently discussed using a further external auditor to provide additional assurances.

Councillor Kennedy on referring to early help asked if there was training offered to pastoral staff in schools. She was aware of the work that they carried out and the relationship with the One Point Service but that they often were the first port of call. The Strategic Manager advised that training was available and the service were in the process of developing an e-learning package around the single assessment. The expectation was that safeguarding children was everybody's business and to become involved, She added that primary schools had set up case clinics whereby staff could meet with other staff to share the ownership of families as it did not have to be the One Point Service taking the lead. Councillor Kennedy said that training was a requirement for all pastoral staff and she was assured that a programme for local level information sharing was in place.

Councillor Maddison asked if there were tools in place to ensure that everyone received training and was assured that a record of attendance was kept. She went on to ask how cases were selected for auditing purposes and was informed that the performance team select the case files and ensure that they did not re-audit the same child. More cases than were needed were selected to ensure a rotation of staff.

Referring to agency worker staff, Councillor Maddison asked how we ensured that they were up to DCC standards. The Strategic Manager explained that there was a good induction process in place and that agency workers would be familiar with practice standards and would have an understanding of the framework. They also receive feedback when their cases were audited.

Moving on Councillor Maddison enquired about the transfer of cases from one local authority to another and asked at what stage did they become part of an audit process. She was informed that there was a transfer protocol for handing over cases especially with issues which we were required to know. She added that this was one of the thematic audits.

Councillor Maddison's final point was about the delays created when partners did not have the same computer systems when transfer occurred and was advised that managers were aware when a transfer was being made and the case would be risk managed.

The Chairman thanked officers for their presentation and asked that an update be brought to a future meeting.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be received.

6 Role of the Social Worker - Overview

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children and Young People's Services that raised awareness and understanding of the role of the social worker in Durham County Council (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Strategic Manager for Child Protection and Disability gave a very detailed presentation that included the range of work covered by Children's Services Social Workers, the current activity, performance management framework and service pressures.

Members were provided with a snapshot of social worker activity as at 31 October, information on the performance management framework and how the pressure on the service had increased in the past few years.

He highlighted paragraph 17 of the report that gave examples of the type of work carried out on a typical day including domestic abuse referrals, mental health issues, attending team around the family meetings, being cross-examined in court, working with foster carers and prospective adopters and working with vulnerable children at risk of homelessness.

Councillor Kennedy referred to domestic violence when it was the young people abusing their parents and asked about the approach in that situation. The Strategic Manager advised that this would be recognised within LSCB procedures and if the parents were struggling in their own home the urgent care service would formalise a robust and flexible approach for them. Further to another question from Councillor Kennedy about where a child would be placed if taken from the home in these circumstances and was advised that extended family members would be approached in the first instance and on rare occasions the child would be placed in foster care. The main aim of the service would be for the child to return back to the family home safely.

Councillor Bainbridge asked if the increase in more cases was in certain areas of County Durham and if it was from families already in the system or from alcohol, drugs and abuse. She was informed that there were more cases in the East of the County than in more affluent parts of the County and that austerity was impacting on families coping strategies. This was not just the link to poverty but when people did not feel secure in their lives and could lead to mental health issues, drug or alcohol issues and could lead to abuse within the home. There had been an increase in drug use from parents and the patterns of neglect were identified earlier through the One Point Team and Families First Team. The Strategic Manager also advised that the service was working with parents to support them but there was a link to poverty and children coming into care.

Councillor Crute said that there was a common thread with regards to the direction of travel as the number of active cases and applications for care proceedings continued to increase. With the role out of Universal Credit he asked how the service could plan ahead. The Strategic Manager advised that the restructure of the service would better shape the teams and there would be a focus on babies and adolescents. There had been an independent evaluation from Northumbria University with regards to the pre-birth team that showed that in 50% of cases the child stayed with the mother and the other 50% had first and final statements issued. He added that it was about all services working together to be much more pro-active and look at what could be done to tackle poverty.

The Chairman recognised that this was a difficult profession and asked if the good work was recognised or celebrated. The Strategic Manager said that for newly qualified staff end of first year celebrations were held and that staff could be nominated through the Council's 'great staff, great stuff' award. Recognition had grown over the last few years and by coming to meetings such as Scrutiny, the voice of the profession was reaching the

people who mattered. He also added that the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services hosted a celebration event for the social worker of the year.

Referring to a Select Committee's report on Social work last year, Councillor McKeon asked if merging the Adult and Children's social worker roles would be considered. The Strategic Manager advised that the qualifications had become much more specialised, although they are regulated by the same body, the Health and Care Professions Council. He advised that the roles were the same in terms of the ethics and the Code of Conduct and that the Corporate Directors of Children and Young People's Services and Adult and Health Services were keen to do a joint work programme for next year. However, it was recognised that the knowledge base and legislative frameworks were very different.

Councillor Maddison asked what impact social media had had on the social worker and was advised that there had been a significant impact and had changed the nature of the service users outside of work. A number of incidents had taken place with social workers and sessions had been organised with the Cyber Crime team on how to keep themselves safe on the internet.

The Strategic Manager advised that there were a handful of cases that were monitored pre-birth and in some instances, the child would be taken into care at birth, following a question from Councillor Blakey.

Councillor Crute said that there were a range of factors and that it was important to see how this would link together to take on the challenges ahead. The Strategic Manager said that the restructuring would also work around the voluntary sector and for those parents whose child was taken into care from hospital were the most vulnerable and challenging people to deal with.

The Strategic Manager Child Protection and Disability advised in relation to an earlier question about cases transferred to Durham County Council that the service had seen an increase of children from the south of the country moving into the area who brought with them a number of concerns. This was a challenge but he assured the members that once these children were here they were our responsibility.

The Chairman thanked the Strategic Manager for his presentation.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be received.

7 Scoping Report: Role of the Social Worker from a Child's Perspective

The Committee received a report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships that provided scope for an in depth scrutiny review looking at the Role of the Social Worker from a child's perspective (for copy see file of Minutes). The aim of the review was to investigate the role of the social worker assessment and the safeguards of children from a child's perspective to ensure the views of the child are included and reflected in plans relating to them and how this impacts on the social care workforce.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported that the first meeting would be held on 1 December 2017 comprising of 10 members and including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

Management Board. The review would focus on support to the child, families and carers and would be limited to assessment and safeguarding stages.

The Committee would receive regular verbal reports before final recommendations to Cabinet in the summer of 2018.

Resolved:

- (i) That the scoping report and agree the terms of reference as set out in paragraphs 13 - 25 and the project plan at appendix 2 be received.
- (ii) That a working group of no more than ten members from the committee with the Chair and Vice Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board appointed as Ex-Officio members outside of the ten members, be set up.
- (iii) That verbal updates in relation to the progress of the evidence gathering be received.

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 January 2018



Neglect in County Durham

Joint Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an introduction to Neglect in County Durham ahead of a presentation from the Head of Early Help, Assessment and Safeguarding.

Background

- 2 At its meeting on 4 July 2017, the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for the ensuing Municipal Year and within that was included an overview on Neglect in County Durham.
- 3 Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015 defines neglect as 'The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.
- 4 Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board Tackling Neglect Multi Agency Strategy 2017 sets out its objectives for tackling neglect and promoting early help an intervention across County Durham. The strategic aim of the strategy is to reduce neglect, to reduce the impact of neglect and to ensure early help and support is provided at the earliest opportunity. To deliver the strategic aim work is aligned to four strategic objectives:-
 - Understand Neglect
 - Early Identification
 - Effective Provision
 - Family Focus.
- 5 The power point presentation will outline the following headings:
 - What neglect is
 - Causes of neglect

- Impact of neglect on children
- Prevalence of neglect; and
- Our responses

Recommendation

6 Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- (a) Note the content of the presentation.
- (b) Comment accordingly on the presentation.

Contact: Carole Payne

Tel: 03000268657

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk – The authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that the welfare of children and young people across the county is actively promoted and that they are safeguarded from risk of significant harm.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

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Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 January 2018



Analysis of the Rise in Looked After Children Numbers

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to appraise members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee of some analytical work that has been carried out into the increase in numbers of looked after children in Durham.

Background

- 2 Durham County Council has the lead responsibility for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children with a key aim to provide early help for children and families and protection for those who need it. The primary legislation that underpins this responsibility is the Children Act 1989. A fundamental principle of the Act is that children should be supported within their family unless it is necessary for their welfare to arrange for them to live outside their family.
- 3 Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be familiar with the work that the local authority undertakes with regard to those children and young people who are looked after. They will also be aware that the number of children and young people in the looked after system has recently been increasing.
- 4 Whilst the local authority would always make decisions based on the best interests of the child before intervention, there are significant implications of an increase in looked after provision, both in financial and human costs.
- 5 Early experiences have long-term consequences for the emotional and mental health and social development of looked after children and young people. Life chances for children and young people who have been looked after remain poor compared to their non-looked after peers.
- 6 An increase in looked after children places increased cost pressures on the council in terms of placement costs and also work pressures in children's social care. The council also has a legal responsibility as corporate parent to ensure that the needs of all children and young people in their care are met.

Looked After Children Analysis

- 7 There were 776 children looked after by Durham County Council at the end of November 2017. This compares to 760 at the end of November 2016 and 660 at November 2015.
- 8 When comparing with other local authorities, a rate of looked after children per 10,000 children and young people (aged 0-18 years old) is a useful measure. Our rate for Durham has increased significantly in recent years and is higher than the national average but remains well below the regional rate.

Children looked after rate per 10,000 children under 18 (from 2014/15 to 2016/17)				
Financial Year	Durham	England	North East	Children's services statistical neighbour group
2014/15	61	64	85	81
2015/16	68	65	88	82
2016/17	81	67	96	87

- 9 Increases in the number of children and young people in the looked after children were noted though regular quarterly performance monitoring reports and a more in depth analysis was commenced to better understand trends and identify any future improvements.
- 10 A presentation of the findings of this analysis will be shared with the Committee.

Recommendation

- 11 Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
- (a) Note the content of the presentation.
 - (b) Comment accordingly on the presentation.
 - (c) Indicate if any further information or analysis is required.

Background papers

Corporate Parenting Panel Report – 24 November 2017 – Looked After Children: the Journey into the Looked After System

Contact: Tom Gorman Tel: 03000 268027

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The number of looked after children for which the authority is responsible has significant implications in terms of increasing cost pressures.

Staffing – An increase in the number of looked after children places a greater demand on children’s social care staff.

Risk – The authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that the welfare of children and young people across the county is actively promoted and that they are safeguarded from risk of significant harm.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – Legislation sets out a general duty of Durham County Council as the local authority looking after a child to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. This duty underpins all activity by the local authority in relation to looked after children.

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**Children and Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

16 January 2018



**Quarter Two 2017/18
Performance Management Report**

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present progress against the council's corporate performance framework for Altogether better for Children and Young People for the second quarter of the 2017/18 financial year.

Background

- 2 This year, the Sustainable Community Strategy, setting out the vision for the county, and supporting Council Plan and service plans are due for review. With a strong commitment to progressing the council's transformation programme, driven by a focus on delivering the best possible outcomes within available resources, Cabinet agreed that an outcome based approach to planning is adopted. 2017/18 is a transition year as we review our vision, planning framework and associated performance management arrangements to ensure that they operate efficiently and are fit for purpose in the current climate.

Performance Reporting Arrangements for 2017/18

- 3 Our performance reporting arrangements have been developed around a series of key performance questions aligned to the Altogether framework of six priority themes, and are designed to facilitate greater scrutiny of performance. The set of performance measures provides an indication to help answer these questions for those with corporate governance responsibilities. Development of performance reporting will continue throughout the year in particular to enhance reporting of qualitative aspects of performance as highlighted by the 2016 Ofsted inspection.
- 4 There are other areas of performance that are measured through more detailed monitoring across service groupings and if performance issues arise, these will be escalated for consideration by including them in the corporate report on an exception basis.
- 5 The performance indicators are still reported against two indicator types which comprise of:

- (a) key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
 - (b) key tracker indicators – performance is tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence.
- 6 This report sets out our key performance messages from data released this quarter. A visual summary per Altogether priority theme presents key data messages from the new performance framework showing the latest position in trends and how we compare with others. A comprehensive table of key performance questions and performance data is presented in Appendix 3. An explanation of symbols used and the groups we use to compare ourselves is in Appendix 2.
- 7 To support the complete indicator set, a guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2017/18 corporate indicator set. This is available to view and can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Key Performance Messages from Data Released this Quarter

- 8 In line with [Ofsted findings](#), work continues to improve children’s services in Durham across four key areas: political and management oversight; management and staffing capacity; improving the quality of social work practice; and compliance with regulations.
- 9 Performance is considered across three levels:
- (a) How our **early help and universal children’s services** help support children in the wider community.
 - (b) How our **assessment and safeguarding services** are supporting children at risk and children in need.
 - (c) Corporate **parenting support** for the 808 children for whom the council is their parent, and 235 care leavers.¹

Universal Services and Early Help

- 10 We continue to perform well across many key areas of universal services and early help. In relation to educational attainment, children in County Durham are performing well across three out of four different key stages. Provisional figures for 2016/17 show children in early years, at key stage 2, and at A level, all either had higher achievement rates or were in line with last year and attainment was higher than regional and national averages. At key stage 4

¹ Figures as at Quarter 2 2017/18

(former GCSE level), provisional Attainment 8 results² are in line with regional but lower than national averages. Due to the methodology change in data collection, this year's attainment is not comparable with last year's performance.

- 11 New performance figures released in relation to school exclusions show that fewer children in County Durham have experienced at least one fixed term exclusion from school compared to regional and national counterparts. A continued focus is placed on County Durham's secondary schools, as fewer have been judged outstanding or good when compared to last year. This is below regional, and national averages (see Appendix 5 for table of secondary schools and grading).
- 12 Slightly more children aged 0 to 2 years in deprived areas (89.4%) are registered with a children's centre and are having sustained contact compared to last year (88%). Children's centres play a vital role in early intervention, reaching those whose needs might otherwise escalate into more serious problems, and delivering crucial preventative support. In relation to child health, under 18 conceptions continue to reduce; they are now at the lowest level since recording began in 1998 but remain significantly higher than in England.
- 13 Key performance issues continuing from last quarter are:
 - (a) timeliness of education health and care plans for children with special educational needs and disabilities;
 - (b) number of families benefiting from the Stronger Families Programme.
- 14 Progress has been made with education health and care plans (EHCPs) completed within 20 weeks for children with special educational needs and disabilities, however, this still requires improvement. Between January and September 2017, 75% of EHCPs were completed in timescale which is an improvement from 66% completed between January and June 2017 and better than 2016 national and regional levels. However, the national target to achieve 90% has not been met. Data for the second quarter alone (July to September 2017) has seen 85% of EHCPs completed in timescale, demonstrating that the remedial measures put in place last quarter have been effective. This includes recruitment of more staff to aid capacity issues; additional data resource to assist with the implementation of Synergy (IT system); and implementation of an alert system for the 20 week process to aid casework.

² Attainment 8, (replacing former GCSE) focuses on pupils' performance across their best eight qualifications measured on a points award basis, with each grade worth points on an ascending scale.

- 15 Our family intervention programme has a target to engage with 4,360 families and successfully turn them around³ by March 2020. Up to October 2017, 26.8% (1,167) have already been successfully turned around, however, the profiled target of 41.6% (1,812) has not been met.

Assessment and Safeguarding Services

- 16 A performance issue that emerged last quarter where progress has been made is the timeliness of initial child protection conferences (ICPC).⁴ Data for the second quarter (July to September 2017) has seen 75% of ICPCs taking place within 15 working days of the first strategy meeting. This discrete quarter two performance has achieved target. Actions to address poor performance during quarter one included recruitment of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) vacancies.
- 17 Improvement has continued in the re-referral rate. The April to September 2017 period shows that 420 of 2,584 children in need referrals occurred within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 16.3%. Performance has improved greatly on the same period last year (23.8%) and is lower than national, regional and statistical neighbour comparisons (2015/16).
- 18 There are additional ongoing performance issues that we need to address, better understand or keep under greater scrutiny:
- (a) social worker caseload levels;
 - (b) quality of assessment and casefiles.
- 19 Progress has been made with one of the performance issues reported last quarter. Caseload levels per social worker have improved from the baseline of February 2016, when the Ofsted inspection took place. Despite increasing demand, remedial measures including recruiting additional social work staff, have resulted in an increase of social workers with 20 cases or less, improving from 41% to 48%. Further progress is required and the council continues to scrutinise staffing including vacancy levels and ratios of cases to social workers to address the issues highlighted in the Ofsted report.
- 20 Reported casefile quality has deteriorated this quarter with 43% of social work team statutory case files assessed as good or above. The quality of casefiles in the Looked After Children (LAC) teams has impacted on this performance. LAC teams were awarded a high level of good grades over the previous two quarters. However, in order to validate the grades awarded to LAC cases, additional scrutiny and moderation has been applied to audits of the LAC teams in this quarter. As a result, there has been a reduction in good grades, as auditors have applied a more consistent level of challenge. Further

³ Turned around is a national term and refers to families who have benefitted from successful interventions which aims to assist individuals in a family to achieve reductions in crime/antisocial behaviour, improve school attendance or move back into employment through the Stronger Families Programme.

⁴ An initial child protection conference (ICPC) must be convened following a Section 47 enquiry to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child who is suspected of, or likely to be, suffering significant harm.

progress is required to achieve our target for at least 80% of audited cases by March 2018. Work to improve quality is being given a high priority, with continuing senior management focus and challenge.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- 21 At September 2017, the council had corporate parenting responsibility for 235 young people (aged 17 to 21) who had left care. This is a particularly vulnerable cohort of young people. The wide range of support the council offers is good, with figures showing more care leavers in County Durham are in suitable accommodation and in employment or training (EET) compared to both North East and national counterparts.
- 22 There were 808 looked after children (LAC) at the end of September 2017 in County Durham. There are early signs that the number of looked after children has plateaued following a steady increase, with numbers over the last four quarters remaining close to 800 (see Appendix 5, chart 2). The rate of children looked after per 10,000 (0-17 years) population remains significantly higher than the national average but below the North East and levels have been increasing across the country (see Appendix 6).
- 23 A series of lean reviews have been carried out across children's services to ensure that processes are as efficient as possible. Work is focused on identifying children at risk, with particular emphasis on teenagers on the edge of going into care. An initial scoping exercise of the Pause programme⁵ has been undertaken to work with mothers who have experienced, or are at risk of repeat removals of children from their care. The use of external residential placements for LAC (including looked after children in residential care and residential schools) has increased, rising from 13 (1.8% of placements) last year to 26 (3.2% of placements) at 30 September 2017, although the use of these placements has stabilised over the last three quarters.
- 24 Good progress has been made in relation to dental checks with County Durham's looked after children (90.3%). This was identified as an issue in the last report but is now better than both the regional and national averages and no longer a performance issue this quarter.
- 25 Educational attainment for looked after children shows 35% achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at key stage 2 for the 2016/17 academic year (provisional), higher than that achieved nationally (25%), regionally (27%), and for statistical neighbours (29%) in the 2015/16 academic year (awaiting 2016/17 comparator data). There were 38 looked after children in the 2016/17 year 6 cohort, of whom 63% had an identified special educational need and disability need. The Virtual School establishes individual targets for each child and for the cohort group. The average Attainment 8 score of looked after children is 25.9.

⁵ Pause programme works with those who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeat removals of children from their care, aiming to break this cycle and give women the opportunity to develop new skills and responses that can help them create a more positive future.

- 26 Two key performance issues highlighted are identified this quarter and require continued scrutiny:
- (a) adoption from care and foster placements;
 - (b) health assessments of looked after children.
- 27 Between April and June 2017, 13 children were adopted from care (11.9%), compared with 19 children (18.3%) in the same period last year. Performance is lower than the most recent national (14%), regional (14%) and statistical neighbour (16.6%) benchmarking data for 2016/17. The service is focusing on increasing the number of approved foster carers and adopters. Initial enquiries from a recent radio campaign appear to identify that this has been successful, although due to the length of the process actual approved numbers will not be evidenced for 6/9 months. A smaller project to look at regional adopter recruitment, linking with charities such as Barnardo's is ongoing. At 1 September, there were 33 children waiting for adoption and this cohort of children has an increased focus to work to ensure that they are matched to their permanent families as quickly as possible.
- 28 In relation to foster placements, at 30 September 2017, 79.4% of looked after children (LAC) were fostered (640 children). This includes fostering by friends, family, in house foster carers, and independent fostering agencies. This is a decrease in the percentage of LAC who are fostered when comparing to last year's equivalent period (84.7%), although this performance relates to less children (620).
- 29 The health assessments of looked after children, identified as an issue in the previous quarter, continue to be an issue this quarter. Fewer looked after children in County Durham had health assessments (83.8%) compared to quarter one (86.4%) with levels lower than both regional and national averages. This work is a joint responsibility between the local authority and health colleagues and we are working closely together to improve this performance. There are issues relating to recording and with a recent data refresh the performance for quarter two has improved to 89.7%. Work will be completed to ensure that the systems are robust for quarter three. Detailed analysis is being completed to understand the range of reasons that affect this performance.

Key performance messages reported to other overview scrutiny committees which may be of interest to this committee are as follows:

- 30 An ongoing performance challenge is breastfeeding prevalence. Although performance has improved slightly this quarter, further improvement is still required. The multi-agency breastfeeding action plan for County Durham 2017-2019 presents a holistic approach that includes maternity, public health and local authority children's services. Key partners are being asked to make progress towards their buildings being accredited as breastfeeding friendly venues and work is ongoing to develop a communications plan to promote County Durham as a breastfeeding friendly county, including the promotion of the new Baby Buddy app.

- 31 An ongoing performance issue is the rate of mothers smoking at time of delivery, which has increased and is significantly higher than national and regional rates. Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield (DDES) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has the highest rate in the North East and is second highest of all CCGs in England. A 15-month incentive scheme began in April 2017 in DDES, funded by NHS England, with shopping vouchers offered to women who quit smoking whilst pregnant. The scheme is being monitored quarterly and early indications for numbers quitting are positive, with 59 pregnant women setting a quit date in quarter one 2017/18, of which 40 (68%) women quit. This is an improvement from the same period last year (61%) and the highest recorded.
- 32 The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System (aged 10 -17 years) has fallen and remains better than target. There have been fewer child sexual exploitation referrals than last year.

Risk Management

- 33 Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects.
- 34 The key risk in delivering the ambitions of this priority theme and how we are managing it is; failure to protect a child from death or serious harm (where service failure is a factor or issue). Management consider it possible that this risk could occur which, in addition to the severe impacts on children, will result in serious damage to the council's reputation and to relationships with its safeguarding partners. To mitigate the risk, actions are taken forward from Serious Case Reviews and reported to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Lessons learned are fed into training for front line staff and regular staff supervision takes place. This risk is long term and procedures are reviewed regularly (Critical / Possible).

Key Data Messages by Altogether Theme

- 35 The next section provides a three-page summary of key data messages for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme. The format of the Altogether theme provides a snap shot overview aimed to ensure that key performance messages are easy to identify. The Altogether theme is supplemented by information and data relating to the complete indicator set, provided at Appendix 3.

Altogether Better for Children and Young People

Early Help and Universal Services

Achieving Aspiration

Educational Attainment (Provisional)	Durham 2016/17 (2015/16)	North East	National
Early years achieving good level of development	72% (69%)	68.4%*	69.3%*
Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing Maths achieving expected standard	65% (59%)	64%	61%
Average attainment 8 Key Stage 4 (GCSE)	44.6 (NA)**	44.3	46.1
A Level average point score	31.8 (31.89)	30.6	30.85

*15/16 ac yr **due to methodology change

At least one fixed term **exclusion from school**

1.77%	-0.23%point	2.01%	2.11%
Durham	Durham since 15/16 ac yr	N. E. 15/16	England 15/16

Schools judged outstanding or good

91% Primary	65%* Secondary
--------------------	-----------------------

*11 out of 31 schools judged as Requires Improvement or Inadequate (2 more than last year and 1 more than last quarter). 6 LA maintained schools and 5 academies (As of Aug 2017).

85% of Education Health and Care Plans processed in 20 weeks (Jul-Sep 2017) for children or young people with a special educational need or disability. This is more than regional (73.4%) and national (58.6%) averages, but target of 90% has not been achieved.

Health

Under 18 Conception rate (Jul 2015 — Jun 2016)

24.3 per 1,000 female population (198 conceptions), fewer than last year (26.4 and 222 conceptions) and lowest since 1998, but still significantly more than England (19.8).

Teenage Pregnancy

Relationship Education Targeted Intervention

Early Help support

Sustained contact with Children's Centre

89.4% of Durham 0-2 year olds in the top 30% IMD* having sustained contact, more than last year (88%) (Jul 2016/ Jun 2017)

*Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010

1,167 families have been successfully turned around* at Oct 2017 (26.8% of phase 2 overall total of 4,360 families by March 2020), above both the regional (15.7%) and national average (13.2%), but not achieved the target of 41.6% (1447families).

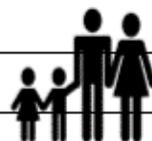
Stronger Families Programme

*Turned around is a national terms and refers to families who have benefitted from successful interventions which aims to assist individuals in a family to achieve reductions in crime/antisocial behaviour, improve school attendance or move back into employment through the Stronger Families Programme .

Altogether Better for Children and Young People

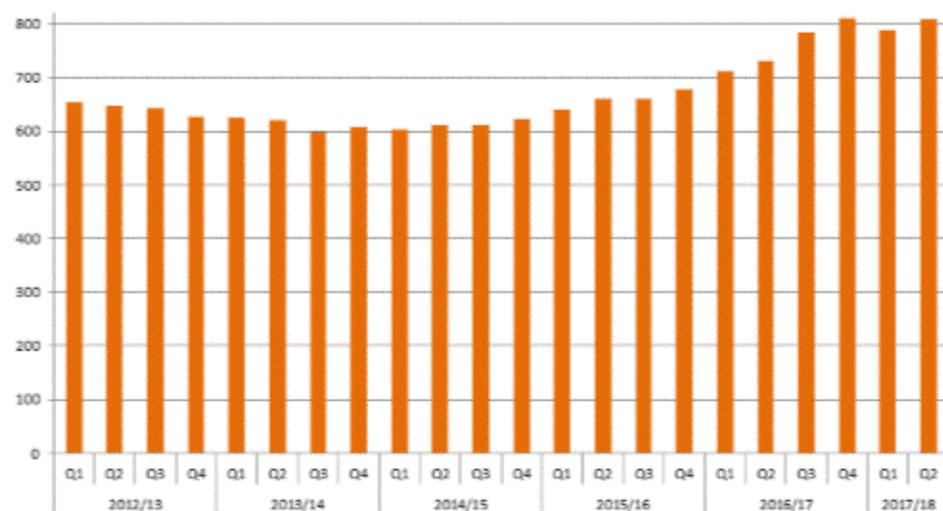
Looked after Children

Safeguarding (30 Sep 2017)



- **808** children currently looked after (LAC). The number of LAC over the last four quarters has plateaued, remaining close to 800.
- **10.6%** increase in LAC rate from 72.9 per 10,000 children (Sep 2016) to 80.6. In the last quarters the rates were within the range 78.3 to 80.6.
- **235** care leavers are also receiving support

Number of looked after children



Social Work Practice

- ◆ **640** LAC (79.4%) who are in a foster placement, compared to 620 (84.7%) last year—As at Sep 2017
- ◆ **26** LAC (3.2%) have external residential placements, compared to 13 (1.8%) last year—As at Sep 2017
- ◆ **13** children (11.9%) adopted of those leaving care (Apr - Jun 2017), compared to 19 (18.3% - Apr - Jun 2016)
- ◆ **33** children are waiting for adoption (Sep 2017).

Achieving Aspiration

Educational Attainment (provisional) of Looked after Children

Achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing, Maths



Durham
35%

N.E.
27%

National
25%

Average Attainment 8 Score (GCSE)

Durham
25.9

N.E.
N.A.

National
N.A.

Care leavers aged 17-21

	Durham	North East	England
In suitable accommodation	92.3%	86%	84%
	(Apr-Sep 2017)	(2015/16 ac yr)	(2015/16 ac yr)
Employment or training (EET)	66%	50%	52%
	(Apr-Sep 2017)	(2015/16 ac yr)	(2015/16 ac yr)

Health of looked after children

	Durham	North East	England
A dental health check	90.3%	85.1%	84.1%
	(Apr-Sep 2017)	(2015/16)	(2015/16)
Health assessments	83.8%	90.2%	90%
	(Apr-Sep 2017)	(2015/16)	(2015/16)

Recommendations and reasons

36 That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising therein.

Contact: Jenny Haworth Tel: 03000 268071

Appendix 1: Implications

Appendix 2: Report Key

Appendix 3: Summary of key performance indicators

Appendix 4: Volume measures

Appendix 5: Secondary Schools Require Improvement and Inadequate

Appendix 6: Looked After Children

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

Staffing - Performance against a number of relevant corporate health Performance Indicators (PIs) has been included to monitor staffing issues.

Risk - Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly monitoring report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - Corporate health PIs are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Accommodation - Not applicable

Crime and Disorder - A number of PIs and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Human Rights - Not applicable

Consultation - Not applicable

Procurement - Not applicable

Disability Issues - Employees with a disability are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Legal Implications - Not applicable

Appendix 2: Report key

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel/benchmarking

Same or better than comparable period/comparator group

GREEN

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (within 2% tolerance)

AMBER

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (greater than 2%)

RED

Performance against target

Meeting/Exceeding target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Performance >2% behind target

- ✓ Performance is good or better than comparable period/benchmark
- ✗ Performance is poor or worse than comparable period/benchmark
- ↔ Performance has remained static or is in line with comparable period/benchmark

National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e. County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-On-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland. The number of authorities also varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils.

Nearest Neighbour Benchmarking:

The nearest neighbour model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), one of the professional accountancy bodies in the UK. CIPFA has produced a list of 15 local authorities which Durham is statistically close to when you look at a number of characteristics. The 15 authorities that are in the nearest statistical neighbours group for Durham using the CIPFA model are: Barnsley, Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Wigan, Kirklees, St Helens, Calderdale, Dudley, Northumberland, Tameside, Sheffield, Gateshead, Stockton-On-Tees and Stoke-on-Trent.

We also use other neighbour groups to compare our performance. More detail of these can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Page 10

Table 1: Key Target and Tracker Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure	Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered		
Altogether Better for Children and Young People												
1. Are children, young people and families in receipt of universal services appropriately supported?												
22	CYPS 24	Average attainment 8 score/score for LA (all pupils at the end of key stage 4 in state-funded mainstream and special schools and academies - replacing GCSE attainment)	44.6	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)	Tracker	NA	NA	46.1	RED	44.3*	GREEN	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)
23	CYPS 27	Average point score per A level entry of state-funded school students	31.8	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)	Tracker	31.9	AMBER	30.9	GREEN	30.6*	GREEN	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)
24	CYPS 28	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (at KS2)	65.0	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)	Tracker	59.0	GREEN	61.0	GREEN	64*	GREEN	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)
25	CYPS 2	Percentage of 16 to 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) [1]	4.9	Apr - Jun 2017	Tracker	4.7	RED			4*	RED	

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure		Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure		Period covered
26	CYPS 25	Gap between the average Attainment 8 score of Durham disadvantaged pupils and the average Attainment 8 score of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (at KS4)	-12.5	2015/16 ac yr (final)	Tracker	New indicator	NA	-12.3	AMBER	-13.3*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr (final)
27	CYPS 26	Percentage of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage achieving a Good Level of Development	72	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)	64.0	69.0	GREEN	69.3	GREEN	68.4*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr (final)
28	CYPS 29	Gap between the percentage of Durham disadvantaged pupils and the percentage of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally who achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (at KS2)	-16	2015/16 ac yr (final)	Tracker	New indicator	NA	-22	GREEN	-23*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr (final)
29	CYPS 30	Ofsted percentage of primary pupils in good or better schools	91	As at Aug 2017	Tracker	92	AMBER	91	GREEN	92*	AMBER	As at Aug 2017
30	CYPS 31	Ofsted percentage of secondary pupils in good or better schools	65	As at Aug 2017	Tracker	77	RED	79	RED	66*	AMBER	As at Aug 2017

Page Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure		Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure		Period covered
31	CYPS 32	Exclusion from school of All Durham children - percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion	1.77	2016/17 ac yr	Tracker	2.0	GREEN	2.11	GREEN	NA		2015/16 ac yr
32	AHS1	Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17	24.3	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	Tracker	26.4	GREEN	19.8	RED	26.3*	GREEN	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016
33	AHS2	Proportion of five year old children free from dental decay	64.9	2014/15	Tracker	New indicator	NA	75.2	RED	72*	RED	2014/15
34	AHS3	Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18's (rate per 100,000)	67.5	2013/14 - 2015/16	Tracker	72.8	GREEN	37.4	RED	66.9*	AMBER	2013/14 - 2015/16
35	AHS4	Young people aged 10-24 admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm	489.4	2011/12 - 2013/14	Tracker	504.8	GREEN	367.3	RED	532.2*	GREEN	England 2011/12-2013/14 NE - 2010/11-2012/13
36	AHS5	Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese	24.3	2015/16 ac yr	Tracker	23.0	RED	22.1	RED	24.6*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr
37	ASH6	Percentage of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese	37	2015/16 ac yr	Tracker	36.6	AMBER	34.2	RED	37*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr
38	CYPS 33	Percentage of Education Health and Care Plans completed in the statutory 20 week time period	75.0	Jan - Sep 2017	90.0	89.0	RED	58.6	GREEN	73.4*	GREEN	Jan - Dec 2016

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure	Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered		
2. Are children, young people and families in receipt of Early Help services appropriately supported?												
39	CYPS 22	Percentage of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Phase 2)	26.8	Sep 2014 - Oct 2017	41.6	7	GREEN	13.2	GREEN	15.7*	GREEN	Sep 2014 - Mar 2017
40	CYPS 23	Percentage of children aged 0-2 years in the top 30% IMD registered with a Children's Centre and having sustained contact	89.4	Jul 2016 - Jun 2017	60	88	GREEN					
3. Are children and young people in receipt of social work services appropriately supported and safeguarded?												
41	CYPS 14	Percentage of First Contact & EDT enquiries processed within 1 working day	84.5	Apr - Sep 2017	Tracker	71.5	GREEN					
42	CYPS 15	Percentage of statutory children in need referrals received which occurred within 12 months of a previous referral	16.3	Apr - Sep 2017	Tracker	23.8	GREEN	22.3	GREEN	20.6*	GREEN	2015/16
43	CYPS 16	Percentage of statutory single assessments completed within 45 working days	79.1	Apr - Sep 2017	Tracker	82.0	RED	83.4	RED	82.1*	RED	2015/16
44	CYPS 17	Rate of children subject to a child	50.0	As at Sep	Tracker	40.5	RED	43.1	RED	59.6*	GREEN	As at Mar

Page 44 Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure		Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure		Period covered
		protection plan per 10,000 population aged under 18		2017								2016
45	CYPS 18a	Rate of children in need (proxy) per 10,000 population aged under 18 (L4 open cases ONLY)	346.3	As at Sep 2017	Tracker	306.5	NA	337.7		441.5*		2015/16
46	CYPS 18b	Level 2/3 cases open to One Point Service - Rate per 10,000 population aged under 18	49.0	As at Sep 2017	Tracker	39.9	NA					
47	CYPS 18c	Level 3 cases open to Families First Teams - Rate per 10,000 population aged under 18	205.2	As at Sep 2017	Tracker	202.0	NA					
48	CYPS 19	Percentage of strategy meetings initiated which led to an initial child protection conference being held within 15 working days	61.0	Apr -Sep 2017	Tracker	73.4	RED	76.7	RED	82.4*	RED	2015/16
49	CYPS 20	Percentage of Social Workers with fewer than 20 case	48.0	As at Sep 2017	Tracker	43.0	GREEN					
50	CYPS 21	Percentage of Case File Audits which are rated as good or better	43.0	Apr - Sep 2017	80.0	New indicator	NA					

4. Are we being a good corporate parent for Looked After Children?

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure		Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure		Period covered
51	CYPS 3	Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 18	80.6	As at Sep 2017	Tracker	72.9	NA	62		92*		As at Mar 2017
52	CYPS 4	Percentage of children adopted from care (as % of total children leaving care)	11.9	Apr - Jun 2017	Tracker	18.3	RED	14	RED	14*	RED	2016/17
53	CYPS 5	Percentage of LAC who are in a foster placement	79.4	As at Sep 2017	Tracker	84.7	RED					
54	CYPS 6	Percentage of independent residential placement	3.2	As at Sep 2017	Tracker	1.8	RED					
55	CYPS 7	Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who had a dental check	90.3	Apr - Sep 2017	Tracker	86.7	GREEN	84.1	GREEN	85.1*	GREEN	2015/16
56	CYPS 8	Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who have had the required number of health assessments	83.8	Apr - Sep 2017	Tracker	84.9	AMBER	90	RED	90.2*	RED	2015/16
57	CYPS 9	Emotional and behavioural health of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more (SDQ)	16.0	2016/17	Tracker	14.9	RED	14	RED	14.5*	RED	2015/16

Page Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure		Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure		Period covered
58	CYPS 10	Average Attainment 8 score of Looked After Children	25.9	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)	Tracker	NA	NA	22.8	GREEN	25.9*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr
59	CYPS 11	Percentage of LAC achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (at KS2)	35.0	2016/17 ac yr (provisional)	Tracker	44.0	RED	25	GREEN	27*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr
60	CYPS 12	Percentage of care leavers aged 17-21 in education, employment or training (EET)	66.0	Apr - Sep 2017	Tracker	62.4	GREEN	52	GREEN	50*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr
61	CYPS 13	Percentage of care leavers aged 17-21 in suitable accommodation	92.3	Apr - Sep 2017	Tracker	92.2	GREEN	84	GREEN	86*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr

[1] [The high number of school leavers whose status is 'not known' impacts significantly on this indicator](#)

Table 2 - Other additional relevant indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure	Performance compared to *North East or **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered		
Altogether Wealthier												
1. Do residents have good job prospects?												
6	CYP S1	Percentage of 16 to 17 year olds in an apprenticeship	9.5	As at Jun 2017	Tracker	8.3	GREEN	6.7	GREEN	9.3*	GREEN	As at Jun 2017
Altogether Healthier												
1. Are our services improving the health of our residents?												
62	AHS 12	Percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery	19.6	Apr - Jun 2017		16.7	RED	10.8	RED	16.8*	RED	Apr - Jun 2017
70	AHS 38	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	29.9	Jul - Sep 2017	Tracker	26.1	GREEN	44.3	Not comparable	30.6*	Not comparable	Jan - Mar 2017
Altogether Safer												
1. How effective are we at tackling crime and disorder?												
82	CYPS 35	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population of 10 to 17 year olds) [2]	142	Apr - Sep 2017		186	GREEN	357	Not comparable	413**	Not comparable	2015/16
86	CYPS 36	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%)	45.8	Oct - Dec 2015	Tracker	New Indicator	NA	41.8	RED	48.6*	GREEN	Oct - Dec 2015
4. How well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation?												
99	CYPS 34	Number of child sexual exploitation referrals [2]	166	Oct 16 - Sep 17	Tracker	192	NA					

Appendix 4: Volume Measures

Page 48
Chart 1. Children in need referrals within 12 months of previous referral

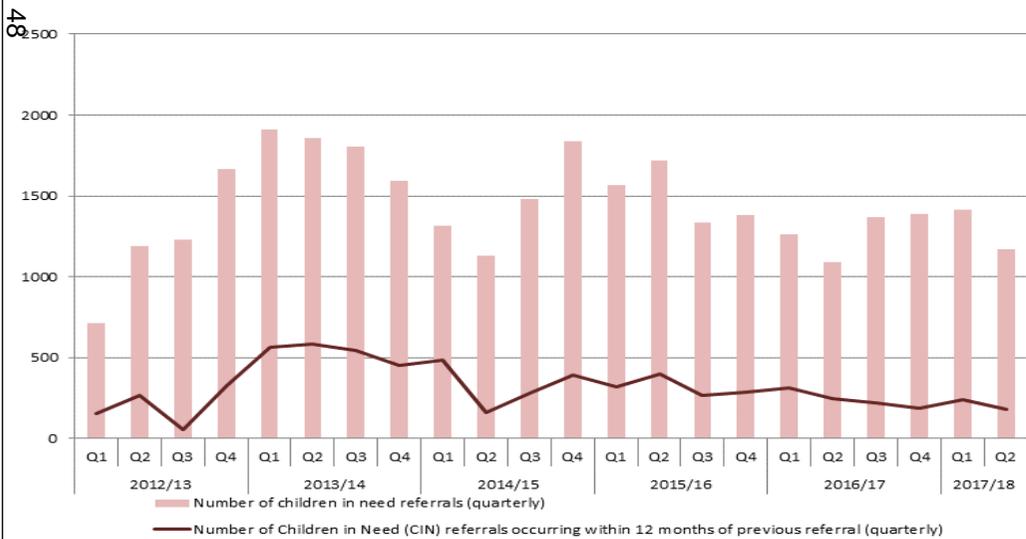


Chart 2. Looked after children cases

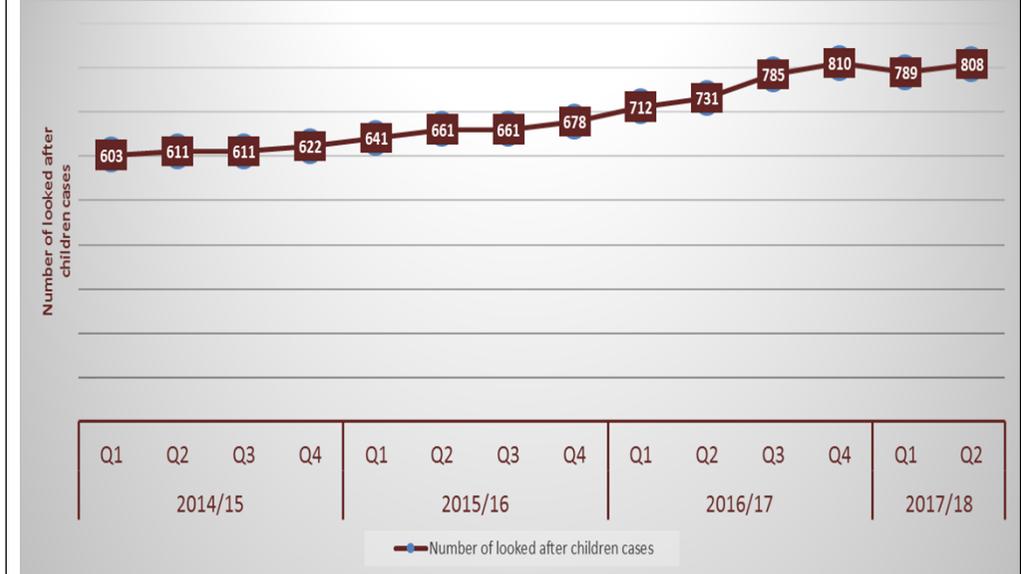


Chart 3. Children with a child protection plan

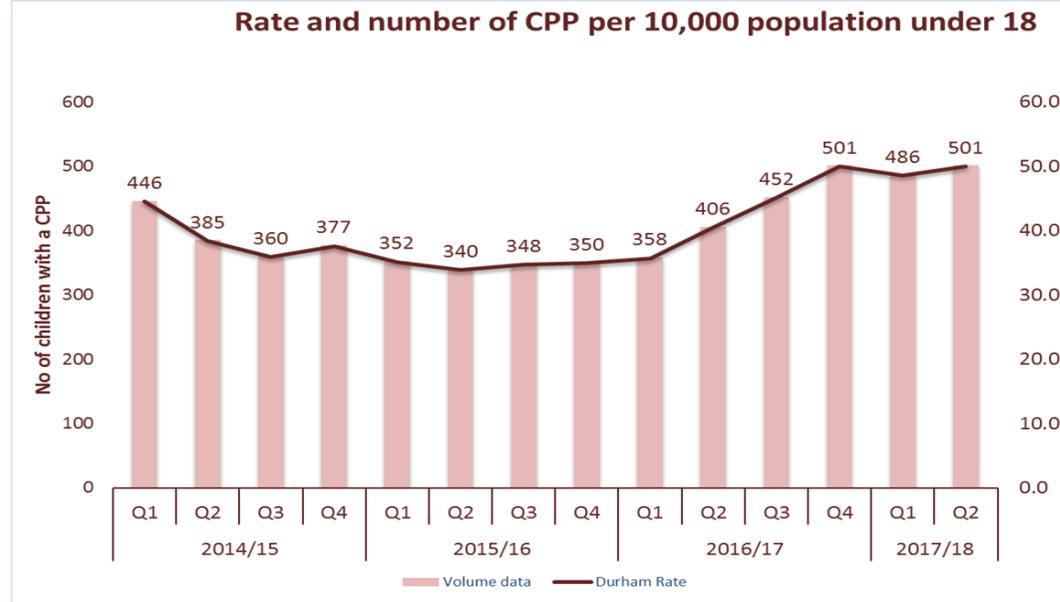
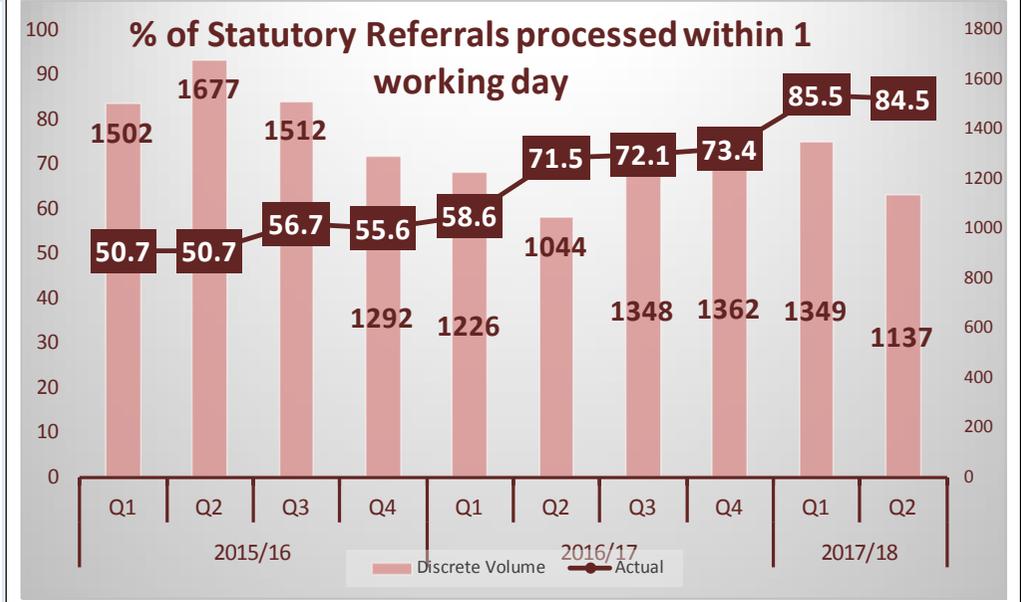
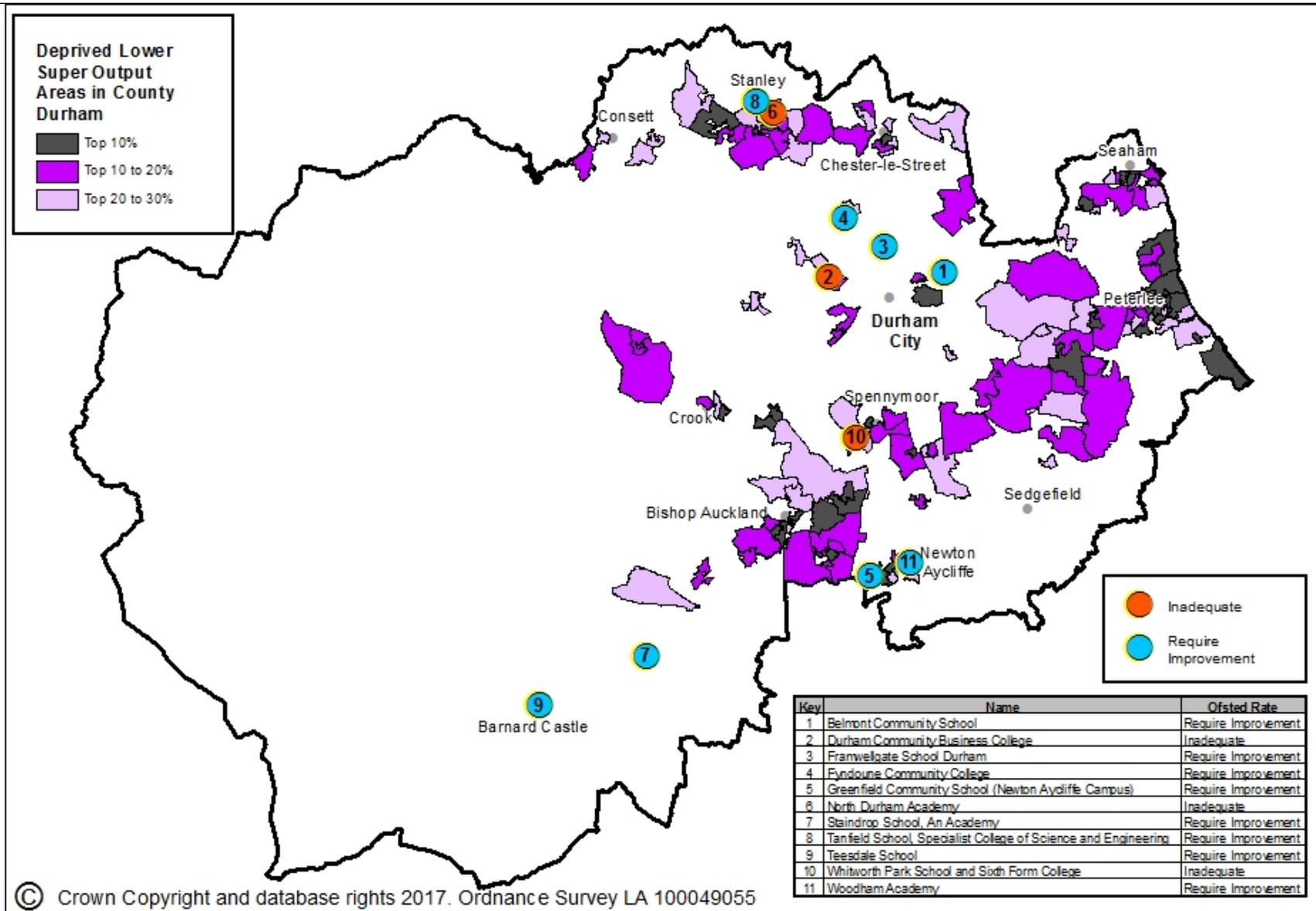


Chart 4. First Contact Volume and Process Rate

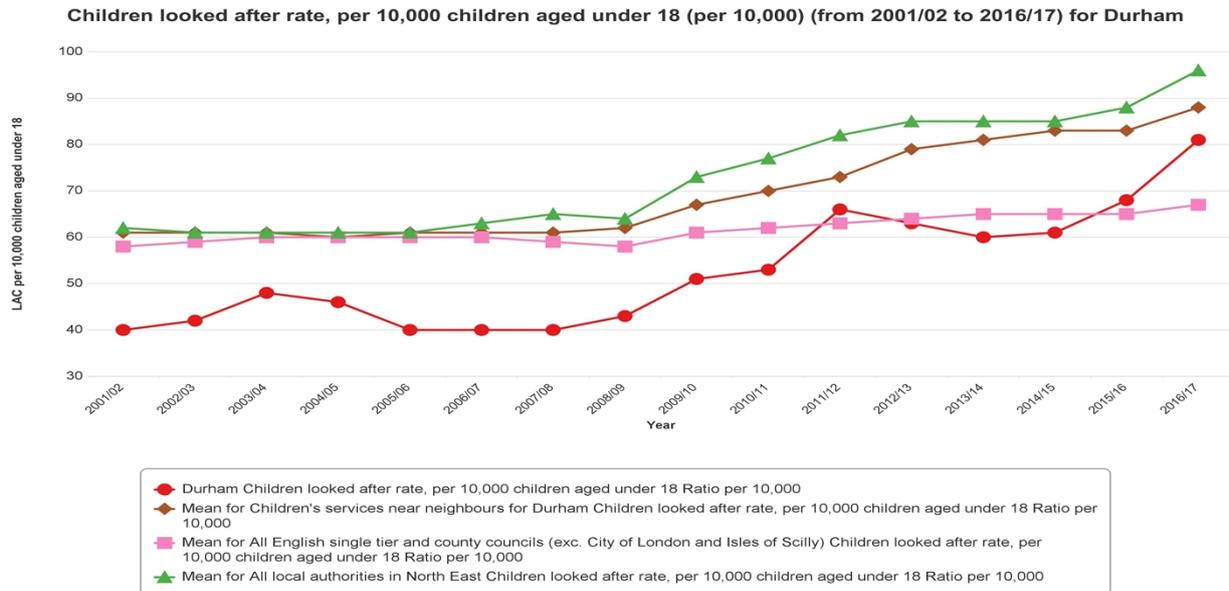


Appendix 5: Secondary Schools Require Improvement and Inadequate



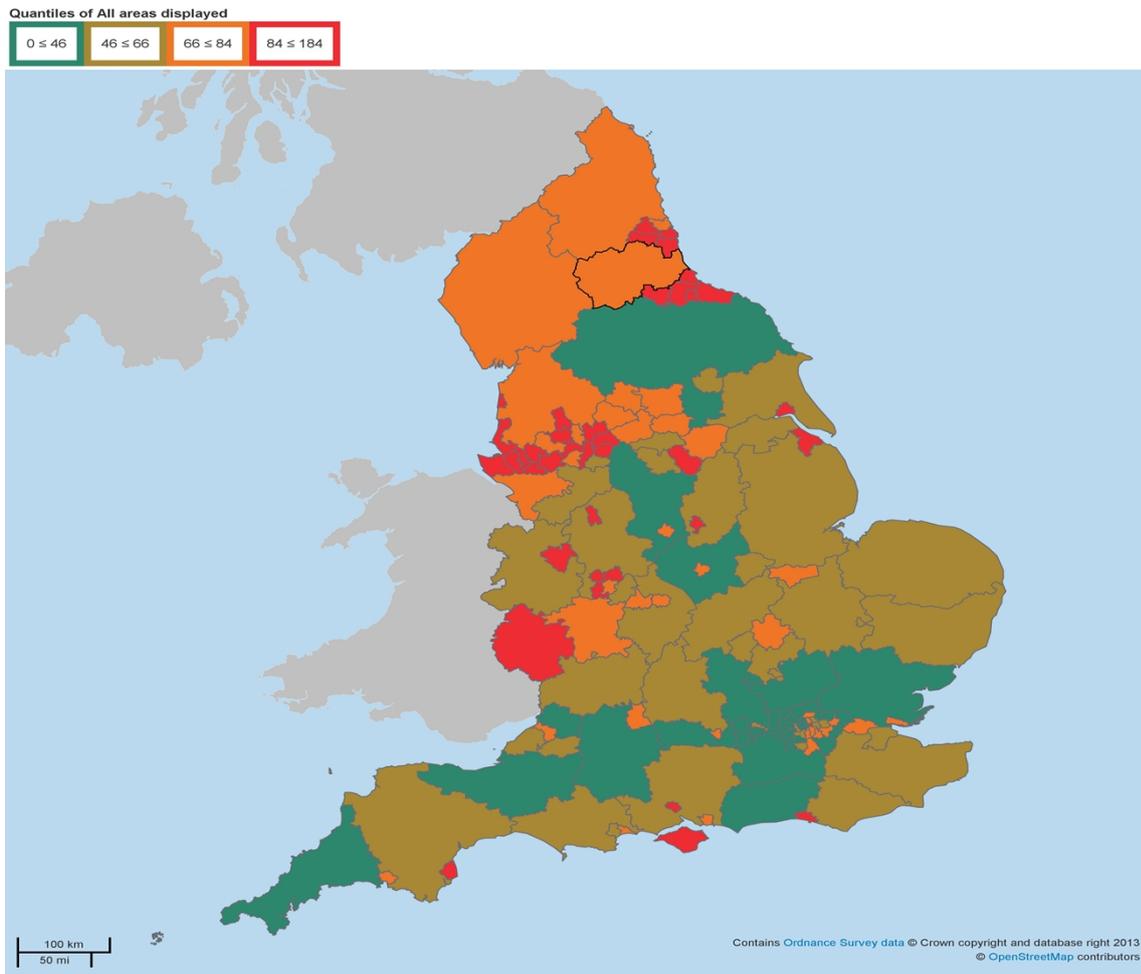
Ofsted ratings are as of 31 August 2017

Appendix 6: Looked After Children



Powered by LG Inform

Children looked after rate, per 10,000 children aged under 18 (per 10,000) (2016/17) for Durham & All English single tier and county councils



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Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16th January 2018



Quarter 2: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18

Report of Paul Darby, Head of Finance (Financial Services)

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the forecast outturn budget position for the CYPS service grouping, highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget for the year, based on the position to the end of September 2017.

Background

2. The County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2017/18 at its meeting on 22 February 2017. These budgets have subsequently been revised to take account of transfers to and from reserves, grant additions/reductions, budget transfers between service groupings and budget reprofiling between years. This report covers the financial position for:
 - *CYPS Revenue Budget - £105.474m (original £97.897m)*
 - *CYPS Capital Programme – £28.990m (original £28.819m)*
3. The original CYPS revenue budget has been revised to incorporate a number of budget adjustments as summarised in the table below:

Reason For Adjustment	£'000
Original Budget	97,897
Reason For Adjustment	-
Transfer From Contingencies	300
Use of (+)/contribution to CYPS reserves (-)	132
Use of (+)/contribution to Corporate reserves (ERVR) (-)	692
Transfer from Other Services	6,462
Transfer to Other Services	(9)
Revised Budget	105,474

4. The use of / contribution to CYPS reserves consists of:

Reserve	£'000
CAS-EDU-EBP Reserve	24
CAS-EDU-SEND reform Grant Reserve	153
CAS-CPD-Accumulated fund CPD Reserve	(74)
CAS-EDU-Re-Profiling Activity Reserve	8
CAS-CHS-Secure Services Capital Reserve	130
CAS-CHS-Tackling Troubled Families Reserve	(109)
Total	132

5. The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2017/18 and show: -

- The approved annual budget together with actual income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
- The variance between the annual budget and the forecast outturn;
- For the CYPS revenue budget, adjustments for items outside of the cash limit to take into account such items as redundancies met from the strategic reserve, capital charges not controlled by services and use of / or contributions to earmarked reserves.

Revenue Outturn

6. The CYPS service is reporting a cash limit overspend of £3.911m against a revised budget of £105.474m which represents a 3.71% overspend

7. The tables below show the revised annual budget, actual expenditure to 30 September 2017 and the updated forecast of outturn to the year end, including the variance forecast at year end. The first table is analysed by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense) and shows the combined position for CYPS, and the second is by Head of Service.

8. Subjective Analysis (Type of Expenditure)

	Revised Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	73,291	34,394	69,891	(3,400)	-	(3,400)
Premises	4,305	1,560	4,332	27	-	27
Transport	14,889	4,847	15,453	564	-	564
Supplies & Services	10,815	6,265	11,071	256	-	256
Third Party Payments	22,151	12,765	26,538	4,387	-	4,387
Transfer Payments	1,683	788	1,671	(12)	-	(12)
Central Support & Capital	44,230	2,202	44,827	597	-	597
Income	(65,890)	(37,149)	(64,398)	1,492	-	1,492
Total	105,474	25,672	109,385	3,911	-	3,911

Analysis by Head of Service Area

	Revised Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Youth Offending Service	2,096	422	2,025	(71)	-	(71)
One Point Service	1,419	(3,579)	1,283	(136)	-	(136)
Think Family Service	(255)	(947)	(255)	-	-	-
HOS - Early Help Assessment and Safeguarding & IIC	907	122	255	(652)	-	(652)
Child Protection & Disability Services	8,542	4,631	10,298	1,756	-	1,756
First Contact & Intervention	8,624	4,190	9,033	409	-	409
Childrens Services Reform	1,465	694	1,416	(49)	-	(49)
Recharges and Non Target	6,930	198	6,929	(1)	-	(1)
Early Intervention & Partnership Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redundant Centres	0	2	2	2	-	2
Aycliffe Site and Price Training	625	39	704	79	-	79
Secure Services	(1,060)	(177)	(1,008)	52	-	52
Looked After Provision Permanence and Care Leavers	27,421	14,931	30,786	3,365	-	3,365
Head of Service - LAC Permanence and Care Leavers	132	48	110	(22)	-	(22)
Efficiency and Improvement	64	35	65	1	-	1
Other Services	4,476	(1,436)	4,488	12	-	12
Build Schools For The Future-Summ	(957)	(834)	(957)	-	-	-
Progression and Learning	1,306	(275)	1,267	(39)	-	(39)
Support and Development	2,821	567	2,540	(281)	-	(281)
SEN and Disability and Inclusion	2,893	765	2,562	(331)	-	(331)
School Places and Admissions	33,887	3,529	33,908	21	-	21
Head of Education	(1,108)	161	(1,131)	(23)	-	(23)
Childrens Services Operational Support	5,246	2,586	5,065	(181)	-	(181)
Total	105,474	25,672	109,385	3,911	-	3,911

9. The table below identifies significant variances in the core budget only and excludes items outside of the cash limit (e.g. central repairs and maintenance) and technical accounting adjustments (e.g. capital charges):

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Head of Service - LAC Permanence and Care Leavers	Savings from the Head of Service post which was vacant in Q1.	(22)
Looked After Permanence and Care Leavers	<p>The budget for fostering, external residential care and supported lodgings for looked after children is forecast to be £3.332m overspent .The budget and forecast variance £1.032m for Children Looked After in external residential schools is reflected in the Child Protection & Disability Services section of the Table.</p> <p>Young people looked after is a volatile and high cost area of activity within CYPS and current external demographic demands are creating a strain on the service in terms of financial resource allocation. Work is actively being taken to try to address the placement mix, focusing on increasing the proportion of placements in higher quality low cost in house foster care.</p> <p>It was anticipated that numbers would have stabilised in the current year and that the budget would meet demand, having built c£2.735 million growth into the 2017/18 base, but in the short term further additional financial support will be required. These forecasts will be reviewed regularly to reflect the progress of the placement policy.</p>	3,365
Efficiency and Improvement		1
Secure Services	Secure Services are forecasting to be overspent at Q2 by £52K relating to the employment of residential agency staff to cover vacancies.	52
Aycliffe Site and Price Training	The forecast overspend relates to residual premises costs including business rates charges for 2017-18 pending the demolition of buildings on the Aycliffe site.	79
		3,475

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Head of Education		(23)
Build Schools For The Future	In line with budget	0
Progression and Learning	An under spend is projected on employee budgets.	(39)
School Places and Admissions	An over spend of £250k on the Home to School Transport budget is largely offset by reduced pension liability costs, savings from vacant posts and additional income.	21
SEN and Disability and Inclusion	The under spend in this area relates to vacant posts in the Education Psychology team.	(331)
Support and Development	The forecast under spend relates to vacant posts in the Early Years and Education Development Service teams.	(281)
		(653)
Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Childrens Services Operational Support		
Childrens Services Operational Support	The forecast under spend relates to savings against staff budgets due to vacant posts.	(181)
		(181)
Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Childrens Services		
Head of Early Help Assessment and Safeguarding		
Childrens Services Reform	The forecast saving relates to an underspend on employees due to vacant posts.	(49)
One Point Service	The forecast underspend includes in year savings on employees (£196K) from vacant posts offset by a reduction in ESF income of £60k as a result of a reduction in income for vacant grant funded posts.	(136)
Think Family Service	Stronger Families plans are funded from grant income and earmarked reserves and the Service is currently forecast to be on budget	0
Recharges and Non Target		(1)

Child Protection & Disability Services	Employees are forecast to be over budget by a total of £185K in the Child Protection Teams as a result of expenditure on agency staff £530K offset by savings on vacancies (£345K). Expenditure on placements costs of looked after children with a disability in external residential schools is forecast to be £1.032m over budget. Placement costs associated with children not looked i.e. in Child Arrangement or Special Guardianship arrangements is forecast to be over budget by £326K. Expenditure on hired transport by the Child Protection Teams is also forecast to overspend at Q2 by £213K.	1,756
HOS - Early Help Assessment and Safeguarding & IIC	The budget for agency staff (£450K) is held by the Head of Service although the costs of agency staff are charged directly to individual social work teams. In addition there is a forecast (£200K) saving in 17-18 on activities in One Point following the reallocation of the activities budget.	(652)
First Contact & Intervention	Employees are forecast to be over budget by a total of £339K as a result of forecast expenditure on agency staff £1.008m employed to cover vacancies etc.. offset by savings on vacancies (£669K) . In addition the Service is forecast to overspend by £125K as a result of the extension to the domestic violence contract in 2017-18. The forecast overspend is being offset by surplus income from capital of (£55K) for a manager employed on the development of the new IT system for Childrens Services.	409
Youth Offending Service	Expenditure on remand bed nights is forecast to be over budget by £93K offset by in year savings on vacant posts (£134K , the balance of the saving (£30K) is mainly from reduced premises , transport and supplies costs.	(71)
		1,256
Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Central Charges (CYPS)		
Other Services		14
		14
		3.911

10. In summary, the service is forecast to overspend the cash limit budget by £3.911m. The outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings built into the 2017/18 budgets, which for CYPS in total amount to £4.729m.

Schools

11. Maintained schools have delegated budgets and carry forward accumulated surpluses and deficits from one year to the next. At the end of Quarter 1, the forecast balances at 31 March 2018 were for an overall net surplus balance £10.502 million; at Quarter 2 this has now been revised to £10.559 million. A breakdown of these forecasts is shown below. The significance of balances above or below 2.5% of funding is that the Council views a balance of at least 2.5% as being appropriate in terms of the ability of schools to cope with unforeseen expenditure during the year.

	Schools forecasting a	Schools forecasting	Schools	Total
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	surplus balance above 2.5% of annual funding		a surplus balance of less than 2.5% of annual funding		forecasting a deficit balance			
	No.	Forecast Balances £	No.	Forecast Balances £	No.	Forecast Balances £	No.	Forecast Balances £
Nursery	9	(£427,000)	1	(£2,000)	1	£11,000	11	(£418,000)
AP	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Primary	139	(£10,279,000)	57	(£448,000)	3	£80,000	199	(£10,647,000)
Secondary	6	(£1,633,000)	5	(£822,000)	4	£5,015,000	15	£2,560,000
Special	8	(£2,054,000)	1	-	-	-	9	(£2,054,000)
Total	162	(£14,393,000)	65	(£1,272,000)	8	£5,106,000	235	(£10,559,000)

12. Note that two schools (The Sacriston Primary and South Stanley Junior School) have converted to academies since Quarter 1.
13. The School Funding Team continues to work with schools to support and provide advice about budget issues, and is reviewing budgets this term in preparation for budget-setting in spring 2018. Where there are concerns about a school's financial viability this is shared with the Education Service so that we can take a joined-up approach to resolving these issues.

Capital Programme

14. The CYPS capital programme has been revised earlier in the year to take into account budget reprofiled from 2016/17 following the final accounts for that year.
15. The revised Budget is presented below together with actual expenditure to date. The Budget may be subsequently amended with approval from MOWG.
16. Summary financial performance to the end of September is shown below.

CYPS	Actual	Current 2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Budget	Total Capital Prog.
	30/09/2017			
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Support For Childrens Homes	-	8	-	8
CYPS - Childs Homes	-	160	-	160
Increased Provision for Two Year Olds	10	81	-	81
30 Hours Free Childcare	1,115	2,332	-	2,332
Free School Meals Support	17	94	-	94
Planning & Service Strategy	20	1,000	2,471	3,471
Secure Services	5	202	-	202
School Devolved Capital	821	4,195	1,378	5,573
DFE School Capital Inc Basic Need	5,447	16,386	10,713	27,099
DSG Structural Maintenance	180	239	240	479
PSBP - Additional Works Not Covered by EFA	-	147	-	147
School Modernisation	1	-	-	-
BSF	461	4,117	-	4,117
PFI	20	29	-	29
	8,097	28,990	14,802	43,792

Recommendations:

17. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the detail within the report, a summary of which was included in the CMT / Cabinet Quarter 2 report.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Financial implications are detailed throughout the report which provides an analysis of the revenue and capital projected outturn position.

Staffing

There are no implications associated with this report. Any over or under spending against the employee budgets are disclosed within the report.

Risk

The management of risk is intrinsic to good budgetary control. This report forms an important part of the governance arrangements within CYPS. Through routine / regular monitoring of budgets and continual re-forecasting to year end the service grouping can ensure that it manages its finances within the cash envelope allocated to it.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

