

NCC Current Performance Report at 18 February 2019 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	73	67	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: In real terms, this figure is calculated from a total FTE of 12.1 and a cohort of 816 IRO cases.</i>											
2	Percentage of foster care children placed with Northumberland County Council foster carers	%	81	80	80	Dec 2018	Monthly	Red	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 222 out of a total cohort of 276. We will continue to monitor this PI on a weekly basis via the Admissions and Discharges returns and will identify improvement actions if it is short of target.</i>											
3	Judgements of residential services: (percentage that are Good/Outstanding)	%	100	100	100	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 5 of a total cohort of 5, a figure of 100% and better than the national average. 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. Kytloe House secure unit was inspected in July and found to be good in all areas, including education, which was previously requires improvement.</i>											
4	Average time (days) between a child entering care & moving in with adoptive family	Days	552	550	417	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 25 (clients moving in with an adoptive family) out of a total cohort of 10427 (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. Our latest figure of 417 is significantly better than the national average of 520.</i>											
5	Average time between LA receiving court authority to place a child in adoption and deciding on a match	Days	216	180	150	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 25 (clients) out of a total cohort of 3752 (total number of days). The average time has decreased at 150.1 days, is better than the national average of 220, and the target of 180 is now being exceeded. 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. Figures on this PI can vary significantly month on month as one child's experience can make a lot of difference.</i>											
6	Average duration of care proceedings ending in the period (weeks)	Number	33	28	31	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<i>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 was received at the 06/09/2018 FACS meeting. Our figure of 31 weeks is slightly higher than the national average of 30 weeks. A regional review of care proceedings out of time scale identified areas for improvement, some of which are for the LA, but also others, for example court time tabling. ACTIONS: A legal gateway panel was implemented in the last few months to ensure consistent and appropriate decision-making for children and young people who become looked after.</i>											
7	% long term LAC in same placement for past 2 years	%	70	70	66	Dec 2018	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: Northumberland's current performance (66%) is below the national average (70%). 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. Our record in finding suitable and stable placements in a family environment is good overall, although we do experience some challenge with finding suitable placements for a very small number of teenagers whose needs are very complex. ACTIONS: Future cohorts of long-term looked after children have been identified and are being tracked; a review of placement sufficiency is currently being undertaken as part of refreshing the Corporate Parenting Strategy; and we have identified the above issue regarding teenagers as something we would welcome support for from other local authorities within the region.</i>											
8	Referral decisions made within 1 day of receiving referral	%	98	96	99.3	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 277 out of a total cohort of 279 referrals, excellent performance. The First Contact Team is the single point of access for all referrals.</i>											
9	% of child protection plans ending that lasted two years or more where the plan has ended	%	3.5	1	0.8	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 4 out of a total cohort of 446. The latest position for the end of December 2018 shows that the percentage has decreased compared to November 2018. Our latest figure continues to be better than the national average, which is 3%.</i>											
10	% of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a 2nd or subsequent time	%	16	12	17.8	Dec 2018	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: Our figure of 17.8%, although an increase, is below the national average of 20%. In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 106 out of a total cohort of 594. 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: Following the detailed audit work, senior managers will continue to review this area every month. There is additional senior manager casework oversight on all cases going to initial child protection conference.</i>											
11	Reduction in first time entrants FTE to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17	%	85	80	83.7	Jul 2018	Quarterly	Red	Green	Up to date	
<i>COMMENTS: The latest First Time Entrant (FTE) rate in Northumberland of 384 (Jul 17 - Jun 2018) is a decrease on the previous rate of 396 and a decrease of 84% from the baseline. In real terms this is a FTE number of 103 from a population of 26.810. ACTIONS: The data for this measure is sourced externally to the LA. The locally held data is being looked at by the management team and YOT Board as although this measure remains within target, the number of FTE has been increasing over the last 12 months.</i>											

12	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Number	55	50	49.1	Jul 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	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 Oct 16 - Dec 16 cohort and shows a reoffending rate of 49.1%, where 26 young people from a cohort of 53 have reoffended.</p> <p>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	0.22	0.15	Oct 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: Northumberland has historically had very low custody numbers and has performed well against regional and national benchmarking. Data shows that in the Jan 18 - Dec 18 year there were 4 custodial sentences given to two young people aged 17 years or under, from a population of 26,810 taking this measure well within target.</p>											
14	% of Young Offenders living in suitable accommodation	%	100	95	97	Oct 2018	Quarterly	Red	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: One young person from a cohort of 29 was not in suitable accommodation at the end of their intervention in the period October to December 2018.</p>											
15	% of children's care leavers living in suitable accommodation	%	94	95	95	Oct 2018	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: The latest figure is less than 1% below the target set and is above the national average. 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 125 out of a total cohort of 132, 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.</p> <p>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)</p>											
16	% Young Offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training (ETE)	%	69	68	63	Dec 2018	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: From a cohort of 8 children, 5 were in full time education, training or employment (ETE) at the end of their intervention (63%) in the month of December 2018. In the latest quarter available 69% of young people were in full-time ETE at the end of their intervention. As cohorts for this measure are small, the data can vary significantly per month.</p> <p>ACTIONS: As recommended by the FACS scrutiny chair, this PI is reported monthly so that we can intervene at the earliest appropriate stage.</p>											
17	Average no. of Early Help Assessments initiated per month	Number	95	110	88	Dec 2018	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: In real terms, this number is calculated by averaging the total cohort of 1061 assessments over the previous 12 months. Numbers of EHAs continue to fluctuate on a monthly basis quite often linked to school holidays. Feedback from partners indicates that in some instances, early help work is being done but not in the form of an early help assessment and the LA is agreeable to this so long as the work is being done.</p> <p>ACTIONS: This is an ongoing conversation about how and when EHAs are completed taking into account diminishing school resources particularly. We are planning on revising the EHA format over the next few months in line with the SOS practice model which should make the paper work simpler for other agencies. EHA is also being promoted as part of the SEN graduated response.</p>											
18	No Of Supported Families attached to the Programme (January 2015 to March 2020)	Number	1613	1482	2300	Dec 2018	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>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.</p> <p>ACTIONS: We are moving into our last year of the programme and only have 5% of our total figure of attached families left to draw down funding for.</p>											
19	Supporting Families cases where there has been significant and sustained progress or continuous employment	Number	854	1444	1202	Jan 2019	Quarterly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: We have revised our claim profile in discussion with 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.</p> <p>ACTIONS: The SF team reviews processes to identify what went well and what could be improved during PBR Claims. Recent improvements included identifying those families that had been ineligible in previous claims and checking those reasons first prior to carrying out a complete assessment.</p>											
20	% of care leavers in education, employment or training	%	50.5	55	53.03	Oct 2018	Quarterly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: Improved recording has contributed to better performance, although we want to see this improve further still, focusing in particular on the Council's role as an employment and training provider. Our figure of 53% is above the national average of 51%.</p> <p>ACTIONS: Use of data to inform long term planning and service development-look at better ways to use the data already produced/known to inform future services for care leavers including EET needs. Identify more apprenticeships for care leavers and ring fence a proportion for care leavers</p>											
21	% social workers where caseload weighting is within the desired points level	%		85	76	Jan 2019	Monthly	N/A	Red	Up to date	
<p>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. The latest figure is a much improved picture compared to March 2018, although some social workers in some areas are experiencing caseload pressures.</p> <p>ACTIONS: Managers use regularly-available management information and the performance clinics to monitor the situation and use the judgement of the acting head of service, the team manager and the social worker to take action on any long standing exceptions where necessary.</p>											