


Appendix B - Children's Social Care

	Measure	Unit	2018/19 Performance	Current Target	Current Performance	Last Available Result	Frequency	Direction of Travel	Performance	Status	Trend
1	Average time (days) between a child entering care & moving in with adoptive family	Days	452	470	458	Jun 2019	Monthly	Red	Green	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: In real terms, the latest available figure works out as 34 (clients moving in with an adoptive family) out of a total cohort of 15577 (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 458 is significantly better than the national average of 520.</i></p>											
2	Average duration of care proceedings ending in the period (weeks)	Number	37	36	39	Jun 2019	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p><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. Our figure of 39 weeks is 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 external action, for example court time tabling. It is recognised this is a challenging target to meet. Feedback from the lead Family Court Judge about Northumberland's practice has been more positive in the last year.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: A legal gateway panel was implemented in the last year to ensure consistent and appropriate decision-making for children and young people who become looked after. The individual circumstances of those cases that have taken longer than 26 weeks are known and are being used to inform future plans.</i></p>											
3	% long term LAC in same placement for past 2 years	%	68	69	66	Jul 2019	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	Graph not yet produced
<p><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, but also, positively, because some children had moved into permanent foster care placements. Such fluctuations are still being seen over the summer, and whilst the end of July figure of 66% is a deterioration, our forecasts of what we know about this cohort of just over 100 is that it is likely to be back to over 70% by the end of August. 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.</i></p> <p><i>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 the refreshed 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></p>											
4	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Number	34.4	40	34.7	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Red	Green	Up to date	

COMMENTS: This indicator is monitored closely by the YOT Management Board every quarter. The Ministry of Justice has changed the way the reoffending rates are measured, using a smaller three month cohort rather than a 12 month cohort. Reoffending rates have reduced considerably in the last 6 months and are better than the national average. However, the smaller cohort number can result in greater variance in the rate.

5	% of children's care leavers living in suitable accommodation	%	93	95	88	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Red	Red	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: There has been a deterioration in the percentage who are in accommodation deemed "suitable" and the next performance clinic will further review the circumstances of the 14 young people who are not recorded as being in suitable accommodation – analysis to date tell us 4 were in custody, 4 were of no fixed abode / homeless and there were 6 where the young person either was not in touch or the accommodation isn't recorded. Ongoing work is undertaken to ensure that the recording of each young person's accommodation status is 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 105 out of a total cohort of 119, 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 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 so they can move on to their own tenancy. For care leavers who are highly vulnerable, e.g. those with substance misuse issues and at risk of custody, 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. 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).



6	% Young Offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training (ETE)	%	58.8	66	63.5	Jun 2019	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: As cohorts for this measure are small, the data can vary significantly per month. Therefore, the data reported for quarter 1 is the most recent yearly figure that was presented to the YOT Management Board in June; this gives a more strategic view of performance in this area. The figure of 63.5% is just short of the target.

ACTIONS: The Board meets every quarter where issues around exclusions and going missing from home are considered, as well as breaking the data down into under 16s and over 16s. Due to the fluid nature of tracking outcomes for YOT clients, the service has to periodically undertake stop the clock days to check on the integrity of the data, and the next session is taking place in September.

7	No Of Supported Families attached to the Programme (January 2015 to March 2020)	Number	2383	1220	2500	Jun 2019	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
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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 19/20 period which includes removing some families for whom claims will never be made. A stock take by the MHCLG is due to take place in the autumn and preparations are well underway for this.

8	Supporting Families cases where there has been significant and sustained progress or continuous employment	Number	1280	1430	1382	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: The SF team reviews processes to identify what went well and what could be improved during payment by result 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.</i></p>											
9	% of 19-21 yr old care leavers who are in touch	%	91	92	98	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	New Service Statement PI – graph not yet produced
<p><i>COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Children's Social Care service statement. We are currently performing better than the national average. There is a clear system in place for workers ensuring that they have been in touch with young people during the 'reporting window' which is monitored through use of performance data and supervision and exceptions to this understood by managers.</i></p>											
10	% of care leavers in education, employment or training	%	53.7	54	56.3	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: Improved recording has contributed to better targeting of resources, 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 56% is above the national average of 51%.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: A specific care leavers EET action plan is being prepared, eg use of data to inform long term planning and service development by looking at better ways to use the data to inform future services for care leavers. A specific action is to identify more apprenticeships for care leavers and ring fence a proportion for them.</i></p>											
11	% of EHFV cases closed because desired outcomes have been met	%	57	70	79	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	New Service Statement PI – graph not yet produced
<p><i>COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Children's Social Care service statement. Case recording in relation to whether outcomes have been achieved has been made simpler for workers when closing cases, allowing us to clearly see the positive impact work is having with families. "Desired outcomes met" is based on all the outcomes identified in the early help plan having been met.</i></p>											
12	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months	%	10	10	9	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	New Service Statement PI – graph not yet produced


COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Children's Social Care service statement. The result of 9% equates to 36 of 370 looked after children, better than the national average.

13	% of looked after children placed in foster care	%	72	72	70	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Red	Red	Up to date	New Service Statement PI – graph not yet produced
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Children's Social Care service statement. 70% equates to 258 out of 368 looked after children being placed in foster care. 13% were in residential, 8% placed at home under a care order, 7% placed for adoption, and 2% in independent living.

14	% of looked after children placed in residential care	%	14	14	13	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	New Service Statement PI – graph not yet produced
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Children's Social Care service statement. 48 out of 368 looked after children were placed in residential care. Currently all NCC Children's Homes are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. Children and young people are deemed to live in high quality standard homes with staff who care about them. It is acknowledged that living in a family situation is a preferred option for most children and young people, however our Homes are family focused and within local safe communities. Children and young people living in our homes achieve and develop in all areas of their lives. The need to expand our residential provision in house to meet needs is an aim over 19/20.

15	% social workers where caseload weighting is within the desired points level	%	61	74	73	Jul 2019	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
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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 latest figure reflects that workloads of some social workers in some teams are currently higher than we would wish due mainly to staff sickness.

ACTIONS: Managers use regularly-available management information and the performance clinics to monitor the situation and use the judgement of the head of service, the team manager and the social worker to take action on any long standing exceptions where necessary and to remove any blocks in the service regarding the transfer of cases. Monthly performance clinics provide additional scrutiny that the most at risk children are still being seen, and remedial action is requested where required.

16	Rate of children and young people subject to child protection plans per 10,000 popn	Rates per 10,000	71	70	63	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	New Service Statement PI – graph not yet produced
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Children's Social Care service statement and has been monitored closely internally and by the LSCB over the last 2 years. Whilst the rate reduced to well below the target of 70 at the end of June, there was considerable child protection conference activity in July and the figure has risen once more (latest figure is 75 in mid August). Analysis of the prevalence of large sibling groups and repeat plans is being undertaken.

17	Rate of Looked After Children (LAC) per 10,000 popn	Rates per 10,000	63	62	62	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	New Service Statement PI – graph not yet produced
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not yet produced

COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the CSC service statement, although it is reported on weekly internally. Northumberland is unique in the region in that it has not experienced a significant increase in its LAC population. A legal gateway panel ensures that appropriate decisions are taken on individual cases and meeting their needs is at the forefront of decision-making when deciding whether to take a child into care.
