



Northumberland

County Council

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 16 JULY 2020

CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Report of Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services

Cabinet Member: Councillor Wayne Daley, Executive Member for Children's Services

1. **Purpose of report**

To consider current performance and the budgetary position for services within the Committee's terms of reference.

2. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the current performance and identifies any areas for further scrutiny.

3. **Link to Corporate Plan**

The performance management information covers services in Education and Skills and Children's Social Care and is available via the Council's website. The Council's performance management arrangements overall are particularly relevant to 'Developing the Organisation'.

4. **Key issues**

This report is for discussion.

5. **Background**

The Service Statements across the Council set out priorities for delivering the Corporate Plan together with a performance framework covering past performance levels and future targets. The performance measures are captured on a web-enabled system and current performance is updated regularly so that the most recent information is available to Members, officers and the public.

This report presents performance for Education and Skills (E&S) and Children's Social Care (CSC) up to the end of the 2019/20 financial year. The suite of indicators has been reviewed as part of preparing the service statements for 2020/21 and Directors have decided that they should remain the same following the extensive review the previous year, although the targets have been updated. That process took place before the Coronavirus lockdown and it is possible that targets for some indicators will need to be reviewed again in light of increased pressures. At the time of reporting, however, it is too soon to make such decisions as we need to assess the impact of the lockdown over a longer period of time.

The Appendices to this report show the current performance information, commentary and actions for services within the Committee's terms of reference. The key issues are summarised briefly below. Members should note that this committee has recently received additional information about the positive findings of the ILAC inspection, whilst the Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Advisory Group receives bi-monthly performance reports on data relating to looked after children and care leavers.

The data in appendices A and B show the position in March 2020 to reflect the Quarter 4 updates. The data herein relating to looked after children and young people and care leavers should be treated as provisional, pending submission of the statutory return to the DFE in the summer.

Education and Skills: With reference to Appendix A, the latest data on the following indicators have been reported to this committee previously owing to their annual nature: 4-9; 13; 14; 18; 22-29. Of the indicators where there are updates, performance is good and above the national average on: take up of early education entitlement (PI number 1); choice of school (PI numbers 2 and 11); destinations for those aged 16 and over (PI number 17). Although still an area of focus, the rate of permanent exclusions from schools (PI numbers 10 & 15) has abated and is better than the previous school year (even before lock down). The percentage of primary school pupils who attend a school judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding (PI number 3) is just below the national average and that gap has closed considerably, with 15 of the 17 schools inspected this academic year being judged as good or better. However, the large gap remains for secondary schools (PI number 19).

The timeliness of education and health care plans (PI number 21) has varied in the last six months and is being closely monitored. Whilst it is short of target in the latest reporting period (March 2020), which has been impacted on by the lockdown, it is still significantly better than the national average for the full year. The focus is more on achieving better quality, for example, through a greater social care and healthcare contribution to the development and reviewing of the plans.

Detailed comments and the actions being taken for PIs that are short of target can be seen in Appendix A. Members are also urged to refer to the Annual Report of the Director of Education and Skills for the additional context.

Children's Social Care: With reference to Appendix B, performance is good in relation to placement stability for LAC (PI numbers 12 and 13), and time scales for those who are adopted (PI number 15). Northumberland's rate of LAC (PI number 9) has risen in the last 6 months and impacts on the financial pressures, although it remains below the regional average.

With regards to young offenders, there are currently more in employment, education or training (PI number 4) than the previous report, and Northumberland is better than the target for re-offending (PI number 7), the number remaining low and therefore good.

The volume of early help family worker plans achieving their desired outcomes (PI number 3) is a new indicator for 2019/20 and has improved, although is just short of target.

The rate of children subject to a child protection plan (PI number 8) has increased considerably in the last 3 months. This is monitored through the NSCC and analysis of the influencing factors is regularly undertaken within the local authority.

Although improved compared with the position 12 months ago, performance remains just short of target in relation to the balance of social worker caseloads (PI number 5) due to current pressures in some teams. This issue is monitored at senior manager level on a weekly basis so the need for intervention can be highlighted and acted upon swiftly. The ILAC report from March commented positively on the support and challenge offered to social workers.

More looked after children of school age experienced school placement changes in the last academic year than the previous one (PI number 19). Appendix B provides the detail behind this. Whilst we would want to see a reduction in the number of school placement changes, the ILAC inspection provided external reassurance that the local authority works well with schools and looked after children and young people, as it does with care leavers (PI numbers 16-18).

Whilst the Supporting Families programme (PI numbers 1 and 2) continues to perform well at identifying families who could benefit from it, we want to increase the number of claims where there has been significant and sustained progress or continuous employment. The Ministry of housing, communities and local government (MHCLG) continues to feedback positively about the strength of Northumberland's programme.

Detailed comments and the actions being taken for PIs that are short of target can be seen in Appendix B. Members should note the ILAC report presented to this committee in March provides further evaluation of the effectiveness of practice in Children's Social Care.

6. Children's Services provisional year-end financial position

Education and Skills Service

The revenue position for Education and Skills at the end of March 2020 is as follows: Forecast Out-turn £0.158 million overspend

The Education and Skills Service budget received growth of £0.604 million towards the cost of providing home to school Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport; however, despite the additional funding, the service overspent by a further £0.316 million. Demand for the service continues to increase in line with the demand for special school places and there has been an additional 64 pupils over the last financial year. Anticipated growth trends are being studied in order to predict future demands for this service.

Dedicated Schools Grant

The revenue position for Dedicated Schools Grant at the end of March 2020 is as follows: Forecast Out-turn £0.607 million overspend

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has carried forward a deficit of £1.2 million from 2018-19 and continues to face a significant challenge to balance the budget by 2021-22 when the National Funding Formula is still anticipated to be implemented in full. There was a transfer of £1.8 million from the Schools block to the High Needs block for 2019-20 which will contribute to reducing the deficit, however demand on the services provided by the High Needs block continues to grow.

A significant pressure on the High Needs Block has been the demand for Independent Special School places which has been exacerbated by a shortage of places within suitable schools within the LA. Consequently, the service overspent by £0.413 million, reflecting the impact of placing 14 additional pupils in the year to March 2020.

Another significant pressure is the alternative provision for permanently excluded pupils which was overspent by £0.501 million. As the number of long-term excluded pupils increases, the cost to the High Needs block will increase as schools are no longer required to contribute. There is also a shortage of suitable provision across the Authority and, as a result, more costly provision has had to be sourced to meet the demands on the service.

Children Social Care

The revenue position for Children Social Care at the end of March 2020 is as follows: Forecast Out-turn £3.814 million overspend

The number of Looked after Children was 435 at the end of March, and this is the driver behind the continued financial pressures across the service. The most significant pressure continues to be the rising cost of external residential placements which overspent by £5.693 million. This includes the cost of additional agency staff required to support short term placements in emergency accommodation and a contribution towards the cost of these placements from Northumberland CCG of £1.1 million.

Both In house foster care allowances and Special guardianship orders overspent by £0.471 million, however 2019-20 has seen a continued decrease in the use of Independent Fostering agencies with an expected underspend of £0.129 million.

Kyloe House Secure unit underspent by £0.176 million largely due to over-achieving on the income budget as occupancy levels across the year have exceeded the breakeven point for the unit.

Several services experienced staffing underspends due to vacancies and staff turnover across the year and this was £1.164 million at year end.

7. Appendices - Dashboards for services within the Committee's terms of reference:

- A. Education and Skills
- B. Children's Social Care

8. Implications

Policy	n/a
Finance and value for money	Many of the measures included in the framework have a value for money component. At the end of March 2020, Children's Social Care has an overspend of £3.814 million and Education and Skills an overspend of £0.158 million for the financial year 2019-20.
Legal	The report refers to the time scales for care proceedings.
Procurement	n/a
Human Resources	Having enough experienced social workers is essential for a high performing Children's Social Care service.
Property	n/a

Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	n/a
Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime & Disorder	The performance framework includes measures on offending.
Customer Consideration	The framework includes a number of measures relevant to providing services to customers
Carbon reduction	n/a
Wards	All

9. Background papers:

Details of the County Council's performance management arrangements including access to the Northumberland web-enabled performance system can be found at:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/Policy/Performance.aspx#corporateperformancemanagementarrangements>





10. Report sign off.


Monitoring Officer/Legal	Liam Henry
Executive Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer	Chris Hand
Relevant Executive Director	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley

11. Author and Contact Details

This report has been prepared on behalf of Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services. For further information, contact Alan Hartwell on 01670 623589 or at Alan.Hartwell@northumberland.gov.uk.

Appendix A: Education and Skills service statement indicators – up to March 2020. Please ignore the last column, which comes directly off the system

	Measure	Unit	2019/20 Performance	Current Target	Current Performance	Last Available Result	Frequency	Direction of Travel	Performance	Status	Trend
1	% children taking up the Statutory entitlement to early education for all eligible 2 year olds	%	90	93	92	Dec 2019	Termly	Green	Amber	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: Although 1% short of the aspirational target, Northumberland's figure was 21% above the national average. For this reason, it is rated as amber. The current performance of 92% is a slight decrease on the previous figure of 96, but nonetheless, performance remains very strong. Northumberland's performance is 2nd best in the country and the amber colour is simply a result of how the aspirational targets were set. The LA is happy with the current performance.</i></p>											
2	% getting their first choice of primary school	%	97.4	98	98.2	Apr 2019	Annually	Green	Green	Up to date	No Data
<p><i>COMMENTS: This is an excellent outcome for families and marks a 1% improvement on the previous academic year. It is 7% better than the national average.</i></p>											
3	% of pupils in primary schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding	%	84.9	90	86.5	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: There have been 17 published primary school inspection reports between 1.09.19 – 31.03.20. 15 of these were judged to be Good while 2 were judged to be Requires Improvement, a trajectory that is bringing Northumberland more in line with the national average of 88%. Ofsted do monitoring visits for primary schools that are judged to be RI or inadequate, but there have been none so far in the 2019/20 school year. All new academies now keep their previous inspection result. Overall, the key point is that the judgements for recently-inspected primary schools have improved.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: It is the prime responsibility of the governing bodies and head teachers of those schools to improve. The Council commissions School Improvement Partners (SIPs) to monitor and challenge those schools to improve, one of the products being a termly SIP visit report which includes what judgement they conclude the school would receive if they were inspected at that point. Members should note that periods between inspections range from 18 months to 3 years therefore statistics of this nature are slow to change and short term trend patterns difficult to identify.</i></p>											
4	EYFSP - % of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development	%	75	78	75	Sep 2019	Annually	Green	Amber	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: This annual figure has remained stable. As it is 3% better than the national average, but poorer than the aspirational improvement target, it is rated as amber.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: This strong and consistent base has allowed the Early Years team to focus on disadvantaged learners, closing the gap with others by 7%.</i></p>											
5	Phonics - % of year 1 pupils working at the expected standard	%	85.2	87	84.3	Sep 2019	Annually	Red	Amber	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: Whilst just short of the aspirational target, performance is 2% above the national average. For this reason, it is rated as amber.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Pupil Premium learners continue to be the focus here to achieve the target and beyond.</i></p>											
6	KS1 - % of pupils achieving the expected	%	78.6	81	78.6	Sep 2019	Annually	Green	Amber	Up to date	

	standard in Maths									
	<i>COMMENTS: Although 2.4% short of the aspirational target, Northumberland's figure for 2019 was 2.6% above the national average. For this reason, it is rated as amber.</i>									
	<i>ACTIONS: Pupil Premium learners continue to be the focus here to achieve the target and beyond.</i>									
7	KS1 - % of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading		80.5	83	78.4	Sep 2019	Annually			Up to date 
	<i>COMMENTS: Although 4.6% short of the aspirational target, Northumberland's figure for 2019 was 3.4% above the national average. For this reason, it is rated as amber.</i>									
	<i>ACTIONS: Pupil Premium learners continue to be the focus here to achieve the target and beyond.</i>									
8	KS1 - % of pupils achieving the expected standard in Writing		74.3	75	73.2	Sep 2019	Annually			Up to date 
	<i>COMMENTS: Although 1.8% short of the target, Northumberland's figure for 2019 was 4.2% above the national average. For this reason, it is rated as amber.</i>									
	<i>ACTIONS: Pupil Premium learners continue to be the focus here to achieve the target and beyond.</i>									
9	KS2 - % of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths	%	64.6	68	66.3	Sep 2019	Annually			Up to date 
	<i>COMMENTS: Outcomes have improved again and are better than the national average for the second year running; however they do fall slightly below the ambitious target for this measure. For this reason, it is rated as amber.</i>									
	<i>ACTIONS: Improvement in Maths has helped to close on this target. This needs to be extended in 2020.</i>									
10	Number of permanent exclusions from primary schools in academic year	Number	4	0	5	Mar 2020	Monthly			Up to date 
	<i>COMMENTS: There have now been 5 permanent exclusions from primary schools in this academic year up to March 2020. The comparative figure for March 2019 was 4.</i>									
	<i>ACTIONS: This has identified a clear need to extend and enhance behaviour support across the county (SLA arrangements being removed from September 2020 to achieve this), to involve Inclusion Support Workers earlier and to provide appropriate provision for primary age children that are at risk of exclusion.</i>									
11	% getting their first choice secondary school	%	98.1	98.5	98.4	Apr 2019	Annually			Up to date 
	<i>COMMENTS: This is an excellent outcome for families and equals the figure for the previous academic year. It is 16% better than the national average. It has fallen short of the aspirational target by 0.1%, so is rated as amber.</i>									
	<i>ACTIONS: We have been aspirational in our target setting and whilst falling short of the 98.5% target, it is by a very slim margin and it has been agreed by senior managers that remedial action is not required.</i>									

12	Number of schools on vulnerable list at risk of being Requires Improvement or Inadequate that are currently good or outstanding	Number	5	11	4	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: There are currently 4 Northumberland schools that are currently graded as 'Good' by Ofsted who are at risk of not maintaining that grade at their next inspection. This is due to a range of individual factors including the quality of some of their key outcomes and for some schools, the capacity of leadership. All are making improvements which we hope will be recognised by Ofsted at their visit. 10 Northumberland maintained schools currently 'Require Improvement', of those 1 has received a monitoring visit, and was judged to not be 'Taking effective action'. Of the 9 awaiting monitoring visits all bar two are expected to be 'Taking effective actions'. There are 8 Academies that 'Require improvement', of those 2 have received a monitoring visit and were deemed by Ofsted to not be 'Taking effective action', whilst 2 were deemed to be 'Taking effective action'. There are 6 inadequate schools which are already Academies. Academies are not in the control of the Local Authority and therefore the LA cannot intervene to drive forward improvement. There are currently 48 academies in Northumberland and this figure is set to grow. There are currently 137 'Good or Outstanding' schools in Northumberland. Please note that as we improve overall and increase our capacity for support we have lowered our thresholds for Priority School status. As a result the target for this indicator has increased to reflect our increased ability to offer support to schools where previously they wouldn't have met the threshold of concern.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: All 4 schools are receiving additional support from the LA central teams. Each of these schools are part of the LA priority group.</i></p>											
13	KS4 - average Attainment 8 score	Number	46.1	48.7	46.5	Sep 2019	Annually	Green	Amber	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: The score is 0.4 points above that achieved in 2018, is slightly lower than the national average and placed Northumberland joint second in the region.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Our high performance in the North East needs to be matched with a higher performance against outcomes nationally.</i></p>											
14	KS4 - average Progress 8 score	Number	-0.09	0.11	-0.12	Sep 2019	Annually	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: This score was a slight decrease on 2018, was the highest in the region, and was slightly lower than the national average.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Support to the few schools who significantly underachieve with this target is being maximised.</i></p>											
15	Number of permanent exclusions from secondary schools in academic year	Number	65	34	49	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: Notwithstanding that this is the seventh set of figures for the 2019/20 academic year, it is disappointing that schools and academies have already permanently excluded 49 pupils, however this is lower than the comparative figure for last year.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Once schools are working normally again, the Schools Exclusions Group will be reconstituted to begin to implement the recommendations of the Exclusions Task & Finish Group.</i></p>											
16	% permanently excluded pupils receiving full-time education by 6th day	%	77.5	100	72.2	Mar 2020	Monthly	Red	Red	Up to date	

following exclusion

COMMENTS: By the end of March there were 54 permanent exclusions. 39 of which were in education within the 6 days.

ACTIONS: The Schools Admissions and Inclusion team have implemented an online system which makes the process of schools returning paperwork more efficient and will help bring the result for this metric closer to target.


17	% of 16-17 year olds NEET and Not Known	%	4.6	4.4	4.6	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Green	Amber	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator that combines NEET and Not Known in line with the way it is reported nationally. Northumberland performs better than the national average (5.3%) for this indicator, however it falls just short of the aspirational target.

ACTIONS: The Careers Guidance team works to identify the education training and employment destinations of each individual during the first few months of the new academic year and it is expected that the Northumberland Not Known rate reduces throughout the academic year, although this always has the potential to increase the NEET figure further. The team employs a range of activities to track and record individuals and these are currently underway, including telephone calls through the day and evening, text messages and emails and door knocking in certain areas.


18	% of the workforce who are apprentices	%	New Indicator	2.3	2.5	Apr 2019	Annually	New indicator	Green	Up to date	No Data
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Education and Skills service statement. Performance is currently better than target.

19	% of pupils in secondary schools judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding	%	65.9	72	66.9	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: There have been 3 published secondary and middle school inspection reports between 1.09.19 – 31.03.20, 2 of which were judged to be Good and 1 which was judged to be Requires Improvement. One school that had been judged to Require Improvement previously has received a Section 8 monitoring visit between 1.09.19 – 31.03.20 and was judged 'not to be taking effective action'. All new academies will now keep their previous inspection result. The national average is 80%, so Northumberland is still some way from closing that gap, so whilst the figure has improved slightly, it is still an area for improvement.

ACTIONS: As well as the actions outlined for primary schools, Members should note the task of turning round this pattern of under-achievement will take at least 3 years based upon Ofsted inspection schedules. The multi academy trusts that have incorporated NCC grade 4 (ie Inadequate-rated) schools continue to put in place strategies to review performance of pupils.

20	% overall success of apprenticeships in NVQ, Technical Certificate & Functional Skills Framework	%	83.7	85	83.3	Aug 2019	Monthly	Red	Amber	Overdue	
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COMMENTS: Better than national average, but just short of the challenging target.

ACTIONS: Continued monitoring.

21	% of new Education Health and Care Plans successfully	%	79	92	61 (85 in 2019/20)	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Red	Up to date	
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completed within
statutory 20 week time
scale (monthly
figures)



COMMENTS: The figure for this indicator for March is 61%, while the performance over the previous 12 months is 85%. The national average currently stands at 60%. There has been an increase in requests for these plans at a time when staff sickness and vacancies have also increased. It is recognised that the team remains under considerable pressure to deal with the volume of work that is coming through from service users and schools. Additional factor is capacity of the Educational Psychology service to meet statutory timelines.

ACTIONS: A review of the SEN Service has been undertaken. Work has been re-allocated across the team to ease the pressure where possible and staff have been given a clear message that this PI needs to be kept in proportion and that quality and staff well-being are important as well as compliance with the time scales. 2 new team members have been successfully recruited which will ease the capacity issues moving forward. These new officers are now in post, along with tribunals and mediations officer. Staff in Adults social care, Children's Social Care and health are working together to improve the contributions those services make to the development and reviewing of Education and Health Care Plans.

22	% of SEND EHCP fixed term exclusions	%	New Indicator	17	21.58	Apr 2019	Annually	New Indicator	Red	Up to date	No Data
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Education and Skills service statement, reflective of the Council's drive to reduce the number of fixed term exclusions experienced by those with education and health care plans. It is currently poorer than the target for improvement and the national average and is an area in need of improvement.

ACTIONS: Schools have the right to exclude on a fixed term basis however officers are now meeting on a monthly basis to analyse the exclusion data in relation to SEND learners. Schools who appear to exclude disproportionately will be contacted and challenged / supported as necessary.

23	% of SEND EHCP permanent exclusions	%	New Indicator	0	0.48	Apr 2019	Annually	New Indicator	Red	Up to date	No Data
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Education and Skills service statement, reflective of the Council's drive to reduce the number of permanent exclusions experienced by those with education and health care plans. It is currently poorer than the target for improvement and the national average and is an area in need of improvement. Although falling short of the target this indicator has improved from the previous position of 0.66.

ACTIONS: Officers are now meeting on a monthly basis to analyse the exclusion data in relation to SEND learners. Schools who appear to exclude disproportionately will be contacted and challenged / supported as necessary.

24	% of SEND support fixed term exclusions	%	New Indicator	12	13.44	Apr 2019	Annually	New Indicator	Amber	Up to date	No Data
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Education and Skills service statement, reflective of the Council's drive to reduce the number of fixed term exclusions experienced by those receiving SEN support. It is currently poorer than the aspirational target for improvement, but better than the national average. Although not achieving the target, this indicator has improved significantly from the previous position of 19.64.


ACTIONS: Schools have the right to exclude on a fixed term basis however officers are now meeting on a monthly basis to analyse the exclusion data in relation to SEND learners. Schools who appear to exclude disproportionately will be contacted and challenged / supported as necessary. Offer from SEND support services more widely available due to removal of SLA arrangements from September 2020

25	% of SEND Support permanent exclusions	%	New Indicator	0.35	0.4	Apr 2019	Annually	New Indicator	Red	Up to date	No Data
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COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Education and Skills service statement, reflective of the Council's drive to reduce the number of permanent exclusions

experienced by those receiving SEN Support. It is currently poorer than the target for improvement and the national average. Although falling just short of the target this indicator has improved from the previous position of 0.57.

ACTIONS: Officers are now meeting on a monthly basis to analyse the exclusion data in relation to SEND learners. Schools who appear to exclude disproportionately will be contacted and challenged / supported as necessary. Offer from SEND support services more widely available due to removal of SLA arrangements from September 2020

26	The % of EHCP pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of KS2	%	New Indicator	9	7.8	Apr 2019	Annually	New Indicator	Amber	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: Outcomes have improved again; however they do fall slightly below both the national average and the target for this measure. For this reason, it is rated as amber.

27	The % of SEN Support pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined at the end of KS2	%	27.1	24	30.6	Apr 2019	Annually	Green	Green	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: Outcomes have improved again and are better than the national average for the second year running; in addition they exceed the ambitious target for this measure.

28	The average Attainment 8 score of EHCP pupils at the end of KS4	Number	New Indicator	12	17.5	Apr 2019	Annually	New Indicator	Green	Up to date	
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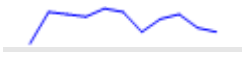
COMMENTS: Outcomes have improved on last year (10.5%) and are better than the national average (13.7%); in addition they exceed the ambitious target for this measure.






29	The average Attainment 8 score of SEN Support pupils at the end of KS4	%	New Indicator	32	29.1	Apr 2019	Annually	New Indicator	Red	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: Outcomes have improved again; however they do fall below both the national average (32.6%) and the target for this measure (32%). For this reason, it is rated as red.

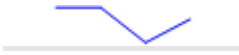




ACTIONS: The local authority is embedding and promoting the use of a clear graduated approach, with an enhanced training offer and support for Governors and staff, along with the implementation of Lead SENCOs, and encouraging schools to request SEND reviews. All actions which we hope will bring this indicator closer to the target and national average.

Appendix B: Children's Social Care service statement indicators – up to March 2020. Please ignore the final column, which is generated directly off the system

	Measure	Unit	2019/20 Performance	Current Target	Current Performance	Last Available Result	Frequency	Direction of Travel	Performance	Status	Trend
1	No of Supported Families attached to the Programme (January 2015 to March 2020)	Number	2383	2500	2500	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p><i>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.</i></p>											
2	Supporting Families cases where there has been significant and sustained progress or continuous employment	Number	1280	2030	1822	Jan 2020	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. We have amended our outcome plan in discussion with partners, internal audit and the national Troubled Families team to reflect the number of families we have which include carers who are not able to demonstrate progress to work because of caring responsibilities and adults with significant mental and physical health difficulties which mean they have real barriers to progressing to work. This may allow us to claim for more families where all other outcomes are achieved and there is evidence of other areas of their lives having improved.</i></p>											
3	% of EHFV cases closed because desired outcomes have been met	%	57	70	68	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Green	Amber	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: This is a new indicator in the Children's Social Care service statement. "Desired outcomes met" is based on the outcomes identified in the early help plan having been met.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Early Help staff are doing more auditing into the cases that are showing as 'outcomes not achieved' to try and understand this further and feed this back to the managers in relation to learning for practice.</i></p>											
4	% Young Offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training (ETE)	%	63.5	66	69	Oct 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: The overall 2019 figure for this indicator is 68.6%. As cohorts for this measure are small, the data can vary significantly per month. A review of how EET is recorded within the Youth Justice Service has been undertaken, resulting in a more streamlined process.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Continue to monitor this through performance clinics and the YOT management board to identify any trends or themes.</i></p>											

5	% social workers where caseload weighting is within the desired points level	%	61.3	80	76	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Amber	Up to date	
<p><i>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 a significant improvement on the same time last year, although the workloads of some social workers in some teams are currently higher than we would wish due mainly to staff sickness.</i></p> <p><i>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. Checks are undertaken with workers on practice days and current feedback indicates the vast majority of workers think that caseloads are manageable with good management support. Social workers report workloads that feel manageable even if above the caseload weighting target. A new more sophisticated weighting tool is to be implemented after being piloted in one team.</i></p>											
6	% Staff turnover within the social work workforce	%	13.9	14	13	Sept 2019	Annually	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: The actual measure for this indicator runs from October 2018 to September 2019 and is calculated yearly. The Northumberland figure is better than the national average.</i></p>											
7	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Number	40.4	40	34.7	Apr 2019	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: This indicator is monitored closely by the YOT Management Board every quarter. The Ministry of Justice has changed the way the re-offending rates are measured, using a smaller three month cohort rather than a 12 month cohort. Re-offending 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.</i></p>											
8	Rate of children and young people subject to child protection plans per 10,000 popn	Rates per 10,000	71	65	75	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: Numbers subject to child protection plans are higher than they have been for 10 years, but they were already relatively high over the last 6 months and the latest increase largely took place in the 4 weeks before COVID-19 lockdown. We are not witnessing decision-making that is out with the norm and Ofsted inspection noted prompt and timely responses to child protection concerns</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Increased oversight and monitoring by senior managers of decisions to go to child protection conference have been put in place.</i></p>											
9	Rate of Looked After Children (LAC) per 10,000 popn	Rates per 10,000	62.8	60	74	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p><i>COMMENTS: Northumberland has experienced an increase in its LAC population since the summer, and the end of March rate is now above the national average (equating to 435 in real terms), but still remains well below regional average. A legal gateway panel ensures that appropriate decisions are taken on</i></p>											

individual cases and meeting their needs is at the forefront of decision-making when deciding whether to take a child into care. Update @ 24 4 20: Numbers of LAC have increased by 10 in the last fortnight, but these additional admissions to care were planned for and had gone through legal gateway panel. Numbers entering care continue to increase (by 17 since lockdown began) while it is not possible to exit children from care at the same rate as previously. We have managed this increase primarily by flexibility and resilience of our in-house fostering resource and have effectively supported our residential care by moving staff from within CSC where there are staffing shortages. There are also challenges in finding, maintaining and supporting our vulnerable young people in supported living arrangements. ACTIONS: In weekly CSCLT meetings, we are monitoring the increase. We have undertaken an audit of decision making for children recently becoming looked after and all decisions were found to be sound and ensuring children are appropriately safeguarded. Ofsted ILAC findings also concluded that appropriate and timely decisions are made for children to be looked after

10	% of looked after children placed in foster care	%	73	73	69	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Red	Red	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: 69% equates to 301 out of 435 looked after children being placed in foster care. 12% were in residential, 9% placed at home under a care order, 5% placed for adoption, 3% in independent living and the remaining 2% were in other placements.</p> <p>ACTIONS: While this is challenging, we are looking at ways of increasing the number and percentage of children in foster care, both through targeting and increasing our in-house capacity and ensuring clear exit plans are in place for all children in residential care. We are implementing flexibilities where safe and appropriate to increase our fostering capacity in line with amendments to regulations under Covid19</p>											
11	% of looked after children placed in residential care	%	14	13	12	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: 52 out of 435 looked after children were placed in residential care. 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. The need to expand our residential provision in house to meet needs is an aim over 20/21.</p> <p>ACTIONS: While this is challenging, we are looking at ways of increasing the number and percentage of children in foster care, both through targeting and increasing our in-house capacity and ensuring clear exit plans are in place for all children in residential care. We are also undertaking a detailed review and analysis of a cohort of children placed in external residential care to consider further learning and work for this and future cohorts supported by the innovation team.</p>											
12	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	%	10	9	9	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: The result of 9% equates to 37 of 435 looked after children, better than the national average. This result is provisional pending submission of the statutory return to the DFE in the summer.</p>											
13	% long term LAC in same placement for past 2 years	%	68	70	72	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
<p>COMMENTS: Northumberland's current performance (72%) is above 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 have moved into permanent foster care placements. The figure at the end of March is above target. 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. This result is provisional pending submission of the statutory return to the DFE in the summer.</p> <p>ACTIONS: We are progressing with the build of new in-house provision to increase sufficiency and availability of placements for those children with complex needs.</p>											
14	Average duration of care proceedings ending in the	Number	37	34	37	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Amber	Up to date	

period (weeks)

COMMENTS: Following a judicial review last year on the timeliness of care proceedings in the region, improvements have been made in the areas identified for LA practice but there remain factors out of the LA's control which are crucial in impacting on timeliness, e.g. court timetabling and the availability of experts during the care proceedings which has been a common theme across the region. A report on this has been presented to FACS. The figure of 37 weeks is higher than the national average of 30 weeks.

ACTIONS: Practice audits have confirmed improvements in LA practice as well as positive feedback from the judiciary as reflected in the ILAC inspection. Timescales for conclusion of care proceedings are affected by factors out with the LA control. Regular and recent audits confirm that the LA are complying with court directions and are not the cause of delay in the significant majority of cases. There will be further challenges with court delays in the current circumstances

Average time (days) between a child entering care & moving in with adoptive family	Days	459	520	436	Mar 2020	Monthly	Green	Green	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: Our latest figure of 436 is better than the national average of 520. This is 20 children moving in with an adoptive family out of a total cohort of 8726 (number of days). The performance and practice underpinning this in this area is discussed at every Corporate parenting advisory group and a report from Adopt North East (ANE) has been to scrutiny. This result is provisional pending submission of the statutory return in the summer.

ACTIONS: Robust governance and oversight arrangements have been put in place to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the regional adoption agency Adopt North East in maintaining and improving our performance in relation to adoption since going live since December 2018.

% of 19-21 yr old care leavers who are in touch	%	95	95	98	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Green	Green	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: 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, supervision and exception reports. This result is provisional pending submission of the statutory return to the DFE in the summer.

% of children's care leavers living in suitable accommodation	%	93	95	94	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Green	Amber	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: Figure includes young people who are no longer in touch with the service. This result is provisional pending submission of the statutory return to the DFE in the summer.

ACTIONS: Continue to work with providers to ensure the most suitable accommodation for every care leaver and further developing our in-house support capacity

% of care leavers in education, employment or training	%	51.0	60	53.7	Jan 2020	Quarterly	Green	Red	Up to date	
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COMMENTS: Recording of EET has improved recently, and this 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. This result is provisional pending submission of the statutory return to the DFE in the summer.

ACTIONS: A specific care leavers EET action plan has been 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.

19	Number of school aged LAC who had at least 1 school placement move during the year	Number	12	12	27	Jan 2019	Annually	Red	Red	Up to date
<p><i>COMMENTS: The figure provided is from the virtual school annual report for the academic year 2018/19. Virtual School data shows that 27 of our 282 school age pupils experienced at least one school placement move during the year (which is an increase from 12 in the 2017/18 school year). 14 moved to new care placements and therefore needed to move to their new local school. 4 pupils moved to new schools for a fresh start. 4 pupils received EHC Plans and moved to special schools. 2 pupils moved from special schools into mainstream schools. 1 pupil moved to an alternative provider to avoid permanent exclusion. 2 pupils moved to adoptive placements and therefore needed to move to their new local school.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIONS: Continuous monitoring through the Service Director's Placement Stability Group. Detailed oversight of and support to all LAC in relation to education in place in current circumstances</i></p>										