

NCC Current Performance Report at 17 August 2018 for

Children's Social Care

	Measure	Unit	2017/18 Performance	Current Target	Current Performance	Last Available Result	Frequency	Direction of Travel	Performance	Status	Trend
1	Number of cases per full time equivalent (FTE) Children's Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)	Number	80	76	83	Jul 2018	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, this figure is calculated from a total FTE of 9.3 and a cohort of 770 IRO cases. The caseloads have increased due to a significant increase in the number of children subject to child protection plans, each of whom require an IRO. From 234 in March 2017 to 393 in March 2018. There is also some long term sickness within the team.                      ACTIONS: Once the team is back to its full complement, this will take the FTE up to 10.3 and the number of cases per FTE will drop.</p>											
2	Percentage of foster care children placed with Northumberland County Council foster carers	%	81	80	81	Jun 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 216 out of a total cohort of 267.</p>											
3	Judgements of residential services: (percentage that are Good/Outstanding)	%	100	100	100	Jun 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 5 of a total cohort of 5. This PI has consistently been in the green for the last 3 years. A new inspection framework was implemented in April 2017, focusing more on the young person's experience. We are meeting these new requirements. 2 homes have recently been inspected and found to be outstanding in all areas, a superb achievement.</p>											
4	Average time (days) between a child entering care & moving in with adoptive family	Days	552	550	506	Jul 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 23 (clients moving in with an adoptive family) out of a total cohort of 11626 (number of days). These timescales and pinch points where delays occur are considered in the bi-monthly performance report that goes to Corporate Parenting Committee.</p>											
5	Average time between LA receiving court authority to place a child in adoption and deciding on a match	Days	216	190	167	Jul 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 23 (clients) out of a total cohort of 3834 (total number of days). The average time has decreased at 167 days. Northumberland continues to adopt harder-to-place children and figures published by the Department for Education show that Northumberland adopts double the proportion of older children than the national picture.</p>											
6	Average duration of care proceedings ending in the period (weeks)	Number	33	30	33	Jul 2018	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: A range of issues affect the time taken to conclude proceedings, some of which are within the Local Authority's control, and some not. A detailed report on this issue will be received at the 6 September FACS meeting, and that will elaborate on these issues.                      ACTIONS: A legal gateway panel was implemented in the last 2 months to ensure consistent and appropriate decision-making for children and young people who become looked after.</p>											
7	% long term LAC in same placement for past 2 years	%	70	69	71	Jun 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 72 out of a total cohort of 101. Northumberland's current performance (71%) is now above the national average. This figure has fluctuated over the last year and had dipped previously due to a high number of IFA placements ending as young people reach adolescence. Future cohorts of long-term looked after children have been identified and are being tracked.</p>											
8	Referral decisions made within 1 day of receiving referral	%	98	96	99.7	Jul 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 361 out of a total cohort of 362 referrals, excellent performance. The First Contact Team is the single point of access for all referrals.</p>											
9	% of child protection plans ending that lasted two years or more where the plan has ended	%	3.5	2	0.8	Jul 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 3 out of a total cohort of 389. The latest position for the end of July 2018 shows that the percentage has decreased compared to June 2018.</p>											
10	% of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a 2nd or subsequent time	%	16	12	14.3	Jul 2018	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 76 out of a total cohort of 530. The current figure of 14.3% is a reduction on the position 3 months ago, and provisional data tells us it is lower and therefore better than the regional average. Nonetheless, we recognise that there has been a significant increase in the number of 2nd or subsequent CP plans in the last 12 months, and, following an audit, we are undertaking further exploratory work to understand why this has occurred. Initial audit findings indicate that social work reports have identified concerns about recurrent themes such as domestic abuse, drug or alcohol misuse and/or neglect and highlight concerns about previous positive changes under a child protection plan not being sustained to a good enough level, and resulting in a second or subsequent CP plan.                      ACTIONS: Senior managers plan to set up a multi agency task and finish group to review the cases that have had second or subsequent plans where the gap between the plans is 2 years or less. This follows the above audit of the multi agency decision making for those children and young people.</p>											
11	Reduction in first time entrants FTE to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17	%	85	80	85	Jan 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: The latest First Time Entrant (FTE) rate in Northumberland of 352 is an increase on the 2016/17 figure (274) but continues a downward trend in FTE rate over the longer term and is still viewed positively. The data, which is sourced externally to the LA, remains provisional at this stage.</p>											
12	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Number	55	50	55	Jan 2018	Quarterly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: The MoJ have changed the way the reoffending rates are measured, using a smaller three month cohort rather than a 12 month cohort. The smaller cohort number will result in greater variance in the reoffending rates. The latest data available is the Apr 16 - Jun 16 cohort and shows a reoffending rate of 55.0% where 22 young people from a cohort of 40 have reoffended. The DCS has requested that this increase be discussed at YOT Management Board.                      ACTIONS: In order to improve the performance of current cohorts, the YOT is using learning from the live tracking tool to prompt remedial action when young people show signs of reoffending or actually reoffend.</p>											
13	Use of custody	Number per 1000	0.19	0.2	0.19	Jan 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	

COMMENTS: Northumberland has historically had very low custody numbers and has performed well against regional and national benchmarking. Provisional data shows that in the Apr 17 - Mar 18 year there were 5 custodial sentences given to young people aged 17 years or under, from a population of 27,023 taking this measure within target. Confirmation of this figure will be available in early June.

14	% of Young Offenders living in suitable accommodation	%	100	95	100	Apr 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
COMMENTS: All young people from a cohort of 26 were in suitable accommodation at the end of their intervention in the period April to June 2018.											
15	% of children's care leavers living in suitable accommodation	%	94	91	97	Apr 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
COMMENTS: There has been ongoing work to ensure that the recording of each young person's accommodation status is accurate and up to date throughout the year (not just around the young person's birthday as required by the Department for Education). In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 88 out of a total cohort of 91, although in order to measure this quarterly, the numerator does not take into account if the young person was in touch around the time of their birthday. This can result in the performance dropping by up to 4 or 5% when measured for the annual statutory return. ACTIONS: Staying Put arrangements are now used when appropriate and supported by the local authority. Young people reaching the age of 17/18 years who can't remain in their placements are referred to the accommodation panel to access appropriate supported accommodation. Care leavers are given a priority status through homefinder when they are applying for their own tenancies. Social workers support young people reaching the age of 18 years to apply for housing prior to turning 18 years so they can move on to their own tenancy. For care leavers who are highly vulnerable and are unable to access supported accommodation there are moving on properties which can be accessed with bespoke support packages specific to their needs until such a time when risks reduce and the young person can move on. For carer leavers with substance misuse issues and at risk of custody there are moving on properties available and support provided through the accommodation team. They are then supported to apply for appropriate alternative accommodation. Many care leavers wish to return to the care of family members once they reach the age of 17/18. Social workers will assess this prior to the young person returning home and put in place appropriate supports for the family. All care leavers are provided with a setting up home allowance to ensure they have all the necessary items for their home (washer, cooker, bed etc).											
16	% Young Offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training (ETE)	%	69	65	100	Jun 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
COMMENTS: From a cohort of 5 children, all were in full time education, training or employment (ETE) at the end of their intervention (100%) in the month of June 2018. As cohorts for this measure are small, the data can vary significantly per month. For the April - June 2018 quarter, 65% of young people were in full time ETE at the end of their intervention. ACTIONS: As recommended by the FACS scrutiny chair, this PI is now being reported monthly so that we can intervene at the earliest appropriate stage.											
17	Average no. of Early Help Assessments initiated per month	Number	95	110	92	Jul 2018	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	
COMMENTS: In real terms, this number is calculated by averaging the total cohort of 1108 assessments over the previous 12 months. Numbers of EHAs continue to fluctuate on a monthly basis quite often linked to school holidays. ACTIONS: There are a number of actions planned to continue to drive up the number of EHAs. A new EHA/Lead professional training programme has been launched from September 2017 to support the undertaking of EHAs. Also the New Early Help Family Work Teams are becoming more embedded and with that increasing the number of EHAs they complete. Through the Early Help sub group of the LSCB, partners have been challenged about the volume of EHAs they are initiating based on data that is broken down to service level, to aid accountability.											
18	No Of Supported Families attached to the Programme (January 2015 to March 2020)	Number	1613	1613	1613	Jun 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
COMMENTS: The attached number to be achieved has been amended to reflect the revised profiling of grant release by the MHCLG for this year and to provide a realistic profile across the 18/19 period which includes removing some families for whom claims will never be made. All 3 figures are identical at the end of June because there were no claims made between March and July, as agreed with the MHCLG. The figures will change for qtr 2 as a claim was made in July.											
19	Supporting Families cases where there has been significant and sustained progress or continuous employment	Number	854	854	854	Apr 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
COMMENTS: We have revised our claim profile in discussion with the MHCLG. We have identified evidence of 'progress to work' measures as a barrier to potential claims and have put a plan in place to aim to reduce this including getting further advice from the MHCLG about good practice in other areas. All 3 figures are identical at the end of June quarter because there were no claims made between March and July, as agreed with the MHCLG. The figures will change for qtr 2 as a claim was made in July.											
20	% social workers where caseload weighting is within the desired points level	%		74	77	Jul 2018	Monthly	N/A	Green	Up to date	
COMMENTS: The caseload weighting system is designed to reflect the range and complexity of work that social work staff are case managing. Elements of travel and additional tasks are also built into the system and targets which reflect manageable workloads are set dependent on staff's level of experience and qualification. The year end aim would be for all staff to be working to or beneath their caseload weighting target. Although an improved picture compared to March 2018, some social workers in some areas are experiencing caseload pressures and managers use regularly-available management information and the performance clinics with the Acting Head of Service, to monitor the situation and take action where necessary.											