



Corporate Parenting Panel

Date **Friday 20 October 2017**
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 meeting held on 29 September 2017 (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Number of Looked After Children - Update from Head of Looked After Children and Care Leavers
6. Durham Virtual School for Looked After Children Annual Report progress and achievement of Durham Looked After Children including those with Special Educational Needs - Report and presentation of Deputy Virtual School Head (Pages 9 - 34)
7. Placement Efficiency Plan Update - Report and presentation of Placement Efficiency Manager (Pages 35 - 38)
8. Children in Care Council - Update from Senior Project Worker, Investing in Children
9. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.
 - a) CICC meeting 24 October, North Road Church, Durham
10. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

11. Regulation 44 Visits: Summary Report - Report of Head of Looked After Children and Care Leavers (Pages 39 - 50)
12. Responsive Repairs / Service Direct - Update from Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel
13. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

Development Item

14. Pupil Premium Plus Monies - Deputy Virtual School Head

Helen Lynch

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
12 October 2017

To: **The Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel**

Councillor P Brookes (Chairman)
Councillor H Smith (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B Bainbridge, H Bennett, J Carr, J Charlton, J Considine, P Crathorne, G Darkes, E Huntington, I Jewell, M McKeon, J Makepeace, O Milburn, C Potts, A Reed, G Richardson, A Savory, E Scott, M Simmons and C Wilson

Contact: Jill Parker

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Durham County Council

At a meeting of the **Corporate Parenting Panel** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 29 September 2017** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor P Brookes in the Chair

Panel Members:

Councillors B Bainbridge, H Bennett, J Charlton, P Crathorne, G Darkes, I Jewell, M McKeon, J Makepeace, O Milburn, A Savory and M Simmons

Also in attendance:

Marie Baister (Looked After Nurse)
Kelsey Clayton (Legal Manager, Children and Adult Services)
Helen Fergusson (Head of Looked After Children and Care Leavers)
Clive Horton (Deputy Head, Virtual School)
Selwyn Morgans (Manager, Aycliffe Secure Services)
Karen Robb (Strategic Manager, Looked After and Permanence)
Ellie Seed (Senior Project Worker, Children in Care Council)
Jayne Watson (Senior Partnership Officer)

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Panel conveyed their best wishes to Councillor H Smith.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Considine, C Potts, G Richardson, H Smith and C Wilson.

2. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members in attendance.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The following updates were provided:

- The Senior Partnership Officer informed the Panel that the Regulation 44 visits with Panel members will commence in October. A further Regulation 44 training session had been arranged to take place on 31st October from 11.30am to 1.30pm at Aycliffe Secure Centre and members were encouraged to attend the training, if they had not already done so.

Councillor Charlton asked if the long-standing members who had previously completed Regulation 44 training were required to attend a further session and the Chairman responded that it would be good practice to attend the training as a refresher. However, if they are asked to attend a visit before completing a refresher session, they should attend the visit.

- The Senior Partnership Officer reported that work is ongoing to appoint the co-opted members.

5. Number of Looked After Children

Karen Robb, Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence, delivered a powerpoint presentation on the number of looked after children in care and their characteristics (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence, informed the Panel that the number of looked after children had significantly increased and the current figure stood at 804. Durham has more looked after children than neighbouring authorities and a 'deep dive' analysis is being carried out, the findings of which would be shared with the Panel in due course. The 5-9 and 10-15 year olds represent the majority of looked after children and 10-15 year olds are the group most likely to spend five years or more in the care system. The number of under 1s in care has increased with a number of families having more than one child placed in care.

The Chairman commented that it would be interesting to have further analysis of the age demographics and how these compare with neighbouring authorities. In response to a question from Councillor Darkes as to whether areas of the County have a greater number of looked after children, the Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence responded that children living in the east of the County are more likely to enter the care system. The Chairman stated that a mapping exercise would be useful and the Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence agreed, saying this would also help to inform the Service as to where resources should be targeted.

Councillor McKeon asked why children enter the care system. The Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence responded that a large number of new-borns are removed from families where older children have been removed due to safeguarding concerns. Most of the cases are due to parental neglect (often involving alcohol or drugs) and physical abuse. There are several reasons why older children enter the care system including behavioural problems and criminal behaviour.

6. Looked After Children Breakdown

Karen Robb, Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence, delivered a powerpoint presentation on the types of care placements (for copy see file of minutes).

It was reported that a large number of looked after children are placed with in-house foster carers or with friends and family, however, the number of independent fostering agencies being used is increasing, due to the level of demand. The Chairman asked if the number of children in private children's homes correlated with the recent closure of some of the in-house provision.

The Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence replied that when the homes were closed, there were fewer looked after children; the figure at that time was approximately 600. Councillor Jewell asked whether it was possible to predict the direction of travel and the Strategic Manager for Looked After and Permanence said this is difficult to predict, however, the figure had stood at approximately 800 for several months so it may have stabilised at that level.

The Chairman commented that it would be interesting to analyse whether austerity had led to the increase in the number of looked after children. The Legal Manager, Children and Adult Services, responded that the effects of austerity can be seen in the east of the County which has a greater number of looked after children than the more affluent parts of the County. The Head of Looked After Children and Care Leavers added that there is work being undertaken on themes such as the amount of movement in communities and the effects of this on the care system, adding that the findings from this work will be shared with the Panel in the future.

7. Annual Report of the Fostering Service and Fostering Panels

The Strategic Manager, Looked After and Permanence, presented the Fostering Services and Fostering Panel Annual Report (for copy see file of minutes) and delivered a powerpoint presentation which provided an overview of the report. The Strategic Manager, Looked After and Permanence, outlined the strengths and challenges of the fostering service together with strategic responses.

Councillor Darkes requested further information on the Edge of Care Service. The Strategic Manager, Looked After and Permanence, informed the Panel that this is an innovative area of work involving agencies such as the police and therapeutic services, adding that further information will be brought to a future meeting.

Resolved:

That the annual report be received.

8. Annual Report of the Adoption Service and Adoption Panels

The Strategic Manager, Looked After and Permanence, presented the Adoption Service and Adoption Panel Annual Report (for copy see file of minutes) and delivered a powerpoint presentation which provided an overview of the Annual Report. It was reported that challenges included the increase in the number of looked after children, large sibling groups, and, a reduction in the number of people coming forward to adopt.

Councillor Jewell referred to recent national media coverage which reported some adopters having negative experiences, including a lack of support. The Strategic Manager, Looked After and Permanence, assured the Panel that the team in Durham comprises of highly experienced professionals who are dedicated to this complex area of social work.

Councillor Milburn asked about the ethnic composition of looked after children and the Strategic Manager replied that this is reflective of the population of County Durham.

Resolved:

That the annual report be received.

9. Children in Care Council update

Ellie Seed, Senior Project Worker, Children in Care Council (CICC), provided the Children in Care Council update. Ellie informed the Panel that the CICC had recently been involved in the following matters:

- Young People had delivered training for foster carers which had involved 19 foster carers and was very successful. Moving forward, the training will be delivered by young people every 2 months.
- The topic of recent Children in Care Council meetings had been independent living with some young people feeling better prepared for independent living than others. Ellie reported that this piece of work is ongoing.
- A small number of young people had recently reported negative experiences of entering the care system; further work will take place to gain young people's views and feedback on their experiences, which would then be discussed with social work teams.
- A successful fostering event was held for the under 10s, and further work will be undertaken to ascertain the views of these younger looked after children.
- A fundraising event was held at the Methodist Church in Durham, organised by young people, which raised £150.
- Links with the Regional CICC continue and young people will run a workshop at their national event on 3rd November.
- Two young people had been involved in refurbishing the Chester le Street contact centre and this had been a very positive experience. The young people would like to roll this work out to refurbish more contact centres, and they are asking for funding towards this, as there is a limited budget available.

Members discussed whether financial assistance could be provided to the CICC from their individual budgets to contribute towards refurbishing contact centres.

Officers agreed to investigate whether corporate funding would be available.

- The CICC host two Corporate Parenting Panel meetings per year and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 24 October at 5.30 pm at the Methodist Church, North Road, Durham. The Chairman encouraged members to attend this meeting and the Senior Partnership Officer agreed to recirculate information on this to the Panel.

The Chairman agreed to consider the following additional items of business:

10. Any other business

a) MASH Visit

Councillor McKeon referred to a recent visit to the MASH centre (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) and commented on how impressed she had been. Cllr McKeon explained that the MASH is made up of a range of professionals from different agencies who deal with various safeguarding issues. The Panel agreed that a visit to the centre would be useful and the Senior Partnership Officer agreed to arrange this visit.

b) Feedback from CPP Training Course – Westminster Briefing

The Chairman and Senior Partnership Officer had attended the Westminster Briefing course in London and agreed that the course materials would be circulated for information.

At the briefing, Durham was highlighted for two areas of good practice which were Council Tax and free bus passes.

11. Exclusion of the public

Resolved:

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Marie Baister and Ellie Seed left the meeting.

12. Regulation 44 Visits Summary Report

The Head of Looked After Children and Care Leavers presented the Regulation 44 Visits action plans for July and August 2017. The report outlined the recommendations and associated actions following each Regulation 44 visit (for copy see file of minutes).

The Senior Partnership Officer advised that members will be paired for Regulation 44 visits and the details will be circulated as soon as possible.

Cllr Crathorne commented that if several members would be interested in attending a visit to Aycliffe Centre, it may be beneficial to arrange a group visit. Cllrs Darkes, Bennett and Makepeace expressed interest and the Senior Partnership Officer agreed to arrange this visit.

Resolved:

That the Regulation 44 action plans for July and August 2017 be received.

13. Update on Regulation 44 Visits Provider

It was reported that an options paper had been considered.

14. Responsive Repairs / Service Direct

The Chairman reported that there are no significant outstanding issues with regard to responsive repairs adding that a meeting is to be arranged at Service Direct.

15. Ofsted Update

The Strategic Manager, Looked After and Permanence delivered a powerpoint presentation on the findings of a recent Ofsted Inspection (for copy of presentation see file of minutes).

16. Recruitment and Marketing of Foster Carers

A discussion took place on the approach to the recruitment and marketing of foster carers. Feedback from the discussion would be used to inform discussions with Communications and Marketing colleagues.

Corporate Parenting Panel

20 October 2017



Durham Virtual School for Looked After Children Annual Report Progress and achievement of Durham looked after children including those with Special Educational Needs

Report of Clive Horton, Deputy Virtual School Head, Durham County Council

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of the Durham Virtual School for looked after children including the academic outcomes for 2016-17.

Background

- 2 The Virtual School fulfils a number of statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority as follows:
 - Promote the education of looked after children
Section 22 (3A) of the Children Act 1989
 - Appoint a Virtual School Head
Children and Families Act 2014
 - Have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) for each looked after child for whom it has responsibility
Children Act 1989
 - Embed Corporate Parenting
Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004
 - Support adopted children to access to appropriate education
Children and Social Work Act 2017
- 3 In addition to the above statutory responsibilities, the Virtual School facilitates the SEND statutory assessment process for all looked after children living in County Durham. **SEND Reforms 2014**
- 4 In the academic year 2016-17 there were 540 looked after children of statutory school age for whom the Local Authority had responsibility. 83.7% (452) attended County Durham Primary, Secondary or Special schools. 16.3% (88) attended schools outside the local authority. See Appendix 2 for further details.

- 5 During the same period there were 156 non-Durham looked after children attending County Durham Primary, Secondary or Special Schools. See Appendix 2 for further details
- 7 Looked after children in County Durham have high levels of special educational needs.
 - 49% of Durham looked after children have an identified SEND need
 - 23% have an Education Health and Care Plan or Statement of Special Educational need (SEN)
 - 26% are supported by an SEN Support Plan
- 8 In schools all looked after children are supported by a Designated Teacher for looked after children. This role is central to the support that the school provides and is the main professional with whom the Virtual School Communicates. The Designated Teacher works with all looked after children regardless of their home authority.
- 9 The Virtual School provides three annual training sessions for Designated Teachers to ensure that they are aware of their role, the statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority and schools and any changes to ongoing processes. In addition to training opportunities, the Virtual School also offers termly network meetings that provides the opportunity to consider specific issues for Designated Teachers.
- 10 Numbers of looked after children can vary across schools. In some secondary schools and larger primary schools there will be more than 10-15 looked after children. There is increasing pressure from non-Durham looked after children with complex issues being placed in County Durham private children's homes or with an independent foster agency.
- 11 Every looked after child must have a Personal Education Plan (PEP). It is a statutory responsibility of the Virtual School Head to ensure that they are in place. The PEP is a continuous running record of the child/young person's educational history that identifies the actions needed to enable the individual to fulfil his or her potential.
- 12 From September 2016, the Virtual School introduced a new PEP and process that placed the school central to the process. The Virtual School monitors the quality of the PEP.
- 13 There is a quality assurance framework in place to assess the PEP for each child. A high quality PEP is judged as demonstrating that:
 - Young people's views are listened to and recorded
 - Social Workers, parents/carers and schools are consulted and views are recorded
 - The PEP is completed within the timescale and is available for a child's first Looked After Review after entering care

- The PEP clearly identifies previous, current and future targets for academic progress and addresses identified needs
- The PEP sets clear objectives for the child relating to academic development and includes behaviour and personal targets, if appropriate
- Those responsible for actions are clearly identified and there is a realistic timescale.

14 For 2016-17 the quality of the process is:

% PEP High Quality or above	% PEP High Quality with elements of good practice	% Young Person involved in PEP	% Carer Involved in PEP	% SW Involved in PEP	% Pupil Premium+ costed	% Completed within timescale
87.6%	49%	98.7%	96.7%	86.9%	96.1%	71.2%

15 **Summary:**

Working well:

- The number of PEPs judged to be of high quality remains consistent
- Young people have been involved in the completion of the majority of PEPs
- There is a good level of involvement from carers
- Pupil Premium Plus spend is discussed and identified at the PEP meeting
- Virtual School Caseworkers scrutinise the quality of each PEP and use of Pupil Premium Plus.

Areas for development:

- Social Worker contribution is below 90%. Where a pattern is identified this will need to be addressed with team managers
- Further investigation into why some PEPs are not meeting the expected High Quality standard followed by training and further guidance to schools and Social Work Team Managers
- Improvement in the completion of PEPs within statutory timescales.

Progress and Attainment of Durham Looked After Children

16 The Department for Education report annually on the progress and achievement of looked after children for each local authority in England as follows:

- KS1 – Achieving national expectations in:
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Maths
- KS2 – Achieving national expectations in:
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)

- Maths
- Reading/Writing/Maths combined
- KS4 – GCSE or equivalent
 - Grade 9-4 in English and Maths
 - Entry to English Baccalaureate
 - Achieving the English Baccalaureate

17 The Virtual School works with the Designated Teacher in each school and makes use of the pre-attainment information for each looked after child to identify individual end of key stage targets. The end of year targets are recorded in the individual Personal Education Plan for the child.

18 On a termly basis the Virtual School monitors each individual looked after child using a RAG rating process. Those children rated at Red or Amber are considered for additional support. Reasons a child might be rated as Red or Amber will include:

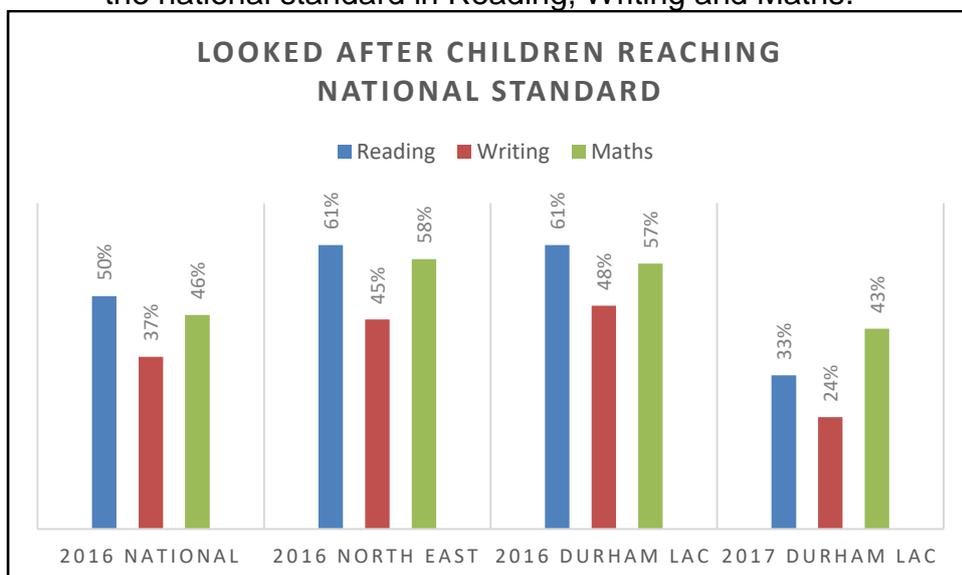
- Making less than expected progress
- Behaviour related issues
- Change of school place
- At risk of exclusion

KS1 Attainment 2016-17

19 The KS1 reporting cohort consisted of:

- 21 looked after children: 13 boys, 8 girls (1 child equates to 4.8%)
- 67% (14) looked after children with identified SEND needs: 9 boys, 0 girls
- 19% (4) looked after children with an EHCP
- 14% (3) looked after children educated in special school settings

20 In 2017 there has been a reduction of Durham looked after children achieving the national standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.



- 21 Within the Durham context attainment of looked after children is below that of their peers and children in need:

Reaching expected standard	Durham LAC	Durham All Children	Durham CiN	All children National 2017 DRAFT
Reading	33%	77%	58%	76%
Writing	24%	72%	47%	68%
Maths	43%	77%	54%	75%

- 22 There is a similar outcome when comparing boys and girls performance:

LAC Girls Expected Standard in:	Durham LAC	Durham All Children	Durham CiN	All girls National 2017 DRAFT
Reading	38%	81%	60%	80%
Writing	38%	78%	51%	75%
Maths	38%	79%	54%	76%

LAC Boys Expected Standard in:	Durham LAC	Durham All Children	Durham CiN	All boys National 2017 DRAFT
Reading	31%	74%	56%	71%
Writing	15%	66%	43%	62%
Maths	46%	76%	55%	74%

- 23 **KS1 Durham Looked After Children with identified SEND:**

Durham looked after children with an identified SEN are making better progress in comparison with Children in Need in writing and maths.

Children with SEN	Durham LAC with SEN	Durham All Children with SEN	Durham CiN with SEN	All Children with SEN National 2017 DRAFT
Reading	17%	34%	20%	30%
Writing	17%	25%	13%	21%
Maths	33%	37%	26%	32%

- 24 **KS1 Summary**

Areas of development:

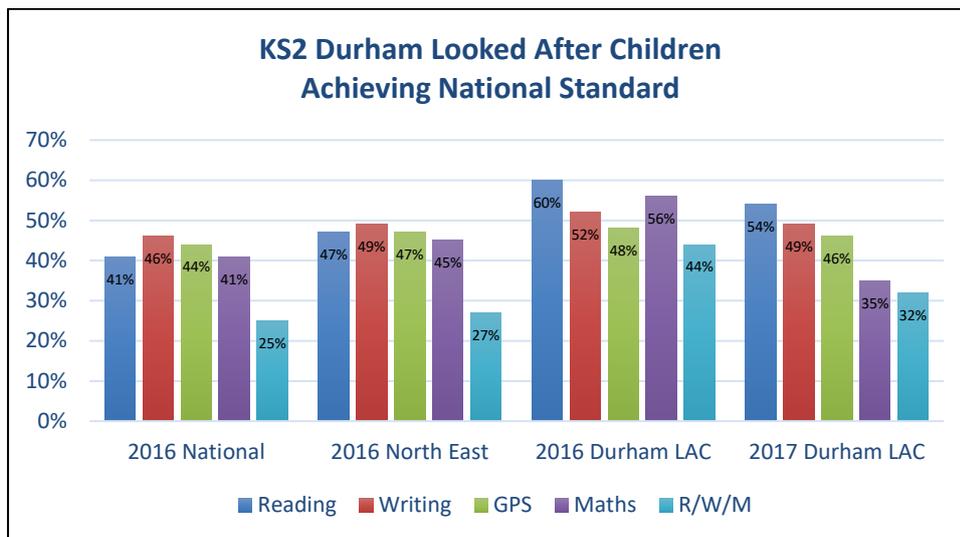
- Boys' writing
- Girls' maths
- Support Yr3 children who have performed below expectations to ensure the learning gap is closed by Yr5

KS2 Attainment 2016-17

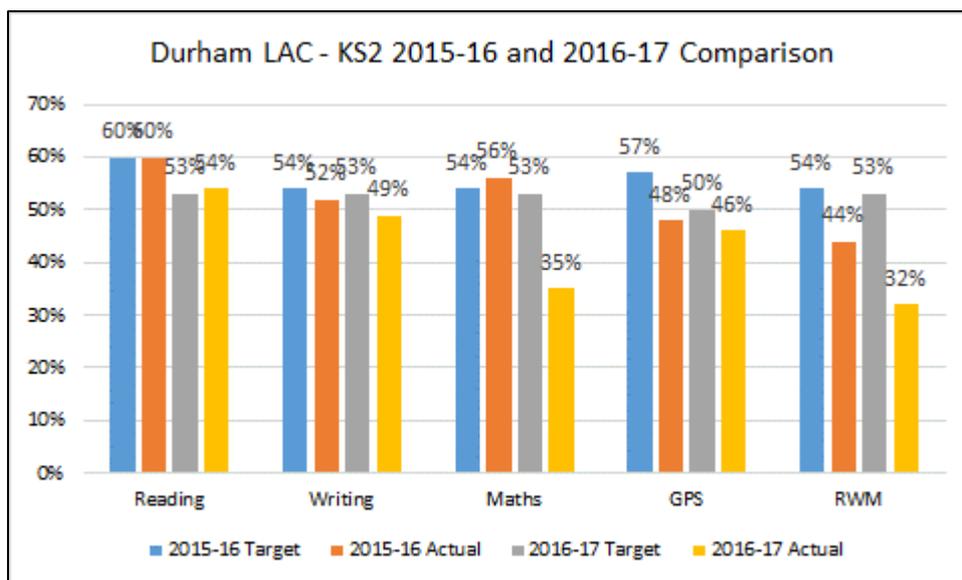
25 The KS2 reporting cohort consisted of:

- 37 looked after children: 19 boys, 18 girls (1 child equates to 2.7%)
- 62% (23) looked after children with identified SEND needs: 12 boys, 11 girls
- 21% (8) looked after children with an EHCP: 8 boys
- 16% (6) looked after children educated in special school settings

26 The number of children achieving national expectations at KS2 has fallen in comparison to 2015-16. The outcomes in Reading, Writing and GPS are above the 2016 national averages (Still awaiting 2017 national data for LAC).



27 The Virtual School targeting process had predicted that the outcomes were to be below that of 2016. The individual and needs starting points of each cohort means that targets will vary on an annual basis.



- 28 Durham looked after children have not done as well as their peers but performed broadly in line with children in need. Maths is a key area of development.

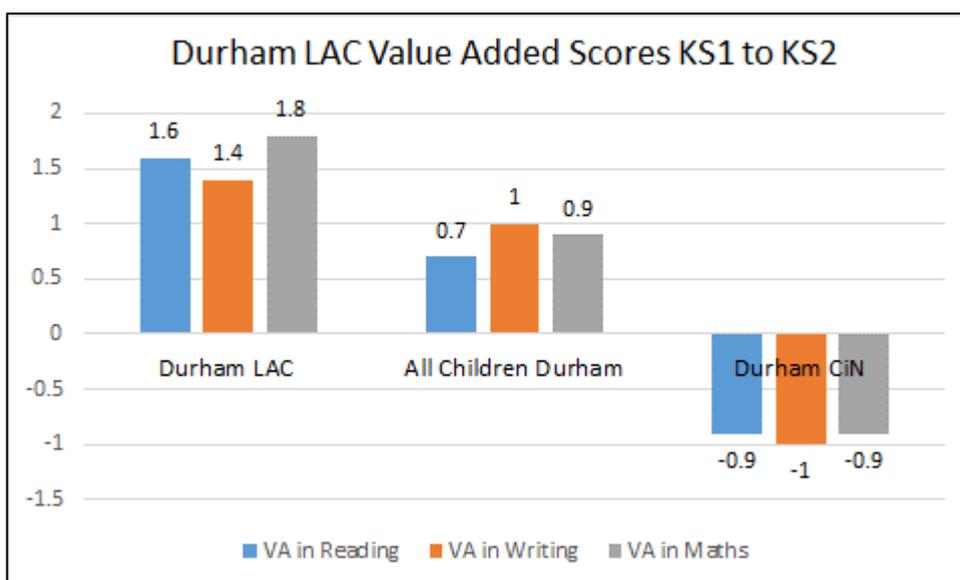
Expected Standard in:	2016-17 Target	Durham LAC	Durham overall	Durham CiN	National 2017 All Children
Reading	53%	57%	73%	46%	71%
Writing	53%	49%	79%	48%	76%
Maths	53%	35%	78%	46%	75%
GPS	50%	46%	79%	48%	77%
RWM	53%	35%	65%	34%	61%

- 29 Durham KS2 looked after girls have performed well in reading and in line with children in need in writing. There is a need to improve girl's performance in GPS and Maths. The performance in maths has significantly impacted on looked after girls reaching the national standard in the combined reading, writing and maths outcomes.

GIRLS reaching expected standard	Durham Virtual School Target All LAC	Durham LAC	Durham All Children	Durham CiN	National 2017 All Children
Reading	53%	61%	76%	47%	75%
Writing	53%	56%	85%	58%	82%
Maths	53%	28%	78%	48%	75%
GPS	50%	44%	83%	52%	81%
RWM	53%	28%	68%	41%	65%

BOYS reaching expected standard	Durham Virtual School Target All LAC	Durham LAC	Durham overall	Durham CiN	National 2017 All Children
Reading	53%	53%	71%	44%	68%
Writing	53%	42%	73%	41%	70%
Maths	53%	42%	78%	44%	74%
GPS	50%	47%	76%	46%	73%
RWM	53%	42%	61%	28%	57%

- 30 The performance of Durham looked after boys is broadly in line with children in need and significantly above in reading.
- 31 Durham looked after children are achieving a higher value added score than their peers in County Durham:



32 **KS2 Durham Looked After Children with identified SEND:**

For Durham looked after children with an identified special educational need, performance is in line with all Durham children in Reading and Writing and better than children in need. Maths is an area that requires further development.

Durham LAC with SEND reaching expected standard	Durham LAC	Durham overall children with SEND	Durham CiN with SEND	National DRAFT
Reading	35%	36%	28%	33%
Writing	30%	31%	20%	30%
Maths	22%	40%	25%	35%
GPS	26%	38%	24%	34%
RWM	22%	20%	15%	18%

33 **KS2 Summary:**

Working Well:

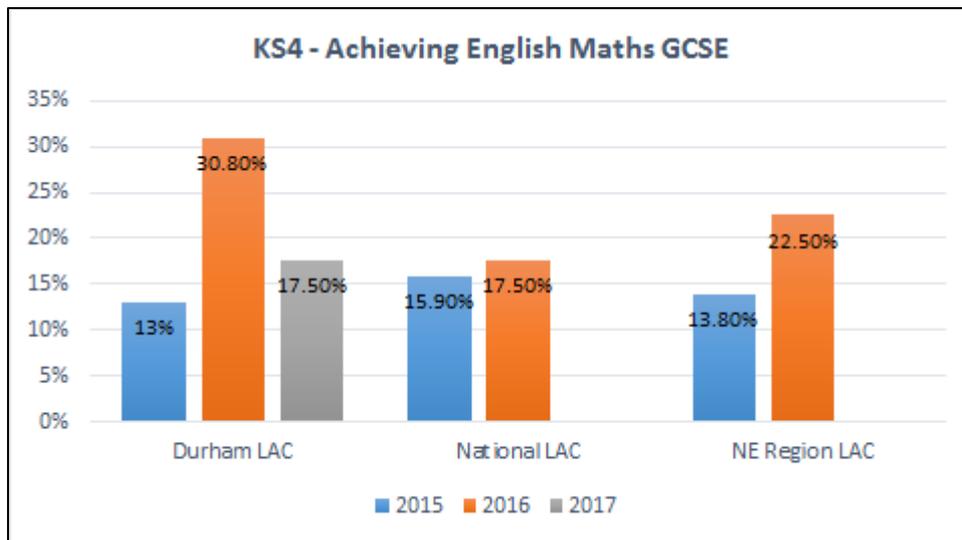
- The target setting process in the Virtual School is effective
- Durham looked after children without SEND are performing well in comparison to their peers
- Durham looked after children make better progress from their starting point at KS1 than their peers.

Areas of development:

- Provide support for Yr7 Durham looked after children who have not achieved expected standard in Yr6
- Explore reasons for girls' under-performance in maths to avoid a repeat in the future.

KS4 Attainment 2016-17

- 34 The KS4 reporting cohort of children consisted of:
- 48 looked after children: 24 boys, 24 girls (1 child equates to 2.1%)
 - 39% (19) young people with identified SEND needs
 - 23% (11) young people with an EHCP/Statement
 - 16% (8) young people supported by a SEN Support Plan
 - 16 young people educated in non-Durham schools
- 35 The Virtual School established targets of 20% for looked after children achieving a pass at GCSE English and Maths. The outcomes were as follows:



- 36 One Durham looked after child followed an English Baccalaureate curriculum. The key reason for this was the limited number of looked after children following a GCSE Modern Foreign Language.
- 37 For Durham looked after children:
- 4 young people achieved 8 passes at GCSE including Maths and English
 - 3 young people achieved 5 passes at GCSE including Maths and English
 - 14 young people achieved a Grade 9-4 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature
 - 11 young people achieved a Grade 9-4 in GCSE Maths

KS4 Durham Looked After Children with identified SEND:

- 38 Durham looked after children with an identified SEND need did not do as well at KS4 as those without.
- 39 Of the KS4 looked after children with SEND needs:
- 1 young person achieved 5 passes at GCSE including Maths and English
 - 7 young people achieved 5 GCSE passes not including Maths and English
 - 4 young people achieved 1 GCSE pass
 - 4 young people did not achieve a GCSE
- 40 Of the above young people with identified SEND who did not achieve a GCSE:
- 3 young people followed a non-GCSE curriculum appropriate to their needs
 - 1 young person followed a GCSE curriculum

41 KS4 Summary

Working Well:

- Durham looked after children are achieving in-line with national and regional averages (Draft data)

Areas of development:

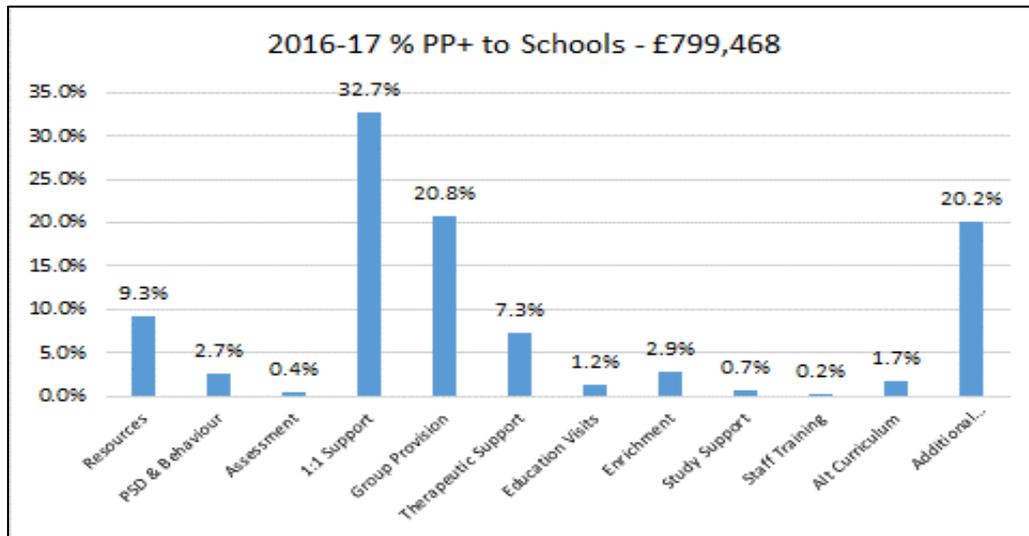
- Where appropriate for the needs of the individual looked after child ensure they have access to the full range of EBacc qualifications
- Further develop support for KS4 looked after children with SEND including the use of a wider group of non-counting qualifications
- Target support on Yr7-9 looked after children to improve performance in literacy strengthening their access and understanding of the KS4 GCSE curriculum

Pupil Premium Plus for Looked After Children:

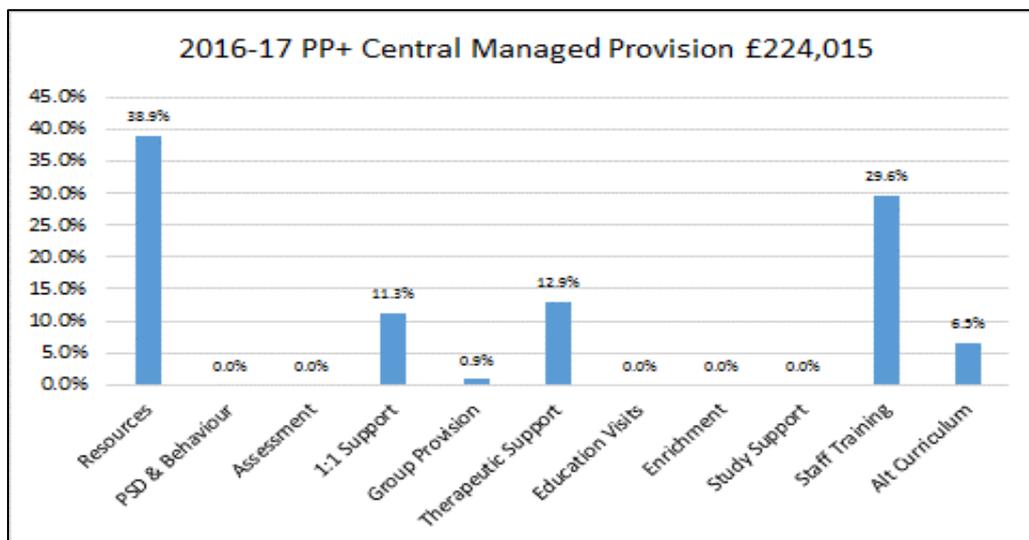
- 42 The Department for Education (DfE) provide additional Pupil Premium Plus for looked after children. The total amount of funding for each looked after child is £1,900.
- 43 The Virtual School Head has a responsibility to allocate Pupil Premium Plus funding to schools and monitor its use. The focus of the funding is for schools to use to impact on the academic progress and attainment of the individual looked after child.
- 44 In consultation with Head Teachers across the local authority, it was agreed that from April 2016 the Virtual School would retain an element of the Pupil Premium for looked after children in order to fund a range of centrally managed support.

45 In the financial year 2016-17 the retained element of Pupil Premium Plus by the Virtual School was £600 per looked after child. For the financial year 2017-18 it has been agreed that the retained element is £300 per looked after child.

46 The Pupil Premium allocated to schools resourced the following provision:



47 The use of Pupil Premium Plus is clearly identified in a child's PEP. Funding retained by the Virtual School is used to directly support looked after children.



48 Summary

Working Well:

- The Virtual School has a good system to allocate and monitor use of Pupil Premium Plus
- Retaining Pupil Premium Plus has enabled the Virtual School to be flexible in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable looked after children
- Specific areas of therapeutic support has been developed

Areas of development:

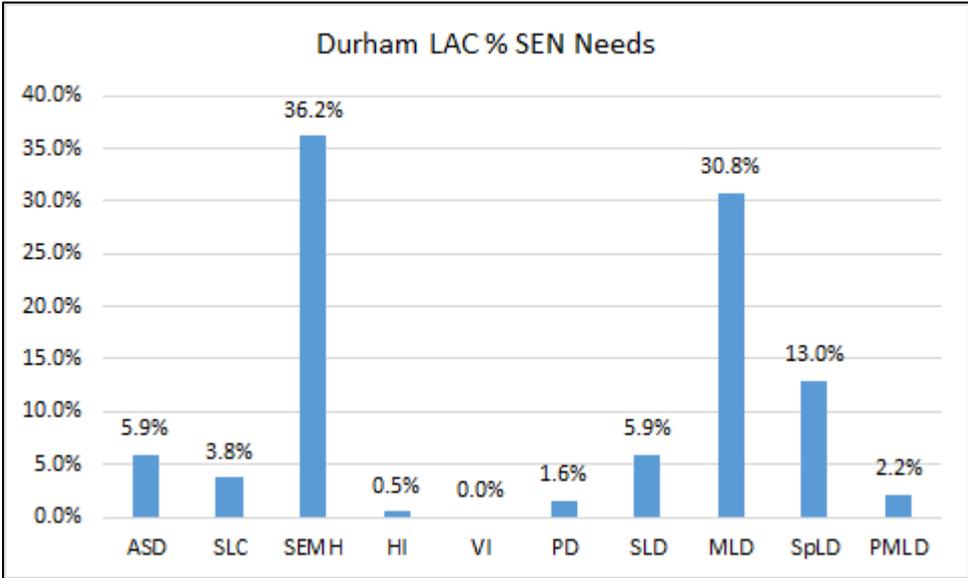
- Further develop the use of Pupil Premium to provide IT support and resources for looked after children

Durham Looked After Children with Special Educational Needs

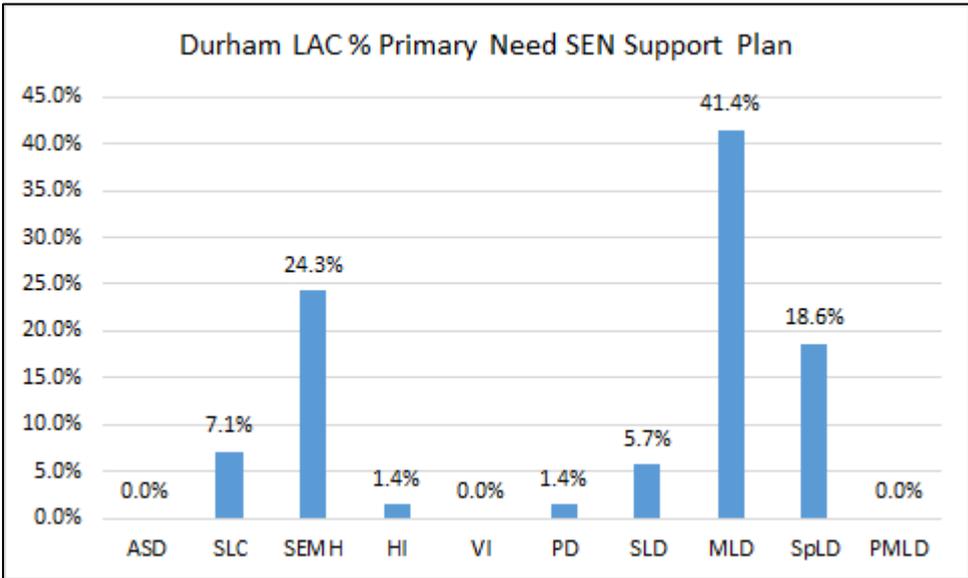
- 49 Durham Virtual School supports all looked after children including those with special educational need.
- 50 49% of Durham looked after children have an identified need and are supported by a SEN Support Plan or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)/Statement of SEN.
- 51 A Durham looked after child is over 3 times more likely to have a special educational need (49%) than all children nationally (14.4%) and 8 times more likely to have an EHCP/Statement of SEN (23%) than all children nationally (2.8%)
- 52 Special Educational Need by Year Group:

Durham looked after children	Supported by EHCP/Statement	SEN Support Plan
Reception	4	8
Yr1	4	6
Yr2	6	9
Yr3	8	15
Yr4	7	10
Yr5	9	20
Yr6	11	18
Yr7	9	14
Yr8	11	7
Yr9	20	15
Yr10	27	10
Yr11	11	8
TOTAL	127	140

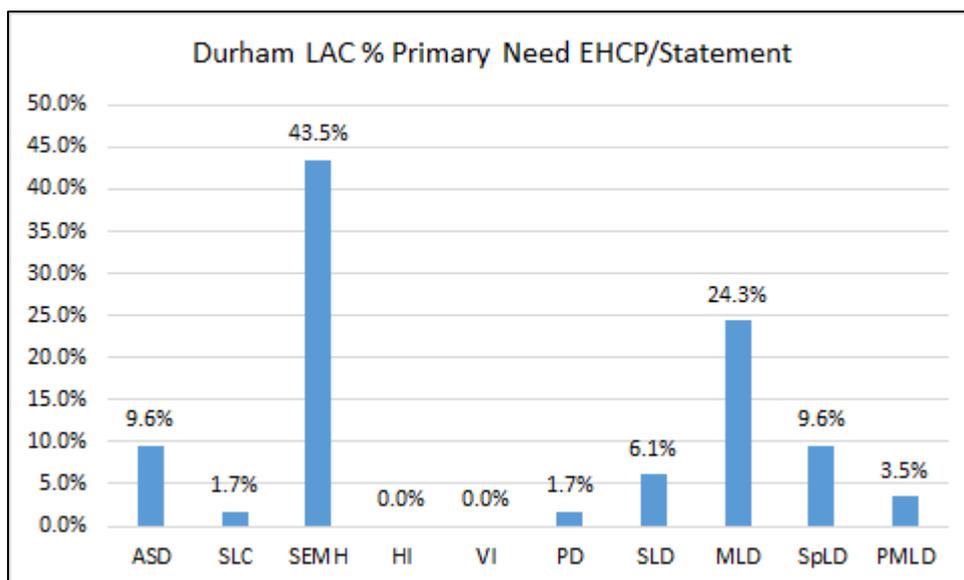
- 53 The primary SEN need of Durham looked after children is SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) and MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulty) (See Appendix 3 for abbreviations)



54 For those children supported by a SEN Support Plan, Moderate Learning Difficulty is the primary need:



55 For those children with an EHCP, Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) is the primary need. Looked after children are three times more likely than their peers to have SEMH as their primary need.



- 56 Where a looked after child is identified as having a special educational need the Virtual School Caseworker will work with the school to ensure that the SEN graduated approach is followed. This will include:
- Considering the needs of the looked after child and how they can be supported
 - Working with the school SENCO (SEN coordinator) to put in place a SEN Support Plan
 - Supporting the school in requesting additional funding if required to meet need
 - Facilitating the statutory assessment process

57 In 2016-17, 3.5% of Durham looked after children had PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties) needs making them highly vulnerable. The Virtual School works with each education setting to ensure that a PEP is in place for each child and that appropriate education targets are established to allow progress in line with their needs including use of Pupil Premium.

Looked After Children Accessing Specialist Education/Care Settings:

- 58 Where the care and/or education needs cannot be met within the services provided by the Local Authority they will be placed with a specialist provider. This might include access to 38-week education or 52 week combined care and education in a residential setting.
- 59 The looked After Children accessing this provision are the most vulnerable. They will have a range of complex issues. Their presenting behaviours might be challenging and increase their vulnerability.

60 As of September 2017 there are 21 looked after children of statutory school age accessing such provision.

Durham looked after children:	Specialist Independent Provision 38 week:	Specialist Independent 52 week care / Education
Yr6	1	2
Yr8		1
Yr9		1
Yr10	4	4
Yr11	4	1
Yr12	1	2

61 The Virtual School work closely with Social Care professionals in making the decision to move a looked after child into a more specialist setting. The process is one of joint commissioning to ensure that both the care, health and education needs can be met by the provider. Increased monitoring takes place to ensure that the provision remains suitable for the child/young person.

62 **Looked After Children with Special Educational Needs Working Well:**

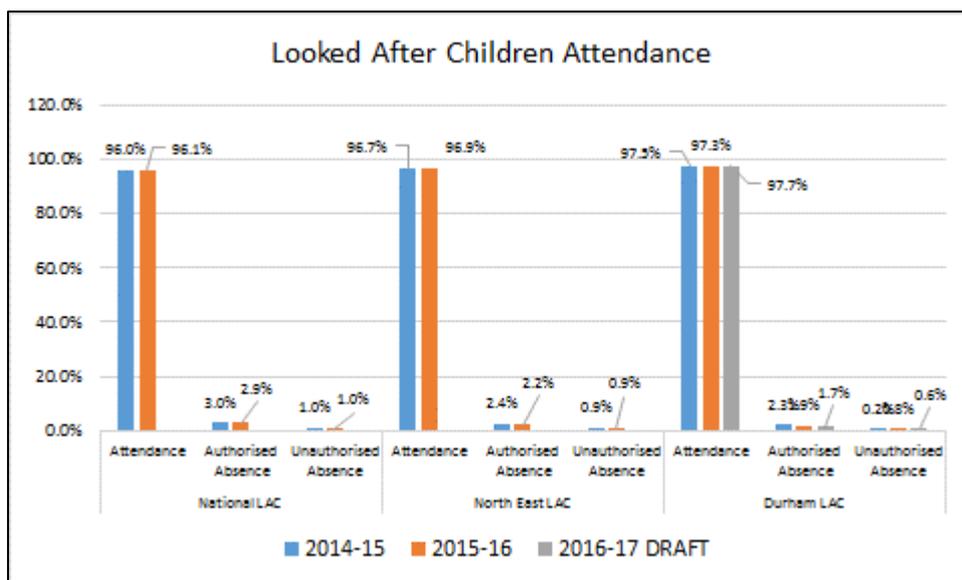
- Virtual School Caseworkers are responsible in facilitating the statutory assessment process for looked after children
- The quality of Education Health and Care Plans for looked after children has improved
- Social Worker input to the plans for Durham looked after children is improving

Areas of development:

- Durham looked after children with SEN needs are not doing as well as their peers

Attendance, School Moves and Exclusion:

63 Durham looked after children have good attendance. The Virtual School monitors attendance for each child and works with school and Social Worker to address any issues.



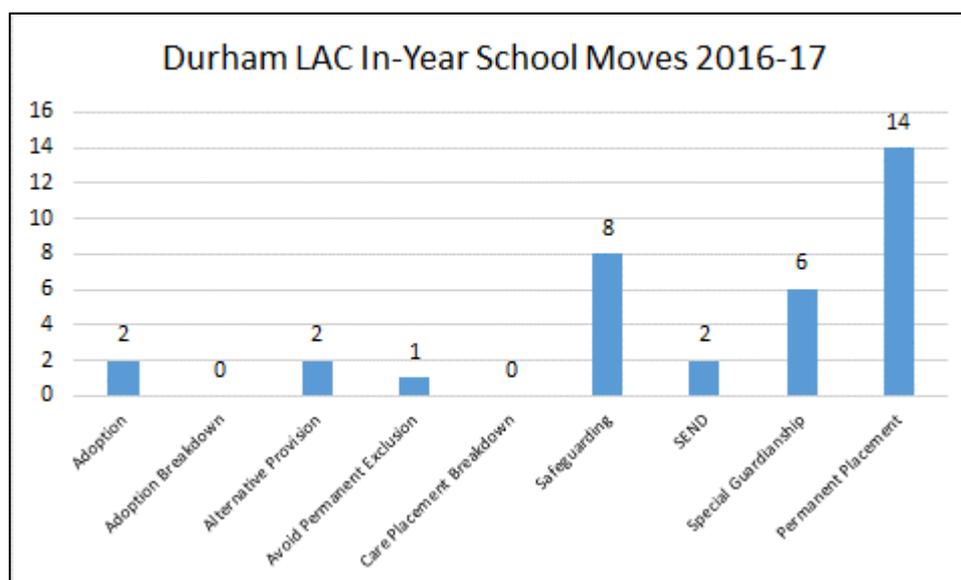
School Moves:

64 School moves for looked after children have remained consistent over the past 3 years:

2014-15	38 school moves
2015-16	31 school moves
2016-17	35 school moves

65 In 2016-17:

- 63% (22) moves were made to support a child's long-term care pathway
- 6% (2) school moves were as a result of statutory assessment
- 23% (8) school moves were as a consequence of safeguarding reasons



Exclusions:

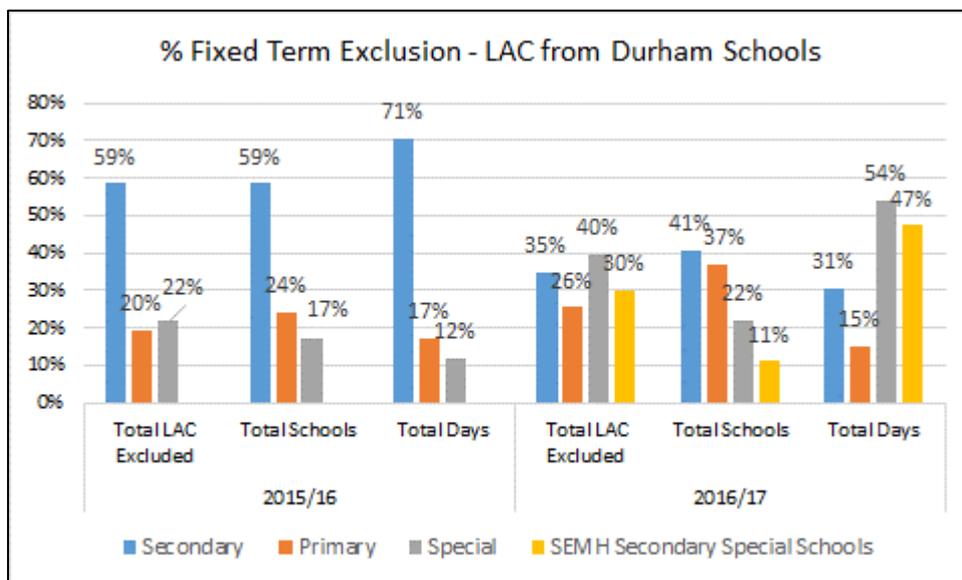
66 In 2015-16 and 2016-17, no looked after children were permanently excluded.

67 In 2016-17, there has been a reduction in fixed-term exclusion (FTE):

2015-16			2016-17		
No of Days FTE	No of looked after children FTE	No of incidents of FTE	No of Days FTE	No of looked after children FTE	No of incidents of FTE
261	49	111	222	47	98

- 68 The Virtual School has worked with schools to reduce exclusion by:
- Early identification of children at risk of exclusion and discussion between the Virtual School Caseworker and schools to agree intervention
 - An inclusion support package available to all schools including in-school support
 - Targeted off-site provision for those looked after children most at risk of exclusion

- 69 During the school year 2016-17:
- 54% of FTE were from Special Schools
 - 31% of FTE were from Secondary Schools
 - 15% were from Primary Schools



70 **Judgements:**

Working well:

- School moves are stabilising
- The Virtual School is seen as the single point of contact to discuss/facilitate a school move for a looked after child
- Continuing to have 0% permanent exclusion
- Reducing levels of FTE
- Reducing levels of FTE in Secondary and Primary schools

Area for development:

- To further reduce the number of school moves experienced by looked after children
- Levels of FTE are too high
- Increased levels of FTE from SEMH Secondary Special Schools
- Careful consideration of the use of managed moves as an alternative to permanent exclusion

Post-16 Looked After Children/Care Leavers:

- 71 The Virtual School works closely with the County Durham Young People's Service. All Yr11 looked after children are provided with a September guarantee for Post-16 transition.
- 72 The County Durham YPS have developed in partnership with the Virtual School a Post-16 PPE which is in place alongside the Post-16 Pathway Plan. The PEP is maintained by the Young Persons' Advisor for each individual young person.
- 73 The Virtual School and the YPS ensure that all Yr11 Durham looked after children have a post-16 intended destination. Young people are supported by:
- Preparing and supporting young people in interviews for post-16 courses and provision
 - Maintaining contact with a young person during the period of transition following GCSE testing and the starting of intended post-16 provision
 - Facilitate for each young person for whom they have a responsibility a coordinated handover to other supporting services
- 74 The Virtual School continues to provide support to Yr12 looked after children including additional tuition for resitting Maths or English GCSE.

- 75 As of 6 October 2017 the rates of transition in to Employment, Education and/or training were as follows:

	Yr12 (54)		Yr13 (49)	
	LAC	Care Leaver	LAC	Care Leaver
NEET	1.8%	3.6%	4.0%	10.2%
PT Training/Employment	0	0	2.0%	0
PT Education	1.8%	0	6.1%	0
FT Training/Employment	1.8%	0	14.3%	0
FT Higher Education	0	0	0	2%
FT Education	72.2%	22.2%	42.0%	18.3%

- 76 In total, of the Yr12 and Yr13 (September 2017) looked after children and care leavers, 76.7% are in fulltime education and 9.7% are presently NEET.

Summary

- 77 Achievement at KS1, KS2 and KS4 is still inconsistent. The Virtual School sets individual targets and rigorously monitor progress of each child over the academic year. Outcomes at KS1 are well below expected targets in reading, writing and maths. At KS2, there are significant issues in boys' writing and girls' maths. At KS1 and KS2, outcomes are below Children in Need.
- 78 In KS4 the Durham looked after children have performed slightly below target levels but in line with expected regional and national outcomes.
- 79 Durham looked after children continue to have good attendance. Attendance for looked after children in Durham Schools and Academy schools is above the national average, Durham average and the NE regional average.
- 80 There is an increasing focus on school stability. The number of in-year school moves has remained stable, falling slightly over the past year. The focus on school moves has been to support permanent or pre-adoption care placements.
- 81 There continues to be 0% permanent exclusion of looked after children from Durham schools and academy schools. Fixed term exclusion rates has increased and needs to become an area of future development to support schools in managing the most challenging looked after children without the requirement to exclude.

- 82 Managed moves of a looked after child as an alternative to permanent exclusion has had a positive impact on maintaining a 0% permanent exclusion but still provides instability for the child/young person. It is important that schools work proactively with the Virtual School to explore all options of support to maintain a school place prior to any decision regarding the need for a managed move.
- 83 From April 2016, in consultation with Head Teachers it was agreed for the Virtual School to retain an element of the Pupil Premium Plus funding. This has enabled the virtual school to provide specific Educational Psychologist support, School Counsellor support and increased levels of funding for individual looked after children. This has had a significant impact on the flexibility of the support that the Virtual School can bring to looked after children with complex needs.
- 84 The Virtual School continues to work across the teams within Children and Young People's Service and support schools in developing their understanding of looked after children. A countywide training programme to raise awareness of early trauma and the impact on engagement in education has been implemented for around 35 schools. The Virtual School also contributed to the strengthening relationship between Early Years Team, Post-16 team, the development of a Post-16 Personal Education Plan within the Young People's Service.

	Working Well	Areas for Development	RAG
Personal Education Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of PEPs judged to be of high quality remains consistent. Young people have been involved in the completion of the majority of PEPs. There is a good level of involvement from carers Pupil Premium+ spend is discussed and identified at the PEP meeting. Virtual School Caseworkers scrutinise the quality of each PEP and use of Pupil Premium Plus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Worker contribution is below 90%. Where a pattern is identified this will need to be addressed with team managers. Further investigation into why PEPs are not meeting the expected High Quality standard and addressed by training and further guidance to schools and Social Work Team Managers Improvement in the completion of PEPs within statutory timescales 	Green
Looked after children with Special Educational Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual School Caseworkers are responsible to facilitate the statutory assessment process for looked after children The quality of Education Health and Care Plans for looked after children has improved Social Worker content for Durham looked after children is improving. Durham looked after children with an EHCP have social care content in their plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The administration processes supporting Virtual School Caseworkers requires streamlining to avoid adding an additional burden Durham looked after children with SEN needs are not doing as well as their peers 	Green
KS1 Progress and Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham looked after children are performing better in maths than Durham children in need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys writing Girls maths Support Yr3 children who have performed below expectations to ensure the learning gap is closed by Yr5 	Red
KS2 Progress and Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target setting process in the Virtual School is effective Durham looked after children without SEND are performing well in comparison to their peers Durham looked after children make better progress from their starting point at KS1 than their peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underperformance in maths Increase monitoring of Durham LAC with SEN needs to ensure progress is in-line with ability Provide support for Yr7 Durham looked after children who have not achieved expected standard in Yr6 	Amber

	Working Well	Areas for Development	RAG
KS4 Progress and Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target setting and monitoring processes are effective Looked after children are expected to perform in-line with national and regional averages The additional support provided to targeted looked after children has enabled them to meet the demands of the new GCSE curriculums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate for the needs of the individual looked after child ensure they have access to the full range of EBacc qualifications Further develop support for KS4 looked after children with SEN including the use of a wider group of non-counting qualifications Target support on Yr7-9 looked after children to improve performance in literacy strengthening their access and understanding of the KS4 GCSE curriculums 	Amber
In-Year School Moves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School moves are stabilising The Virtual School is seen as the single point of contact to discuss/facilitate a school move for a looked after child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To further reduce the number of school moves experienced by looked after children 	Green
Exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to have 0% permanent exclusion Reducing levels of FTE Reducing levels of FTE in Secondary and Primary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further reduce levels of FTE Significantly reduce levels of FTE from SEMH Secondary Special Schools Careful consideration of the use of managed moves as an alternative to permanent exclusion 	Green
Pupil Premium Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Virtual School has a good system to allocate and monitor use of Pupil Premium Plus Retaining Pupil Premium Plus has enabled the Virtual School to be flexible in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable looked after children Specific areas of therapeutic support has been developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop the use of Pupil Premium to provide IT support and resources for looked after children 	Green

Recommendations

- 85 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to receive the report and supporting presentation.

Contact: Clive Horton – Deputy Virtual School Head, Durham Virtual School for looked after children, Durham County Council
Tel: 03000 267749

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

None

Staffing

None

Risk –

Local Authority has statutory responsibilities as detailed in the above report

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None

Human rights

None

Consultation

None

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that their needs of the individual child/young person are met regardless of their ability and/or disability

Legal Implications

Failure to ensure child/young people are accessing appropriate education may be subject to legal challenge

Appendix 2: Summary of Looked After Children – Durham Virtual School

Yr Grp	Durham Looked After Children								Non-Durham LAC
	No of LAC	Male	Female	Durham Schools	Non-Durham Schools	Not on roll	EHCP or Statement	Support Plan	
R	36	19	17	34	2	0	4	8	0
1	28	19	9	27	1	0	4	6	0
2	35	21	14	29	6	0	6	9	1
3	42	23	19	41	1	0	8	15	7
4	47	26	21	43	4	0	7	10	12
5	51	34	17	42	9	0	9	20	11
6	47	29	18	43	4	0	11	18	16
Total Primary	286	171	115	259	27	0	49	86	47
7	44	21	23	36	8	0	9	14	10
8	38	22	16	32	6	0	11	7	17
9	63	35	28	43	20	0	20	15	26
10	61	31	30	49	11	1	27	10	28
11	48	24	24	32	16	0	11	8	28
Total Secondary	254	133	121	192	61	1	78	54	109
Total YrR-Yr11	540	304	236	451	88	1	127	140	156

Appendix 3 – Special Educational Needs Abbreviations:

ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
SLC	Speech, Language & Communication Needs
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
HI	Hearing Impairment
VI	Visual Impairment
PD	Physical Disability
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulties
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

Corporate Parenting Panel

20 October 2017



Efficiency Plan 2017/18

Report of Glenda Henderson, Placement Efficiency Manager

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks to provide the Corporate Parent Panel with an overview of the Efficiency Plan in response to the high number of children in care, the mix of placements, significant demand on services and projected budget overspend.
2. The Efficiency Plan (which will be circulated to members at the meeting) sets out a number of key aims to
 - Achieve the best outcomes for children, young people and families;
 - Increase placement capacity, placement mix and placement choice, broadening the range of placements and working in partnership with providers;
 - Ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources;
 - Deliver value for money.

Background

3. In April 2015 the number of looked after children (LAC) in Durham remained relatively stable at 622 providing a LAC rate of 62 per 10,000 population which increased slightly to a rate of 68 in 2016. This was significantly below the rates for both regional (84) and statistical neighbours (83.2) but slightly above the national average rate of 60 per 10,000 population.
4. Since April 2016 (677) the number of looked after children has continued to rise, reaching a peak of 817 during April 2017, beyond the numbers previously projected. Durham's current LAC rate as at 30 September 2017 totalled 808 reaching 80.6 per 10,000 population which was still below regional statistics (92) however significantly above national statistics (62).

Next Steps

5. The Placement Efficiency Plan (2017-2020) seeks to provide a framework, setting out a number of strategies, which will deliver both service improvements and placement efficiencies. The Plan aims to meet the required £2million savings target, identified within the Medium Term Financial Plan, over 2018/19 and 2019/20.

6. The Efficiency Plan for 2017/18 is intended to be a highly operational 'live' plan which at present sets out six key objectives, set out below and identifies a number of strategies to ensure that each of these objectives are met.
 1. Safely reduce the number of children entering care.
 2. Ensure high quality social work practice through effective management of caseloads and which focuses on reducing drift and delay and planning for early permanence.
 3. Ensure effective management of decision making and financial monitoring of placements and use of resources.
 4. Adopt innovative and creative solutions to provision.
 5. Reduce the cost for external provision and dependency on high cost placements.
 6. Increase management oversight in financial decision-making and appropriate use of resources.

7. A detailed Action Plan will monitor the progression and delivery of each of these strategies and this will also be closely reviewed at the Quality Improvement Board (QIB).

Recommendations

7. Members of the Corporate Parent Panel are recommended to
 - Note the contents of this report;
 - Receive the Efficiency Plan and presentation at the meeting on 20 October 2017;
 - Continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Efficiency Plan throughout the year.

Contact: Glenda Henderson, Placement Efficiency Manager, Durham County Council. Tel: 03000 265726

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Finance Officers continuously monitor LAC budget

Staffing – N/A

Risk – Corporate Risk Register – risk added - R0659 - Severe financial impact resulting from increasing number of looked after children and the allocation of care provision

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – Potential inability to meet sufficiency duty (see risk above)

Crime and disorder – N/A

Human rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications- Potential inability to meet statutory sufficiency duty (see risk above).

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