

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda



**9.30 am Monday, 10 December 2018
Committee Room No. 1, Town Hall,
Darlington. DL1 5QT**

**Members of the Public are welcome to attend this
Meeting.**

1. Introductions/ Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 29 October 2018 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Childcare Sufficiency Review 2018/19 –
Report of the Director of Children and Adults Services
(Pages 7 - 46)
5. Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2018/19 –
Report of the Director of Children and Adults Services
(Pages 47 - 94)
6. Special Educational Needs - Accessibility Strategy 2017/20 –
Report of the Director of Children and Adults Services
(Pages 95 - 136)
7. SEND Strategy and Funding Consultation Review Group –
Report of the Review Group
(Pages 137 - 140)
8. Work Programme –
Report of the Managing Director

(Pages 141 - 154)

9. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
10. Questions.



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Friday, 30 November 2018

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors C Taylor, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Curry, L Hughes, Kelly, Lister, Mills, Storr and Wright

Statutory Co-optees

Malcolm Frank and Paul Rickeard

Non Statutory Co-optees

Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Nick Lindsay, Glenis Harrison, Sanja Miah, Janet Woodcock, John Armitage and Helen Tarokh

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 October 2018

PRESENT – Councillor C Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Curry, Crudass, Mrs Culley, L. Hughes, Lister, Mills and Storr. (8)

APOLOGIES – Councillor KE Kelly and Mills; G Harrison, N Lindsay and J Armitage.

ABSENT – Councillor Wright. (1)

STATUTORY CO-OPTEEES – None. (0)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEEES – None. (0)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jane Kochanowski, Assistant Director Children’s Services; Christine Shields, Assistant Director Commissioning Performance and Transformation; Paul Richardson Head of 16/19 Learning and Skills; Ken Ross, Public Health Principal; Eleanor Marshall, School Forum Monitoring and Support Officer; Rosie Banks, Programme Manager; Melanie Dickinson, School Admissions and Transport Manager; and Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C Hughes, Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio; and M Watson, member of the public.

CYP17. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP18. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10 September 2018.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

CYP19. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER – The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of an appointment of a co-opted representative for the Primary School Forum, following the resignation of the current representative; and to appoint a deputy representative.

RESOLVED – (a) That John Armitage, Head of Rydal Academy be appointed as a Non-Voting Co-opted Member of this Scrutiny Committee to represent the Primary School Forum.

(b) That Helen Tarokh, Head of Heathfield Primary School be appointed to act as his deputy.

CYP20. DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18 – The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) for Scrutiny Members to comment on the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB) for the period 2017/18.

It was reported that Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Board's activities and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area.

The Annual report for 2017/18 was based on the DSCB's three strategic priorities to ensure effective arrangements are in place that enable children, young people and their families to access appropriate Early Help support when first identified and this support is well coordinated; to ensure effective arrangements are in place to protect children from neglect, abuse and child sexual abuse; and to ensure partners work together to protect children from harm and ensure the voice of the child is evident in all multi-agency work.

Councillor Crudass reiterated the offer previously given to the Independent Chair for Members of this Scrutiny Committee to help in any Board work that would be suitable or for a Member to sit on the Board, as he felt that it would be beneficial.

RESOLVED – That the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for 2017/18 be noted.

CYP21. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2017/22 – PROGRESS REPORT – The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the progress to date against the delivery of the Children and Young People Plan 2017/22.

The Plan is one of the identified delivery plans within the Sustainable Community Strategy and identifies what key actions will be taken to deliver the agreed Sustainable Community Strategy priority of the best start in life for every child which was adopted by Council on 29 September 2017.

It was reported that a Multi-agency Steering Group, Chaired by the Assistant Director for Commissioning had been established to bring together key partners to ensure effective monitoring and delivery of the Plan and to encourage and strengthen links between the Plan and professional bodies.

It was also reported that a scorecard had been developed which contained a number of key performance indicators to measure delivery of the priority actions in the Plan and the summary of performance against each indicator within the scorecard, also previously circulated, showed that overall when comparing performance against the last available data 18 indicators had improved from the previous recorded data, three had remained the same and 20 had seen a reduction in performance. For eight of the indicators 2017/18 data is the only data available therefore comparison with previous years is not possible and these will be monitored over the five year period of the plan.

Members discussed and agreed the year two priorities to reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty and to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children and young people.

Members questions related to the child poverty area 'hotspots' and suggested that Ward Councillors be invited to attend the Community Groups; the increasing number of takeaways within their wards and how the authority can regulate these although it was confirmed by the Public Health Principal that the authority has very limited powers in the licensing of takeaways; and Members expressed their concern at the levels of educational attainment and the number of young people claiming unemployment benefits.

The Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills reassured Members that Key Stage results at 16-18 year were good with a high level of participation, however there had been a drop in numbers post 18 years remaining in education and that there was an issue around behaviour and attitude to work of young people which he assured Members was being closely monitored.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

CYP22. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS STRATEGY AND FUNDING – The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with a summary of plans to consult on a strategic plan for delivering better outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and proposed amendments to the application of the High Needs Block in relation to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

It was reported that Darlington's Special Educational Needs Strategy 2017-2020 was approved by Cabinet on 5 December 2017 and this updated version builds on progress to date, identifying what has been achieved and the priorities for action up to 2022.

The vision for the strategy is to promote inclusion, maximizes young people's opportunities to be independent and enables young people with special educational needs and disabilities to be recognized as fully integrated citizens with the ability to contribute to their local community; and the strategy has been written to respond to the key priorities set out in the SEND code of practice, and highlights local strategic aims associated with each priority area for implementation.

It was also reported that consultation on the revised SEND strategy and the proposed new funding arrangements was currently being undertaken and will conclude on 28 November 2018.

Members discussed the consultation process and agreed that it would be beneficial for Members of this Scrutiny to attend the various events arranged and to meet

thereafter to discuss a Scrutiny response to the proposed Strategy and funding arrangements.

Members also discussed the increased demand for special educational provision and the move from statements to Educational Health Care Plans and the impact on the authority and the schools budgets

The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People portfolio reiterated that there was still a lot of work to be done and there were challenges for every local authority as a consequence of the changes and the increasing number of young people with special educational needs. She also confirmed that a lot of work had already been undertaken to gauge the views of schools and families and the discussions with schools that had been undertaken had been very positive.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the consultation on the revised SEND Strategy and the proposed amended funding arrangements be noted.

(c) That Members of this Scrutiny respond to the proposals outlined in the consultation.

CYP23. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT –

The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) on plans to consult on the introduction of a SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Travel Assistance Policy.

The submitted report advised that the Travel Assistance Policy would provide an opportunity to offer a more flexible range of travel options to families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and for the children and young people an opportunity to develop independent travel skills.

It was reported that the Council has a statutory responsibility to assist eligible children and young people of statutory school age to travel to school. Transport assistance is currently allocated at the point a pupil become in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The mode of travel assistance is commonly in the form of door to door minibus or taxi.

The consultation on the proposed changes was currently being undertaken and will conclude on 28 November 2018.

Members agreed that they would endeavour to attend the consultation events arranged and to meet thereafter to discuss a Scrutiny response to the proposed Travel Assistance Policy.

RESOLVED – That the report and consultation on the Travel Assistance Policy be noted.

CYP24. WORK PROGRAMME – The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the current work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

The work programme has been reviewed and revised for the Municipal Year 2018/19 and has been linked to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework to provide robust and accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake.

Members agreed that they wanted to receive a presentation from CAMHS as part of their Joint Review of Child Healthy Weight and Oral Health and links to mental health issues; and that the items Recording Practices for Child Protection and Stability of Places for Looked After Children be removed from the work programme as this is reported in the quarterly performance reports to Scrutiny.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the work programme be noted.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 DECEMBER 2018

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REVIEW, 2018-19

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - (a) inform members of the findings of the 2018-19 Childcare Sufficiency Review
 - (b) set out the Local Authority's 2018-19 Childcare Sufficiency action plan (see Appendix A, page 31).

Summary

2. The Department for Education's 'Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, June 2018' requires local authorities to 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 or up to 18 for disabled children'. In carrying out this requirement local authorities should 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and to make this report available and accessible to parents. The report should include specific reference to how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of: children with special educational needs and disabilities, children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit, children aged 2, 3 and 4 taking up free early education, school age children and children needing holiday care.'
 3. Factors which affect childcare demand include the number of parents in work in the Borough and recent trends show an improving picture regarding the skills and productivity of Darlington residents, with an increase in the employment rate and a reduction in the unemployment rate. There are also regeneration projects in evidence throughout the various Growth Zones in the borough. Also, the availability of appropriate family housing is an issue affecting childcare demand and residential development in the Borough is continuing, with new dwellings being recorded on sites at Lingfield Point, West Park and Central Park, as well as a range of smaller sites in locations around the Borough, including rural areas such as Heighington and Middleton-St-George.
 4. Supply data shows that in 2018 the early education and childcare market in Darlington which consists of maintained nursery schools, academy and maintained nursery units, private day nurseries, playgroups, childminders, breakfast, after school and holiday clubs has been fairly stable.
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5. In Summer 2018 a pre-school childcare gap analysis was commissioned. Research with parents has shown that there is latent demand for childcare in the borough with cost being the main barrier to higher take up of private hours. Parents would also welcome more flexibility to accommodate their often complex mix of work and training commitments, including earlier starts, later finishes and the ability to change arrangements at short notice. Analysis of the overall volume of supply shows there is sufficient capacity to meet demand. When the mix of supply is compared to parents' ideal arrangements there are modest gaps in school and pre-school playgroup provision. Parent and provider feedback also suggests there is sufficient capacity to meet overall demand for 30 Hour places. There is a risk however, that future demand for stretched places may be higher than supply.
6. There is evidence to indicate that providers are under increasing financial pressure, with several settings reporting that their operating costs are higher than funding rates. Financial pressures are also impacting on the capacity of some providers to meet children's special educational needs and disabilities. Echoing feedback from parents, employers also call for greater flexibility and lower childcare costs. There is evidence to suggest that childcare issues are impacting on employers' ability to recruit and retain staff and manage effective performance at work.
7. To enable the local childcare market and schools to 'plug the childcare gaps' which have been identified, the childcare sufficiency data will be presented at the Spring 2019 Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers' Network meeting and will be sent to schools and presented at the Spring 2019 Schools Chair of Governors' Briefing. The local authority will also advertise the right of parents and childcare providers to request the delivery of childcare from school sites (DfE 'Rights to Request', introduced in September 2016). Additionally, the local authority is assisting Whinfield Primary School with a submission to the DfE's School Nurseries Capital Fund. The application proposes a 52 full time equivalent place nursery with wrap around at the start and end of the day and on-site holiday provision, to meet working parents' needs. The DfE will announce the successful capital awards in February 2019.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members note for information the findings of the 2018-19 Childcare Sufficiency Review; and
 - (b) Members note for information the Local Authority's 2018-19 Childcare Sufficiency action plan and monitor this annually. (please see Appendix A, page 31).

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

Background Papers

The following papers were used in this report:

The Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, June 2018

Darlington's 2018-19 Childcare Gap Analysis

The Childcare Act, 2016

Family and Childcare Trust '2018 Childcare Costs and Sufficiency Survey

Questionnaire for English Local Authorities'

Family and Childcare Trust '2018 Childcare Survey', July 2018.

Nicola Davies: Extension 6010

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report is about the 2018 Childcare Sufficiency Review and will not impinge on the duty on the authority to prevent crime and disorder in the Borough.
Health and Well Being	Good quality early education and childcare for children from birth to 14 years old and 18 years old for those young people with a disability, will assist in improving the health and well being of Darlington's 0 to 14/18 population.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report.
Diversity	There are no specific proposals within the report that impact on diversity issues. All providers must meet their duties under the Equality Act 2010 when delivering education and childcare.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	All children aged 0 to 14 years/18 years for those young people with a disability will benefit from being able to access high quality, education and childcare in the Borough.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a key decision as it affects all wards in the Borough.
Urgent Decision	A delay in the information being reported to elected council members will delay the report becoming available to parents as required by the Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, June 2018.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Access to high quality, affordable and reliable education and childcare will improve the quality of life and the health and well being of children and young people in the Borough and will also enable their parents to access or maintain training or work opportunities.
Efficiency	There may be some resource issues for the Early Years Team in supporting settings to plug the childcare gaps which have been identified.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The national eligibility criteria for 30 Hours Childcare has been expanded from September 2018 to include children whose foster parents access paid work outside of their fostering role.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Background

9. The Department for Education's 'Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, June 2018' states that Local Authorities must 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children)'.
10. In order to do this, Local Authorities are required to assess the local childcare market, taking into account the demand for specific types of providers, in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists; the state of the local labour market and; the quality and capacity of childcare providers, including their funding, staff premises, experience and expertise. Local Authorities must then report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.
11. The report should include specific reference to the sufficiency of childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities, children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up early education places; school age children; and children needing holiday care. The report should also include information about the supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision; and details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

Social Issues during 2017-18 and beyond

12. The most obvious factors which will affect childcare demand in the Borough are the number of families with children in the area and this in turn, is dependent upon local employment opportunities and available, appropriate housing.
13. Although the recession has had an impact on Darlington's economy, on almost all indices Darlington's economy is out performing regional and national growth trends. Recent trends show an improving picture regarding the skills and productivity of Darlington residents, with an increase in the employment rate and a reduction in the unemployment rate. Darlington has a healthy employment rate of 78.9 per cent; taken as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 – 64. Darlington's employment rate is above the North East average of 75.2 per cent and the national average of 78.2 per cent. Darlington's in employment figure ranks second highest of all 12 North East authorities. The productivity of jobs within the borough (measured by Gross Value Added per head), in 2015 was provisionally £24,585 which is much closer to the national average of £25,601 than the average across the North East of £18,927.
14. Darlington's business base is characterised by a smaller number (2.6 per cent) of medium to large businesses (those with more than 50 employees), 87.6 per cent of

Darlington businesses are micro businesses employing less than 10 employees with a further 9.8 per cent being small businesses with between 10 and 50 employees. Darlington currently has approximately 3,215 businesses. The most recent, available data shows that in 2015, Darlington businesses had over 52,000 employee jobs, the number of total employees in Darlington increased by 4% between 2014 and 2015 compared to 3.6% across the region and nationally. The proportion of total jobs that are part time has increased from 30% in 2009 to 33% in 2015. This compares to 32% in the North East and 31% nationally in 2015.

15. Workless households remains an issue in Darlington with 5,000 of Darlington households in this category, this is above the national average of 14.5 per cent but below the Tees Valley average of 22 per cent however trend data does show Darlington has seen a considerably larger reduction in workless households (5.8 per cent) than the national average (2.8 per cent) and the Tees Valley average of (2.9 per cent).
16. Since 2012 Darlington has identified four key growth locations for economic growth and regeneration namely, North Western Growth Zone, Central Growth Zone, Eastern Growth Zone and Durham Tees Valley Airport Growth Zone. Since 2012 these areas have seen major investment and regeneration in excess of £150 million, £54.4 million of this is being spent in the town centre and £10 million Opus North retail development on North Road. Future developments include further investments in Central Park by Teesside University which will act as catalysts for the creation of new jobs, particularly in the biologics, advanced manufacturing and sub-sea sectors. Central Park will continue to be developed with the added attraction of it being part of the Tees Valley Enterprise Zone programme as well as current work underway to explore the possibility of it becoming a recognised Science Park. Also, plans are being developed for the investment in Darlington Train Station to improve it as an economic driver for the Tees Valley and to exploit opportunities from strategic investment to decrease journey times to London. (source: Economic Regeneration Team).
17. When we look at the local housing market, the Council is currently producing the Darlington Local Plan for the period 2016 – 2036, and a consultation has been held on a draft during Summer 2018. To inform the plan, the Council commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in 2017, which identified a need for 9,840 additional dwellings over the 20-year period 2016-36. This is a significant increase from previous projections and will require a step change in rates of housing delivery in coming years, to around 500 dwellings per annum. In the short term, residential development in the Borough continues, with new dwellings being recorded on sites at Lingfield Point, West Park and Central Park, as well as a range of smaller sites in locations around the Borough, including rural areas such as Heighington and Middleton-St-George. (source: Economic Growth Team). Again, the creation of additional family housing indicates a need for childcare which meets the needs of working families. In addition, it creates opportunities, for example, if new schools are required in these areas, nursery provision could be provided on site by the private or voluntary sector who could also deliver other services, such as wrap round care, for local working families.
18. It is extremely difficult to forecast how childcare demand will change over time. Parental behaviour with regard to childcare can be influenced by so many fluctuating

variables such as parental employment type (for example constantly changing shift work), family income, childcare availability, the age of the child, where the family lives, access to transport, the availability of 'informal' childcare such as grandparents, other relations or friends, are there cultural barriers around using childcare and does the family have a disabled child.

Free Childcare for Two Year Olds

19. Funded two year olds are able to access their entitlement across 92 providers across the borough, including private day nurseries, pre-schools, nursery schools, maintained and academy nursery units and with childminders. Work is on-going to increase the number of places available with childminders, the number of childminders offering places has already increased from 32 in Summer 2016 to 60 in Summer 2018. In addition, potentially new providers to the borough are routinely provided with information about free childcare for two year olds. To ensure sufficiency of places and choice and diversity for parents, it is good practice to create places over and above the DfE target because the number of places available is changeable i.e. childminders in particular can move on and off the provider list with little notice, depending upon their personal circumstances.
20. An on-line two year olds eligibility checker is available on the Council's web pages which enables parents/carers, professionals, childcare settings and schools to assess a child's eligibility for a free childcare place for those children who meet the low family income criteria. Support is however still available via the PFIS and the Early Years Team for those parents who require support in accessing a place or for those children who have specific requirements.
21. The Department for Work and Pensions releases a list seven times a year of the number of families with a two year old in the borough who access low income benefits and/or DLA for a child. Children's Centre staff are able to contact families who are not accessing their entitlement and provide appropriate support if required. An information sharing agreement has been set up with Harrogate and District Foundation Trust to enable health visitors access to this list, they are also then able to provide appropriate support where a place is not being accessed. As 'Free Childcare for Two Year Olds' has become more well known amongst parents, the marketing campaign has been scaled back. However, advertising still takes place in the borough wide magazine 'One Darlington', on Facebook and via posters and leaflets. Existing networks, such as health visitors, the Children's Centres, the PFIS, schools and childcare providers are utilised to promote the entitlement and the most effective method of 'spreading the word' is of course parental word of mouth.
22. The initial DfE estimate of the number of eligible two year olds in the borough was 640. Since January 2016 the average number of families on the DWP eligibility list has been around 530. There tend to be seasonal variations in the number of families on the list, numbers reduce in the Autumn term and increase in the Spring term perhaps as a result of parents taking short term jobs in the run up to Christmas. Since the Spring 2016 term the average number of eligible children accessing a place has been 436. Take-up rates in the borough have been as follows:

Table 1 - Termly take-up

Term	Percentage take-up
Spring 2016	79%
Summer 2016	83%
Autumn 2016	85%
Spring 2017	76%
Summer 2017	83%
Autumn 2017	86%
Spring 2018	80%
Summer 2018	82%

23. The take-up rate in Summer 2018 of 82 per cent equates to 408 children occupying a funded place. Of these 408 filled places, 276 children are in a private day nursery, playgroup or with a childminder (68 per cent) and 132 children are in schools (32 per cent).

Universal and Extended Entitlement for Three and Four Year Olds

24. When looking at sufficiency of Free, Flexible Entitlement (FFE) places for 3 and 4 year olds, Darlington has historically had a strong private and voluntary childcare sector. Currently, our three and four year olds access their FFE in a mixed market of 110 providers spread across the borough, including private day nurseries, pre-schools, nursery schools, maintained and academy nursery units and with childminders. Take-up of nursery FFE in Darlington, as with most other local authorities is high, as although nursery education is not statutory, the offer is universal and has been up and running for twenty years. Data indicates that in Darlington in January 2018, 94 per cent of three and four year olds were accessing a free 15 hour a week place. Darlington does import and fund a small number of children from other local authority areas but historically, the number of children we import is fairly equal to the number of children we export to bordering local authority settings. This figure compares with an average of 99 per cent across the North East local authorities, the average figure in England is 94 per cent.
25. From September 2017 every local authority in England has had a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of 30 Hours early education and childcare places for eligible three and four year olds. In February 2018 Darlington local authority successfully applied to the DfE for 30 Hours Delivery Support Funding. Part of this funding was utilised to commission a pre-school early education and childcare gap analysis, please see page 10 for the associated data.

Table 2 – 30 Hours Take-up

Sector	No. of children	Percentage
Private Day Nurseries	499	62%
Pre-schools	83	10%
Child minders & out of school clubs	86	11%
Nursery Schools	53	7%
Nursery Units	78	10%
Totals	799	100%
Private and Voluntary Sector	668	83%
Schools	131	17%

Childminders

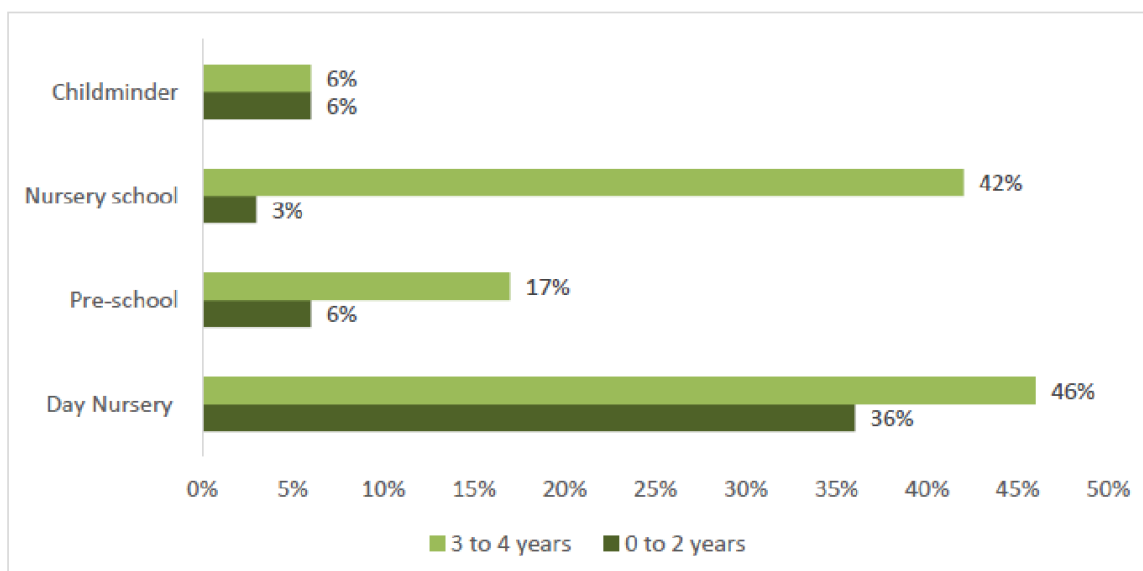
26. Over the past few years there has been a slight decrease in the number of registered and 'active' childminders in the Borough from 96 in June 2015, 91 in July 2016, to 80 in August 2018. There are still significantly fewer registered and 'active' childminders in the Borough than there were nine years ago, for example, 140 in March 2008. As well as the recession, the change in Ofsted registration procedures may have had an effect.
27. Childminders provide a flexible childcare service to families being able to accommodate early mornings and late finishes, weekend and overnight care to children from birth to age 16. Of the 80 childminders, 52 have been judged Good or better by Ofsted, 9 have met the requirements of the Childcare register and 15 are awaiting their first inspection. There are currently 60 childminders who have contracts with the Local Authority enabling them to offer free childcare to two year olds and 62 childminders with contracts enabling them to offer free childcare to three and four year olds. Childminders are able to offer an extended service by working in partnership with other settings and schools, this supports families by offering an attractive package of childcare and maintaining continuity of care for children.

Pre-school (0-4 years) Childcare Gap Analysis

Current use of early education and childcare

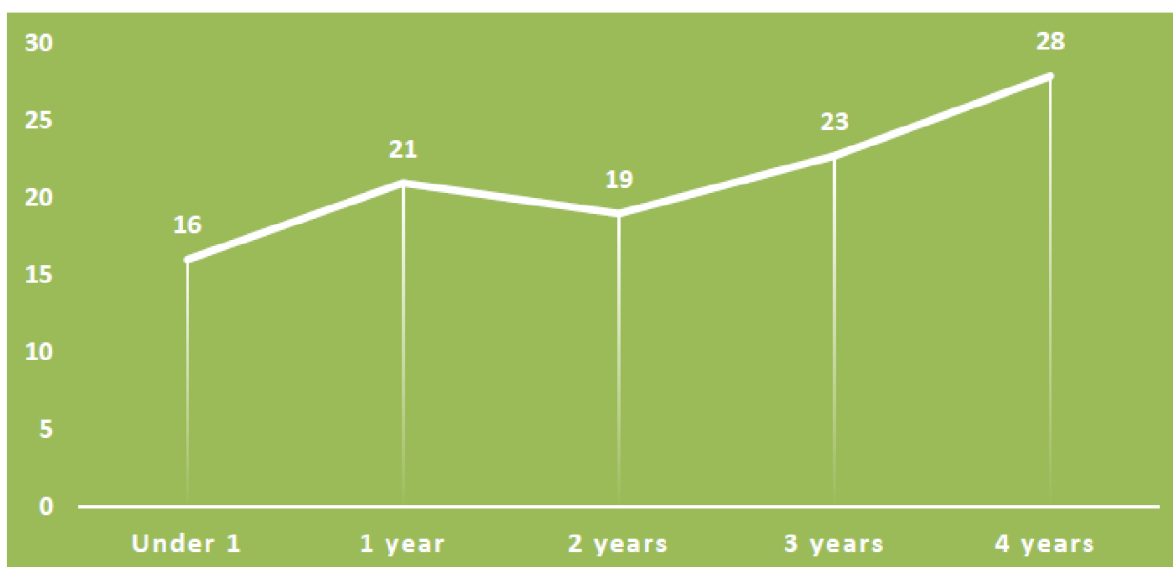
28. Two thirds of all households with children aged 0 to 4 years were using formal childcare provision (67 per cent), comparing very closely with findings for England (65 per cent) (Department for Education Childcare Survey, 2017). The majority of 0-2 year olds using registered childcare were in a private day nursery whereas large numbers of 3 and 4 year olds were using nursery schools or units and/or private day nurseries.

Table 3 - Usage by age and provider type



Unsurprisingly, children under 1 year old spend the least amount of time in formal childcare, as opposed to 4 year olds who are in childcare for the longest periods.

Table 4 - Average number of hours spent per week in all types of formal childcare by child's age



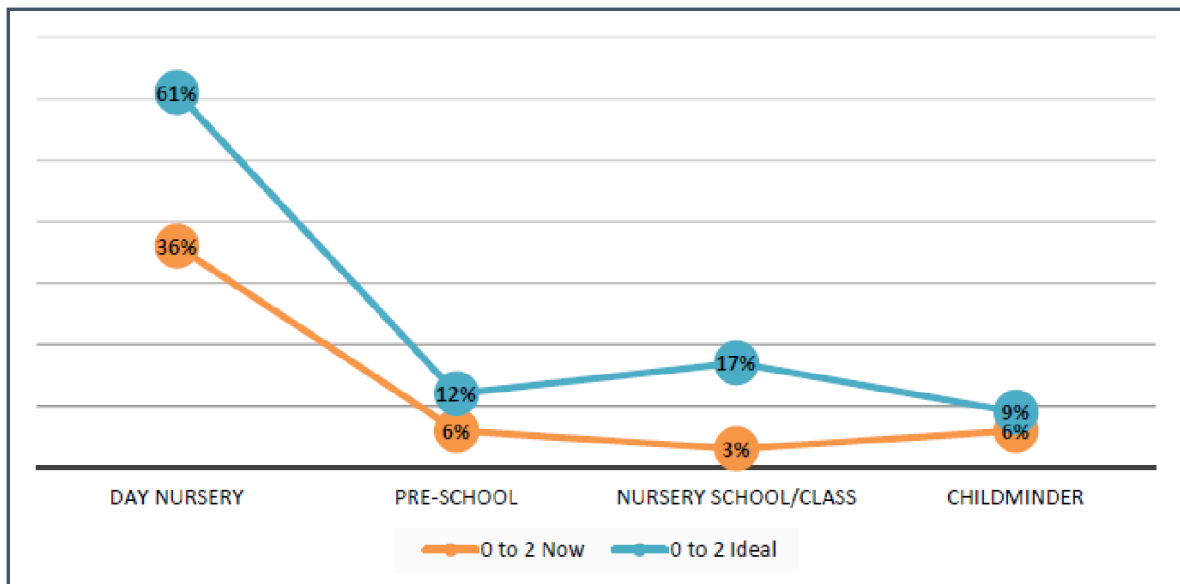
Ideal early education and childcare arrangements

29. Parents were asked to report their ideal childcare arrangements, assuming there are no barriers to use. 'Ideal' arrangements reflect latent demand, barriers such as availability and affordability will impact on the level of take-up in practice. Barriers and their implications for demand are assessed in more detail on page 14. Slightly less than half of all 0 to 2 year olds currently use formal childcare (47 per cent), rising to 83 per cent in ideal circumstances. For 3 and 4 year olds, the figure falls from 96 per cent to 88 per cent, reflecting anticipated entry to full-time school.

0 to 2 year olds

30. Just over a third of 0 to 2 year olds currently use private day nursery provision yet parents would like to use these services for 61 per cent of all children. Latent demand for pre-school places is double current usage. Few under 3 year olds currently use school-based provision (3 per cent), the survey suggests demand could be as high as 17 per cent. The smallest gap was found for childminding provision, with 6 per cent of children in the sample currently using this provision rising to 9 per cent in ideal circumstances.

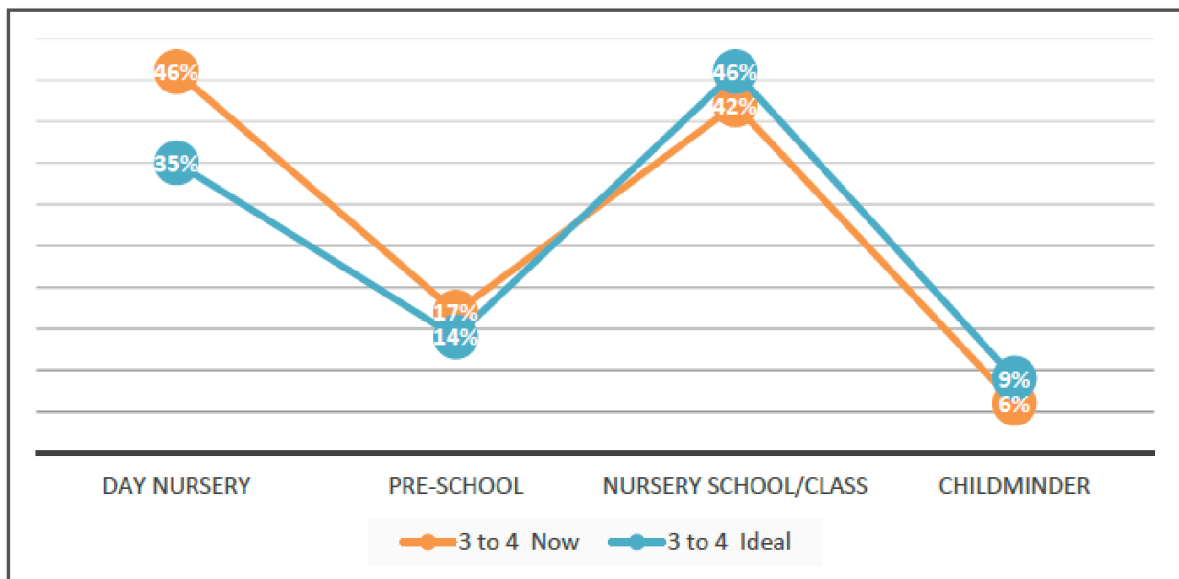
Table 5 - Current and ideal childcare arrangements for 0 to 2 year olds



3 and 4 year olds

The fit between current and ideal arrangements is much closer for 3 to 4 year olds with the biggest gap found for private day nursery provision of 11 per cent.

Table 6 - Current and ideal childcare arrangements for 3 to 4 year olds



31. A total of 29 households completing the survey were expecting a child in the next 12 months and 59 per cent would like to use some form of registered childcare for their new baby. Over two-fifths (45 per cent) would like to use a private day nursery, 17 per cent would like to use a childminder and 14 per cent were as yet undecided as to which type of care they would prefer. On average, expectant parents anticipated using 19.25 hours of day nursery provision per week, with needs ranging between 4 and 40 hours. For childminders the average was 21.6 hours and the range was 16 to 32 hours.

Preferred timing of care

32. Most parents (70 per cent) require care before 8:30 am and 72 per cent require pick up from 5:00 pm or later. Tables 7 and 8 evaluate the fit between the times care is offered and when parents require it. Demand peaks mid-week Tuesday through to Thursday, being slightly lower on Mondays and around 20 per cent less on Fridays. There is very limited demand for formal care on Saturdays and Sundays, being flagged by just 6 (3 per cent) and 2 (1 per cent) parents respectively.

Table 7 - Preferred start time

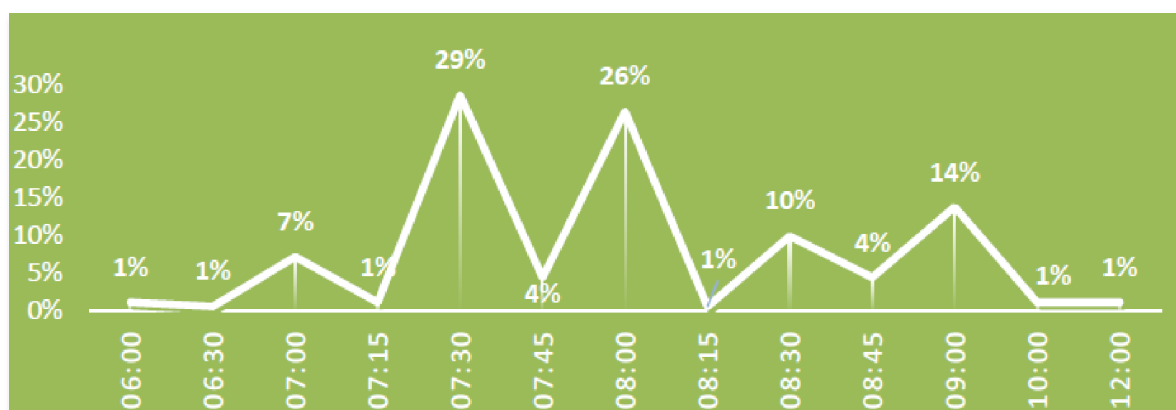
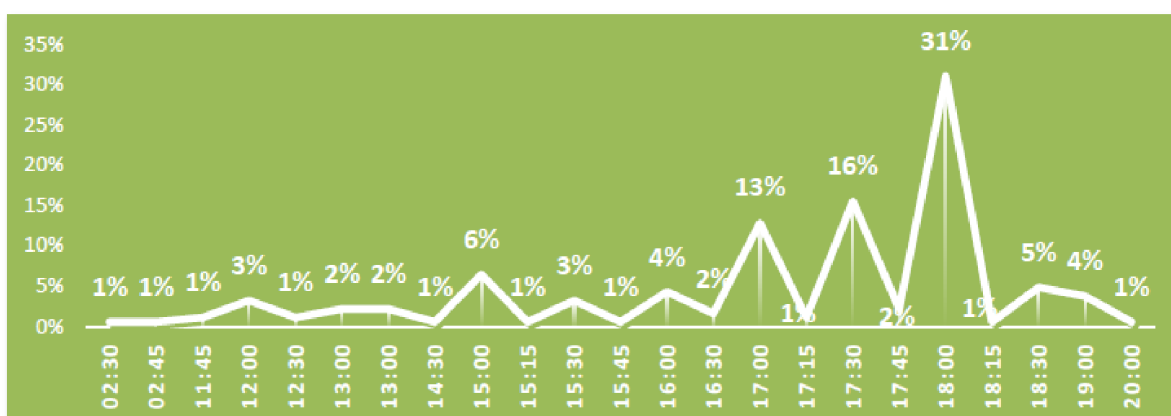


Table 8 - Preferred pick-up time



Preferences regarding Universal Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds

33. Most parents will use their child's universal 3 and 4 year old place. Over half will use it term-time only (56 per cent) and 42 per cent would prefer a stretched offer. There is a preference to use the hours across full days (66 per cent), followed by morning sessions (40 per cent), afternoon sessions are least popular (15 per cent).

Preferences regarding 30 Hour places for 3 and 4 year olds

34. Of those parents believing their child to be eligible for a 30 hour place within the next 12 months, 3 per cent did not expect to take up the extra hours, 39 per cent wanted

to use a place term-time only and 57 per cent wanted to use a stretched place. Table 9 shows the shape that demand for 30 hour places may take in the next 12 months based on this analysis and using DfE estimates of the eligible population size. Feedback from providers indicated total supply in the region of 964 places, approximately 1.18 per eligible child and sufficient in terms of overall volume.

Table 9 - Future take-up of 30 Hour places

Forecast take-up	%	Number
Extra entitlement not used	3%	25
30-hour offer term-time only	39%	320
30-hour offer stretched	57%	467

Preferences regarding 15 Hour places for 2 year olds

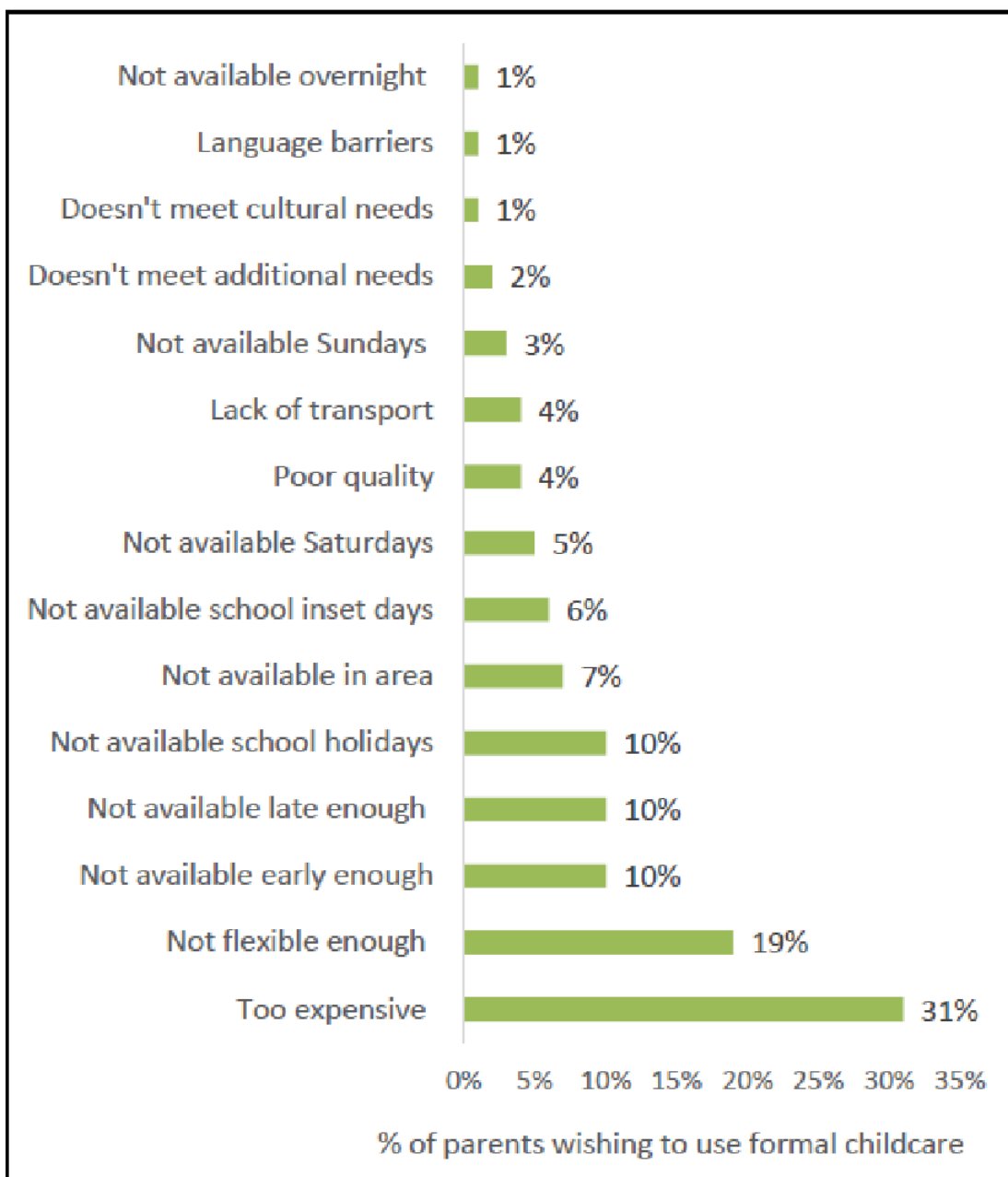
35. Just 27 parents within the sample expected their child to be eligible for a 2 year old funded place and of these, 20 wanted to take up the place, 12 in term-time only and 8 across the year. There was a preference for full days (15) rather than morning (3) or afternoon (3) sessions.

Barriers to using preferred childcare arrangements

36. Cost is by far the biggest barrier to using formal childcare. This is felt across all income bands: 59 per cent of families with a total household income of less than £20,000 said cost was a barrier, falling to 50 per cent with income up to £39,999, 53 per cent of those with income up to £59,999 and 31 per cent with household incomes of £60,000 plus. Lack of flexibility to change arrangements when needed is a barrier for almost one in five parents using or wanting to use formal childcare (19 per cent). Lack of early start (10 per cent) and late finish times (10 per cent) were a barrier for one in ten parents.

37. The sample included ten children whom parents identified as having a special educational need or disability. In three cases parents felt formal childcare provision could not meet the additional needs of their child. Two of these families had a child with cerebral palsy and the third family had a child with sensory disabilities.

Table 10 - Barriers to ideal formal childcare arrangements



38. The number of Darlington residents wanting to use formal childcare and reporting a lack of provision in the area they needed it was very small (8), 3 families lived in Mowden, the remainder were spread across the borough. On this basis, the parent survey does not point to any significant geographical gaps.

Childcare as a barrier to employment and training

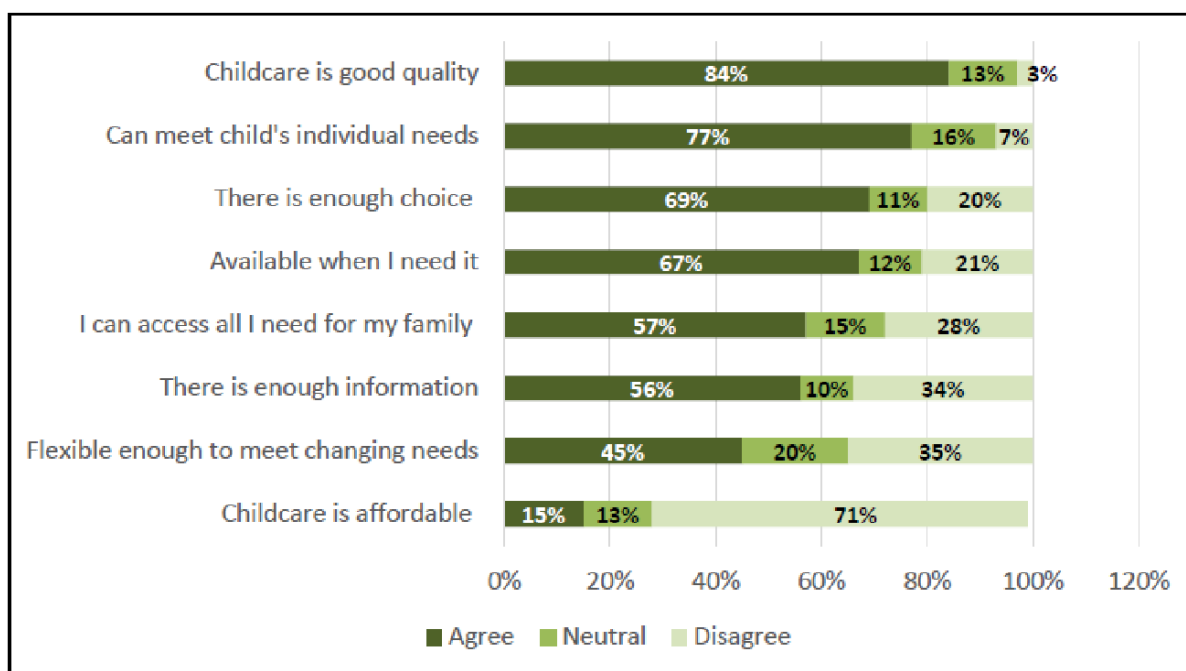
39. Most survey respondents were female (90 per cent) and 37 per cent of women said they had been prevented from taking up work or training opportunities at some point in the past because of difficulties with childcare. The figure for male respondents was 22 per cent, but the sample size was very small (18 men). When assessed across households, 38 per cent of all households had encountered barriers to training or employment due to childcare problems. The key themes emerging were the cost of care which often cancelled out potential earnings (29 comments), lack of childcare

for early starts or late finishes (7), childcare not being sufficiently flexible to meet temporary requirements at work such as attending a training course, meetings or travel (6).

Opinions of early education and childcare

40. As with feedback on barriers, cost was the primary sticking point with 71 per cent of parents disagreeing with the statement that childcare is affordable. Over one in three disagree that provision is flexible enough to meet changing needs (35 per cent) and a third feel information on provision could be improved (34 per cent).

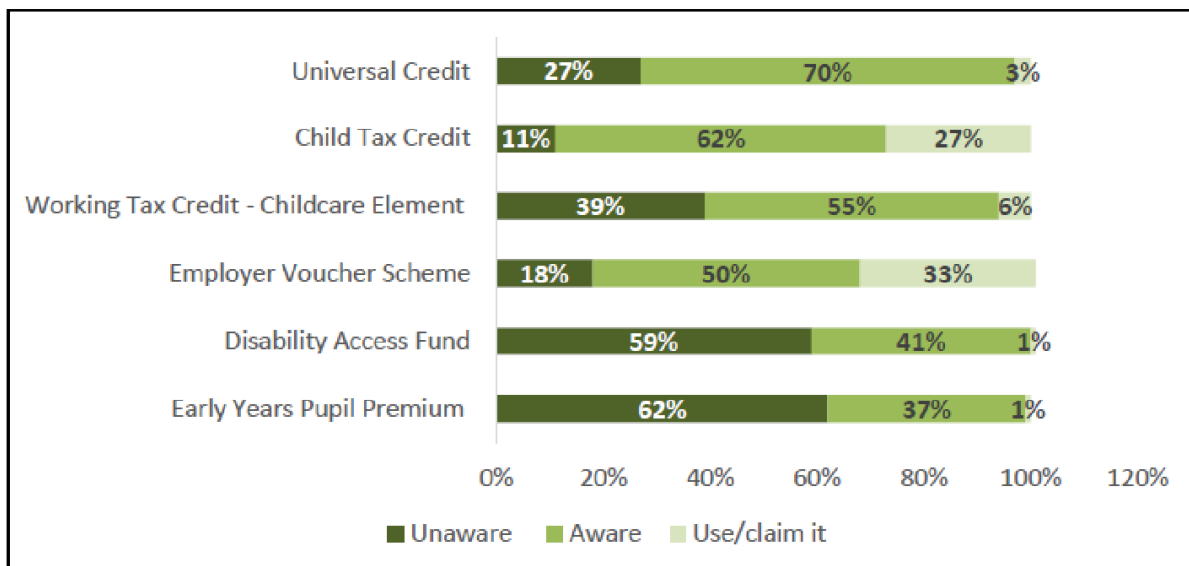
Table 11 - Extent to which parents agree childcare provision is sufficient



Parental awareness of childcare support

41. Most parents have heard of Universal Credit (70 per cent), awareness is lower for Child Tax Credit (62 per cent) and the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit (55 per cent). One in two parents of under 5s have heard of the employer childcare voucher scheme.

Table 12 - Awareness of childcare support



Childcare supply and demand

42. Childcare supply has been measured via surveys of childcare and early education providers and data available from secondary sources including Darlington Borough Council and Ofsted. Over two thirds of nursery and primary schools (69 per cent), 61 per cent of childminders and 52 per cent of day nurseries and pre-schools responded to the survey.
43. Table 13 draws together supply and demand across the borough and for each planning area (please see page 39 for a map showing the planning areas). Figures show demand based on parent's ideal childcare arrangements and assume there are no barriers to use. Parents gave information on their preferred type of setting and number of hours required.

Table 13 - Overview of childcare supply and demand for under 5s in Darlington borough and planning area level

Type of provision	Supply FTE places	Demand FTE places	Gap FTE places
Borough level			
Day nursery	1,380	1,264	116
Pre-school playgroup	214	261	-47
Childminder	216	118	98
Nursery school/class	784	913	-129
All types of provision	2,594	2,556	38
Planning Area 1			
Day nursery	620	524	96
Pre-school playgroup	92	133	-41
Childminder	107	51	56
Nursery school/class	117	161	-44
All types of provision	936	869	67
Planning Area 2			
Day nursery	565	514	51
Pre-school playgroup	76	72	4
Childminder	83	61	22
Nursery school/class	370	442	-72
All types of provision	1,094	1,089	5
Planning Area 3			
Day nursery	195	224	-29
Pre-school playgroup	46	57	-11
Childminder	26	7	19
Nursery school/class	297	310	-13
All types of provision	564	598	-34

44. Parents have indicated that they would like to use significantly more formal childcare than current levels of take-up, particularly for 0 to 2-year olds. Analysis of supply across the borough and in three planning areas shows that 'latent' demand is broadly within the scope of current capacity, in terms of overall volume. There are gaps however, when looking at parents preferred choice of setting. Leaving barriers to access aside, total demand for early years places across the borough is an estimated 2,556 FTE places, or 0.43 places per child under 5 years. Supply marginally exceeds total demand by around 38 FTE places. When type of provider is considered, there is a borough-level gap in supply for pre-school playgroup places (-47) and school-based nursery provision (-129), these gaps assume every parent acts on their preferred childcare choices, a scenario which is unlikely.
45. Looking below borough level in Area One, overall places (936 FTE places) exceed total demand (869 FTE places), however there is a gap in pre-school playgroup places (-41 FTE places) and school based nursery provision (-44 FTE places) based

on parent's preferred childcare choices. In Area Two, supply (1,094 FTE places) is on a par with overall demand (1,089 FTE places). As elsewhere in the borough, parents show a preference for more school-based places. Overall supply is just 564 FTE places in Area Three, slightly less than total demand of 598 FTE places (-6 per cent). This is the only area where a gap in day nursery provision was found (-29 FTE places). There are also small gaps in pre-school playgroup places (-11 FTE places) and nursery class places (-13 FTE places) compared to parent's preferred childcare choices.

Is care available at the times required?

46. Analysis has found that most parents (70 per cent) require care before 8:30 am; 68 per cent of all FTE places are in provision opening before 8:30 AM, day nursery and childminding provision is most likely to meet this need with only 10 per cent of school nursery places being offered before this time. Almost three quarters of parents (72 per cent) require provision until 5:00 PM or later, 64 per cent of all FTE places are in settings operating up to or beyond this time. Childcare after 5:00 pm is almost exclusively offered by day nurseries and childminders. Just 5 per cent of places in school nursery provision and 9 per cent of places in pre-school playgroups are in settings operating after 5:00 pm. In most cases parents looking to cover a full working day would need to use a private day nursery or childminder, or a mix of wrap-around arrangements.

Table 14 - Proportion of FTE places offered at various points in the day by type of childcare provider

Type of provision	Mornings before 8:00 AM	Mornings before 8:30 AM	Afternoons after 3:30 PM	Afternoons after 5:00 PM
Day nursery	75%	100%	100%	100%
Pre-school playgroup	34%	45%	45%	9%
Childminder	74%	96%	100%	100%
Nursery school/class	0%	10%	27%	5%
All types of provision	49%	68%	74%	64%

30 Hours sufficiency

47. Feedback from providers and administrative data from Darlington Borough Council indicates total supply in the region of 964 30 Hour places, approximately 1.18 per eligible child. Day nurseries provided 60 per cent of all places with 20 per cent delivered in school settings.

Table 15 – 30 Hour places by provider type

30-hour places by provider type	Full places	Partnership ^A	Total	% of supply
Day nursery	530	90	575	60%
Pre-school playgroup	121	28	135	14%
Childminder	42	39	61.5	6%
Nursery school/class	168	48	192	20%
All types of provision	861	205	963.5	100%

A: partnership places counted as 0.5

48. This figure is likely to underestimate total supply since occupancy of 30 Hour places in summer 2018 was used as a proxy measure of supply for non-respondents to the childcare survey. Occupancy may not reflect total capacity. A breakdown of supply by ward is shown in table 16 below.

Table 16 – 30 Hour places by ward

Ward	Childminders	Day nurseries/ pre-schools	Schools
Bank Top and Lascelles	0	0	20
Brinkburn and Faverdale	1	67	0
Cockerton	8	43	0
College	10	51	0
Eastbourne	0	30	18
Harrowgate Hill	9	61	0
Haughton and Springfield	3	20	23
Heighington and Coniscliffe	1	0	0
Hummersknott	1	0	0
Hurworth	0	43	0
Mowden	4	8	0
North Road	1	0	0
Northgate	0	102	26
Park East	0	5	57
Park West	0	67	0
Pierremont	4	42	0
Redhall and Lingfield	1	50	41
Sadberge and Middleton st George	11	31	8
Stephenson	0	92	0
Whinfield	11	0	0
	62	710	192

49. Based on this analysis, overall supply of 30 Hour places is 'sufficient', but do options for taking places meet parents' needs? Over one in two parents (57 per cent) would prefer to use their child's place for fewer hours a week across more weeks of the year – a 'stretched' offer. This amounts to around 467 places. Day nurseries and childminders are most likely to offer stretched 30 Hour places. Of those providers taking part in the survey and offering 30 Hour places, 3 out of 7 nurseries (43 per cent) offered stretched places, as did 11 out of 20 (55 per cent) childminders. These

providers together offered a total 30 Hour capacity of 127 places. If these responses are typical of wider 30 Hour offers it is possible that the number of stretched places may fall short of parent demand.

Working in partnership to deliver 30 Hours places

50. As well as delivering full 30 Hour places, providers are working together across the borough to provide places in partnership with others. Looking at estimated figures for September 2018 onwards, providers reported a total capacity of 102.5 'partnership' places. Almost one in two surveyed childminders reported capacity for shared places (48 per cent), rising to 75 per cent of surveyed pre-schools and nurseries. Less than one in three schools taking part in the survey and offering nursery provision reported capacity to deliver 30 Hour places in partnership with others.

Table 17 - Delivering 30 Hours in partnership with other providers: maximum capacity for partnership places by ward.

Ward	Childminders	Day nurseries/pre-school	Schools
Bank Top and Lascelles	0	0	0
Brinkburn and Faverdale	0	16	0
Cockerton	6	5	0
College	5	2	0
Eastbourne	0	0	5
Harrowgate Hill	6	16	0
Haughton and Springfield	1	0	1
Heighington and Coniscliffe	1	0	0
Hummersknott	1	0	0
Hurworth	0	6	0
Mowden	3	5	0
North Road	0	0	0
Northgate	0	45	0
Park East	0	0	0
Park West	0	2	0
Pierremont	2	0	0
Redhall and Lingfield	1	5	26
Sadberge and Middleton St. George	6	16	16
Stephenson	0	0	0
Whinfield	7	0	0
Total partnership places	39	118	48
Total FTE places	19.5	59	24

Impact of 30 Hours on other provision

51. Providers taking part in the survey were asked what, if any, impact 30 Hours has had on their ability to offer places for children with special educational needs or disabilities

(SEND). Feedback was provided by a small number of settings. One school, 1 childminder and 4 non-domestic settings felt their ability to meet the needs of children with SEND had been affected.

52. More providers felt the general flexibility they could offer families had been impacted in some way: 8 out of 19 nurseries and pre-schools providing feedback felt their flexibility had changed (42 per cent); whilst 4 out of 6 schools said so. Fewer childminders reported an impact – 3 out of 21, or 14 per cent.

Barriers to offering 30 Hours places

53. Provider views were explored by asking about the perceived benefits and drawbacks of offering 30 Hour places. Providers mainly identified benefits for parents, however five nurseries/pre-schools and 3 childminders felt there had been financial benefits for the setting, and connected with this, improvements in occupancy (6 nurseries/pre-schools, 3 childminders).

Table 18 – Benefits of 30 Hour places

Benefits of the 30-hour offer	Schools	Nurseries and pre-schools	Childminders
It means parents can return to work	4	15	16
It means parents can work longer hours	2	12	16
It reduces parent's childcare costs	5	16	24
It benefits children's development	4	16	16
It has improved our financial position	0	5	3
It has improved our occupancy	0	6	3

54. The most frequently cited problems pertained to parents' confusion around eligibility, the nature of the offer, the need to confirm eligibility on a regular basis and problems parents have experienced with the childcare service website. Increased time spent on administering the offer and funding rates failing to meet delivery costs were also reported by several providers. Quarterly confirmation of eligibility was also creating planning problems for providers.

Table 19 - Problems encountered in delivering 30 Hour places

Problems delivering 30-hour places	Nurseries and pre-schools		
	Schools	Nurseries and pre-schools	Childminders
The time we spend on administration has increased	4	10	7
Some parents are confused about eligibility	5	10	5
Some parents are unaware the offer is for 38 weeks not 30-hours a week across the year	2	9	4
Demand has been lower than we prepared for	1	8	3
Some parents are unaware of how early they need to apply for a code	3	8	4
Parents have had problems with the childcare service website	4	8	3
Our costs to deliver 3 and 4-year old places are higher than the funding rate	3	6	5
Confirming eligibility every 3 months makes planning difficult	3	6	6
No problems	1	3	11
Demand has been higher than the places we can offer	1	3	0
We have had to reduce the flexibility of what we offer to make it more financially viable	0	3	7
We have had problems with the childcare service website	1	3	0
It has been difficult allocating places when demand is higher than the places available	0	2	0
We are struggling to recruit enough staff	0	1	N/A

Business confidence

55. Childminders, day nurseries and pre-schools were asked about their expectations regarding future financial performance and confidence that they would be operating in 12 months' time. Looking firstly at childminders, one in three were expecting their income to decrease in the next twelve months, and 13 per cent were unconfident that they would be trading in 12 months' time. Turning to day nurseries and pre-schools, five settings (31 per cent) were less confident about their financial performance in the next 12 months, compared to the last year. Two settings giving feedback lacked confidence that they would be trading in 12 months' time. These settings offered a combined capacity of 130 places. One setting was finding that operating costs were higher than funding rates and the second setting was experiencing low levels of demand. These findings raise concerns regarding the sustainability of some providers in the borough, which may impact on sufficiency in the future.

The views of employers in Darlington

56. A survey of 75 local employers has been undertaken targeting a mix of both larger and smaller employers in the Darlington area. The aim of the survey was to investigate the use of family friendly employment practices and explore the extent to which childcare supply meets the needs of businesses and staff. The majority of the employers surveyed were private companies (51 per cent), with the remainder being a mix of charity, voluntary organisations or trusts (12 per cent), health authority or NHS trusts (1 per cent), nationalised industry or state corporations (1 per cent) and educational establishments (1 per cent). Interviews were completed across a range of business sectors as shown in table 20. Surveyed businesses together employed over 1,400 staff in the Darlington area.

Table 20 - Profile of employers surveyed – sector

Industrial sector	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2
Manufacturing	7
Construction	3
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	13
Accommodation and food service activities	7
Information and communication	5
Real estate activities	3
Financial and insurance activities	2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	20
Administrative and support service activities	10
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2
Education	11
Human health and social work activities	8
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2
Other service activities	3

57. The need for flexible childcare becomes apparent when looking at work patterns required by Darlington employers. Of those businesses providing detail on their work patterns, over one in four operated at weekends (29 per cent), on mornings before 07:45 (30 per cent), or in the evening later than 17:45 (31 per cent). Over one in ten operated night shifts (14 per cent) and 11 per cent gave staff less than one-week notice of shift patterns.
58. The number of businesses frequently experiencing problems due to childcare issues was relatively low, however many found childcare was an occasional problem, particularly with regards to unplanned absence (50 per cent) and staff performing effectively at work (38 per cent).

Table 21- Workforce problems resulting from the availability, affordability or reliability of childcare

Workforce problem	A frequent problem	An occasional problem	Never been a problem
Recruiting staff needed	6%	30%	64%
Retaining staff	3%	29%	68%
Staff performing effectively at work	4%	38%	59%
Unplanned staff absence	5%	50%	45%
Staff being available to work shifts the business needs	4%	33%	62%

The following problems were flagged by employers experiencing occasional or frequent staffing difficulties relating to childcare:

- No childcare for night shifts (3)
- No childcare late evenings (8)
- No childcare early mornings (14)
- No childcare at weekends (14)
- Lack of childcare in school holidays (21)
- Childcare not flexible enough to meet changing work patterns/demands (13)
- Cost of childcare (25)
- Staff childcare arrangements are unreliable (7)
- No care available when child is ill (21)

59. Surveyed employers were offering a range of support to their staff, the most common being childcare vouchers (29 per cent) and unpaid parental leave above statutory minimums (22 per cent).

Table 22- Forms of employer support currently offered or considered for the future

Forms of childcare support	Currently Offering	Consider offering in the future
Childcare vouchers	29%	4%
Full cost of childcare	0%	4%
Other financial contribution to childcare costs	4%	8%
On-site workplace nursery/crèche	4%	4%
Information on childcare choices and provision	12%	12%
Information on Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits	12%	12%
Unpaid parental leave above the statutory minimum	22%	2%
Help with calculating Working Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits	16%	8%
Maternity leave above the statutory minimum.	16%	4%
Paternity leave above the statutory minimum.	10%	6%
Shared Parental Leave above the statutory minimum.	10%	8%
Adoption leave above the statutory minimum.	12%	6%

60. Flexible working practices were also in evidence, or being considered in the future, the most common being temporary reductions in working hours to support personal circumstances (44 per cent).

0-4 early education and childcare gap analysis conclusions

61. Research with parents has shown that there is latent demand for childcare in the borough with cost being the main barrier to higher take up of private hours. Parents would also welcome more flexibility to accommodate their often complex mix of work and training commitments, including earlier starts, later finishes and the ability to change arrangements at short notice.

62. Analysis of the overall volume of supply shows there is sufficient capacity to meet demand in all three planning areas. When the mix of supply is compared to parents' ideal arrangements however, there are modest gaps in school and pre-school playgroup provision. Given the relatively small sample sizes involved and the significant factors suppressing childcare demand, further targeted research would be required to ascertain if the relatively modest gaps identified for specific types of provision would justify development of new places.

63. Parent and provider feedback also suggests there is sufficient capacity to meet overall demand for 30 Hour places. There is a risk however, that future demand for stretched places may be higher than supply. The research has not identified any widespread negative impacts of the 30 Hour offer on the 15 Hour entitlement for 3 and 4 or 2 year olds in the borough. Some providers report a reduction in the flexibility they can offer

families, whilst others find the changes they have introduced to accommodate 30 Hours have provided more flexibility for families.

64. There is evidence to indicate that providers are under increasing financial pressure, with several settings reporting that their operating costs are higher than funding rates. One day nursery and one pre-school anticipate possible closure within the next 12 months, as do more than one in ten childminders. Financial pressures are also impacting on the capacity of some providers to meet children's special educational needs and disabilities.
65. Echoing feedback from parents, employers also call for greater flexibility and lower childcare costs. There is evidence to suggest that childcare issues are impacting on employers' ability to recruit and retain staff and manage effective performance at work.

Out of school and holiday provision

66. During 2017-18 the number of out of school and holiday clubs reduced by 1 in Area One. A number of providers cater for older children aged 8 to 11 years. Many of the out of school clubs in Darlington form part of a daycare provider and as such will be included within their Ofsted inspection therefore will not be issued a separate grading. A number of breakfast clubs are also registered on school sites and their Ofsted rating is shared with the school.
67. The Early Years team continues to support the stand alone clubs to increase quality and capacity and in 2017-18 an audit of provision was introduced which includes looking at a club's capacity to deliver good quality, accessible places for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

68. Early Years Inclusion Officers will continue to support settings and schools with the quality of their provision for children, including those with SEND. A key feature of this work is supporting settings to identify and support the needs of children as soon as possible. Of cases highlighted to the Early Years team, the largest proportion of children requiring support in 2016-17 was within the broad area of need of 'communication and interaction' which was also the case in the 2015-16 academic year.
69. The Local Authority continues to operate a brokerage service via the Darlington People and Families' Information Support Service whereby childcare enquiries for children with disabilities who require more specialist placements are progressed by the Childcare Development Officers. Advice is provided on appropriate provision for children, using the graduated approach and involving other professionals as necessary. In addition, the Early Years Inclusion Fund will continue to support children within settings. The multi-agency panel meets once a term to allocate funding based on submitted One Plans. This support and its effectiveness is reviewed on a termly basis by the Early Years Inclusion team. From September 2017 three and four year olds who are accessing early education and who attract Disability Living Allowance have been entitled to an annual payment of £615 to the setting of their choice. In addition, settings have been encouraged to evaluate the

effectiveness of their inclusive practice through the use of an evaluation tool created by the Early Years team. From September 2017 to July 2018 52 3 and 4 year olds have claimed Disability Access Fund.

Quality

70. In Darlington 100 per cent of the 36 group childcare settings have been judged Good or better by Ofsted which is an improvement from last year's figure of 94 per cent and eight of these settings are graded Outstanding. This compares favourably with the national figure of 95 per cent of settings at Good or better. The indication is that all children attending these Darlington settings are receiving high quality opportunities and experiences.

In July 2018 the Ofsted gradings given to the various settings in Darlington were as set out below:

Table 23 – Ofsted Gradings (source: PFIS as at July 2018)

2018 Ofsted	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Met	Not met with actions	Awaiting 1 st Inspection	Not Required	Total
Private Day Nurseries	21%	79%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%
Holiday Clubs	12%	52%	0	0	20%	0	4%	12%	100%
Out of School Clubs	14%	71%	0	0	4%	0	7%	4%	100%
Breakfast Clubs	40%	40%	0	0	0	0	10%	10%	100%
Breakfast Clubs (school registered)	0	80%	7%	0	0	0	13%	0	100%
Playgroups	27%	73%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%
Childminders	13%	57%	0	0	14%	1%	15%	0	100%

Childcare providers who only work with children from the end of Early Years Foundation Stage are registered on the childcare register. They are expected to meet the requirements relating to people, premises and provision and make a declaration that they will do so. They are inspected to ensure they are still complying with these requirements and are judged as either meeting the requirements of the register or not meeting the requirements i.e. 'Met' or 'Unmet'.

Cost - out of school and holiday provision

71. Feedback from local parents suggests that the supply of holiday childcare for school age children does not meet demand and is not affordable. The proportion of local authorities in England with enough holiday childcare in all of their local area is highest for the youngest children (4 to 7 year olds) at 33 per cent, then narrows to 28 per cent for 8 to 11 year olds, 14 per cent for 12 to 14 year olds and just 13 per cent for

disabled children. Families with disabled children face some of the biggest shortages in holiday provision, of the ten regional areas in England, disabled children have the lowest holiday childcare sufficiency ratings in five of these areas.

72. In Darlington the average price per child for a week of holiday childcare is £142.26. If six weeks of holiday care is required during the Summer, this equates to over £800 per child. The average weekly price in the North East is £148.58, these figures compare with an average of £136.11 across the London boroughs and £126.51 in the North West. In the last year the cost of holiday childcare has risen in England by 5 per cent with an increase of 10 per cent in the North East. Parents who use holiday childcare are likely to use after school clubs during term time. There is a significant gap between the prices of after school clubs and holiday childcare. In England the average weekly increase in switching from an after school club to a holiday club is £77.84 per child and in Darlington it is £89.35 per child or over £500 per child for a six week period.
73. There are of course other options for families, for example, 'shift parenting' in couple families, using informal care from grandparents, other relatives or friends and term-time only working arrangements. Support with childcare costs, including holiday childcare, is available to parents in some circumstances through tax relief and benefits. However, this is only available to parents who use Ofsted-registered childcare. Many activity-based provider which run for a few weeks in the summer, as well as childcare providers only looking after children aged over 8, are not required to register with Ofsted. Parents who use government support for childcare costs therefore have a smaller choice of providers, or miss out on financial help. Holiday childcare providers are responding to a range of issues including minimum wage changes, pension auto-enrolment and business rate rises.

Conclusion

74. Clearly, the main issues for Darlington parents are the need for local childcare to be affordable and flexible, wrapping around the beginning and end of the school day to fit with parental working patterns and the need for accessible, affordable, inclusive holiday childcare.
75. To enable the local childcare market and schools to 'plug the childcare gaps' which have been identified, the childcare sufficiency data will be presented at the Spring 2019 Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers' Network meeting and will be sent to schools and presented at the Spring 2019 Schools Chair of Governors' Briefing. The local authority will also advertise the right of parents and childcare providers to request the delivery of childcare from school sites (DfE 'Rights to Request', introduced in September 2016).
76. Additionally, the local authority is assisting Whinfield Primary School with a submission to the DfE's School Nurseries Capital Fund. The application proposes a 52 full time equivalent place nursery with wrap around at the start and end of the day and on-site holiday provision, to meet working parents' needs. The DfE will announce the successful capital awards in February 2019.
77. With regard to childcare sufficiency, the local authority's statutory duties are:

- to secure sufficient childcare for working parents (Childcare Act 2006, Section 6);
- to secure early years provision free of charge (Childcare Act 2006, Section 7); and
- to secure 30 Hours Free Childcare for qualifying children (Childcare Act 2016, Section 2).

78. To assist with these duties, the priorities for the Local Authority continue to be to:

- assist childcare providers/ activities to be sustainable;
- work with settings and other interested stakeholders to continually improve the quality of care and make settings/ activities more inclusive; and to
- provide parents with up-to-date information about financial assistance towards childcare costs, including any available tax credits.

Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan

Childcare Sufficiency Targets: Improve the affordability, ‘fit’ with working families requirements and flexibility of pre-school childcare provision; and Improve access to out of school and holiday childcare/ activities, particularly for children aged 5 to 14 years or 18 years for disabled young people & to ensure that all childcare/activities are inclusive.

Gap identified	2018-19 Objectives	2018-19 Actions	Responsibility & timeframe	Outcome
<p><u>Funded Two Year Old Places, The Universal Entitlement and The Extended Entitlement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase choice and diversity for parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the existing range of providers to monitor and where possible, directly meet parental demand or to sign-post parents effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the childcare gap analysis data to providers and schools to enable the market to meet unmet demand. • Visit all settings and schools to provide advice and support to maintain and improve quality. • Support a setting’s self-reflection regarding quality and provide intensive support to new providers or those who have received a down-grading in their Ofsted inspection judgement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Projects Officer - Spring 2019 • Early Years Team – on-going annual audits • Early Years Team – on-going annual audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the number of different delivery models available for working parents to access • Increased Local Authority intelligence regarding unmet demand.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage new providers to research the needs of local parents, to take account of what the market already offers and to take account of local authority data and to meet parental demand. ● Encourage providers, other stakeholders eg Jobcentre Plus and parents to report unmet demand to the local authority. ● Ensure that the introduction of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assist settings and schools with sustainability by raising awareness of different business delivery models. ● Assist settings and schools with sustainability by providing advice regarding methods of researching parental demand. ● Facilitate access to appropriate local authority data for new providers eg information about new housing developments, usable sites or vacant buildings and unmet demand. ● Advertise the People and Families' Information Support unmet demand list and the on-line parental childcare questionnaire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early Years Team – on-going annual audits and providing advice regarding the local authority's toolkit as requested/required. ● Early Years Team – as requested/required ● Early Years Team – as requested/required 	
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	30 Hours childcare does not lead to insufficient places or reduced choice for parents only entitled to 15 Hours or regarding funded two year olds places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage providers to complete the additional questions regarding take-up and usage on the 30 Hours secure provider portal. Fully utilise the brokerage system by questioning provider service descriptions and testing to see if providers will deliver more flexibly on a case by case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People and Families' Information Support, Early Years Team– on-going. People and Families' Information Support, Early Years Team– on-going. People and Families' Information Support, Early Years Team – on-going. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase choice and diversity of funded two year old places along the North Road corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create additional places along the North Road corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with and if required support, the appropriate Academy Trust to create additional high quality, accessible places for local families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years Team and other appropriate Local Authority departments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in the number of available places for local parents.
<u>Extended Entitlement for Three and Four Year Olds</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the smooth administration of 30 Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase parental awareness by: continuing to market 30 Hours Childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People and Families' Information Support, the Early Years Team– on-going. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents seamlessly accessing

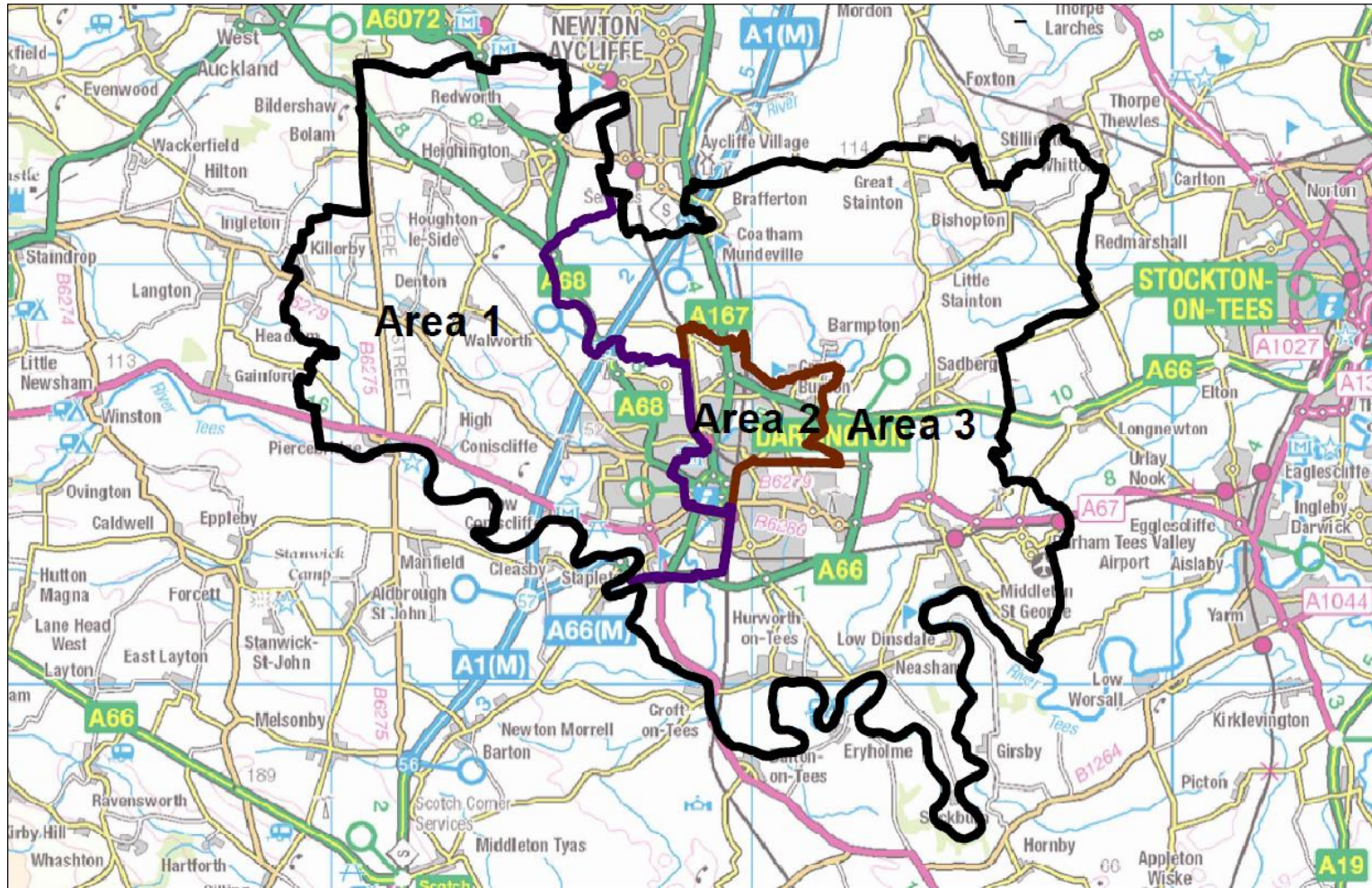
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the new 30 Hours Childcare initiative 	<p>Childcare for parents and providers and develop processes and systems to meet DfE policy developments.</p>	<p>in the borough wide magazine, on display screens in the Customer Contact Centre, the Dolphin Centre, the DfE building and in Children’s Centres; continuing to disseminate posters and leaflets; keeping the DBC web pages up-to-date; providing information to other stakeholder agencies, such as, JC+ and Health Visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answering parental and provider queries promptly and sign-posting appropriately eg to HMRC, when required. Ensuring providers have returned their signed funded children contracts and understand the various requirements eg with regard to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People and Families’ Information Support – on-going. Commissioning Team – September 2018 and April 2019. Early Years Team via the termly funded 	<p>their entitlement.</p>
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		<p>continuous funded provision and charges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring providers understand the parental process regarding eligibility and validating codes. • Ensuring providers understand the local authority's termly data collection and payments system. • Monitor the unmet demand list, the parental questionnaire and the additional questions to ensure accurate place planning. • Ensure that existing and new providers are aware of any sufficiency gaps. 	<p>children audits and the Early Years Team via annual audits and provider networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and Families' Information Support – on-going • People and Families' Information Support and other appropriate departments. • Early Years Team – on-going. • Early Years Team – on-going. 	
<p><u>Wrap-around and Holiday Places</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmet demand for accessible places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support existing and new providers, where possible, to provide good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide existing and new private day nurseries, schools, out of school clubs and childminders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Team via annual audits – on-going 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the number of different delivery models

<p>which meet the needs of working parents</p>	<p>quality, affordable care for longer hours and from areas of the borough/sites which make access easier for working parents.</p>	<p>with unmet demand data eg hours required, ages of children, preferred location eg school sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise the DfE 'right to request' childcare on school sites to parents. • Support providers who decide to 'plug the gap' with advice regarding delivery models, admissions procedures, etc. • Ensure parents are aware of available financial assistance towards the cost of childcare eg Tax Free Childcare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and Families' Information Support, Early Years Team – on-going • Early Years Team – on-going • People and Families' Information Support – on-going 	<p>available for working parents to access which meet their needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Local Authority intelligence regarding unmet demand
<p><u>Inclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmet demand for accessible after school and holiday places for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all existing and new after school and holiday places are inclusive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit all settings and schools to provide advice and support to maintain and improve quality, including with regard to inclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Team – annual audits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the number of places and different delivery models

<p>disabled children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage providers, other stakeholders eg Jobcentre Plus and parents to report unmet demand to the local authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure settings and schools have access to support via the termly Inclusion Panel. ● Ensure parents, settings and schools are aware of the new Disability Access Fund and understand how to claim this payment. ● Fully utilise the brokerage system by questioning provider service descriptions and testing to see if providers will deliver more flexibly on a case by case basis. ● Ensure parents have easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensive information about settings and services via the Living Well Directory and the Local Offer. ● Ensure parents are aware of available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early Years and Inclusion Team – on-going ● People and Families' Information Support, Early Years team – on-going ● People and Families' Information Support, Early Years Team – on-going. ● People and Families' Information Support – on-going 	<p>available for parents to access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased Local Authority intelligence regarding unmet demand
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		financial assistance towards the cost of childcare eg Tax Free Childcare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● People and Families' Information Support – on-going	
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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 DECEMBER 2018

ITEM NO.5.....

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Q2 2018/19

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators.

Summary

2. This report provides Quarter 2 (July – September) 2018/19 performance information in line with an indicator set agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 2 July 2018, and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs.
3. It is suggested monitoring focuses on issues and exceptions, and relevant Assistant Directors will be in attendance at the meeting to respond to queries raised by the committee regarding the performance information contained within this report.
4. Where indicators are reported annually, quarterly updates will not be available.

Where are we performing well?

5. The number of contacts increased by 25.4%, compared to this point last year. 97.8% of contacts were completed within 24 working hours, demonstrating that children's needs are screened and triaged quickly, and receive timely services, according to their needs.
6. 93.6% who had a Review Health Assessment due, received their assessment within the required month.
7. 98% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the Strategy meeting being held/Section 47 being initiated.
8. 100% Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.
9. 100% those children with a Child Protection Plan and Children Looked After have an allocated Social Worker.
10. 98.7% of Looked After reviews were completed within timescale.
11. 90.1% of statutory visits of Looked After Children were completed in timescale, which is above target of 90%.
12. 8.7% of Looked After Children had 3 or more placement moved within the last 12 months, an improvement of 3.3% when compared to the end of Quarter 2 2017/18 which was 12%. This is in line with benchmark data for statistical neighbours (9.5%) and national average (10%).

13. 25% of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET).

Where do we need to improve?

14. 78.5% (73 out of 93) of dental health checks were completed, compared to 48.7% in Quarter 1 (19 of 39), which shows good progress, however this area continues to undergo close scrutiny, with a tracker in place to ensure robust oversight and management.

15. 80.4% of child protection statutory visits were completed within timescale at the end of Quarter 2, which is slightly behind Quarter 1 performance at 86% and last year's Quarter 2 performance at 88.5%. Performance against this indicator will therefore continue to be closely monitored and managed.

Recommendation

16. It is recommended:

- a) That performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with the appropriate Assistant Director.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adult Services

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Sharon Raine Head of Performance and Transformation : Extension 6091

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Well Being	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents
Sustainability	This report supports the Council's sustainability responsibilities
Diversity	This report supports the promotion of diversity
Wards Affected	This report supports performance improvement across all Wards
Groups Affected	This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes
Efficiency	Scrutiny of performance is integral to optimising outcomes.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report may have an impact on their emotional and physical health, social development, education and future employment.

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Children's Social Care Quarterly Performance & Quality Assurance Report

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Quarter 2

Children and Young People Scrutiny Report

Key Performance Indicators

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

Where we are performing well

Contacts

- The number of contacts increased by 25.4%, compared to this point last year. 97.8% of contacts were completed within 24 working hours, demonstrating that children's needs are screened and triaged quickly, and receive timely services, according to their needs

Early Help

- The number of Early Help Assessments led by partner agencies has continued to increase and is 73.9% higher than at the same point last year

Child Protection

- 100% of children subject to a Child Protection Plan have an allocated Social Worker
- 98% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the Strategy meeting being held/Section 47 being initiated, which is significantly higher than NE (85.7%), national (77.2%) and statistical neighbour (87.9%) averages
- 100% of Child Protection reviews were completed within the required timescales, higher than NE (95%), national (92%) and statistical neighbours (95%)

Children in Care

- 100% of those Looked After have an allocated Social Worker
- 98.7% of Looked After reviews were completed within timescales in Quarter 2
- 90.1% of statutory visits of Looked After Children were completed in timescale within Quarter 2, which meets the target of 90%
- The stability of Looked After Children placements is currently at 8.7% with regards to 3 or more placement moves. This is in line with benchmark data for statistical neighbours (9.5%) and national average (10%)
- Attendance remains strong at 93% for September
- There have been no permanent exclusions of Looked After Children
- 58 out of 62 children (93.6%) who had a Review Health Assessment due, received their assessment within the required month at the end of Quarter 2

Care Leavers

- The percentage of Care Leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) was 25% (13 Care Leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 out of 52), which positively exceeds the target of 33.0%

Where we need to improve

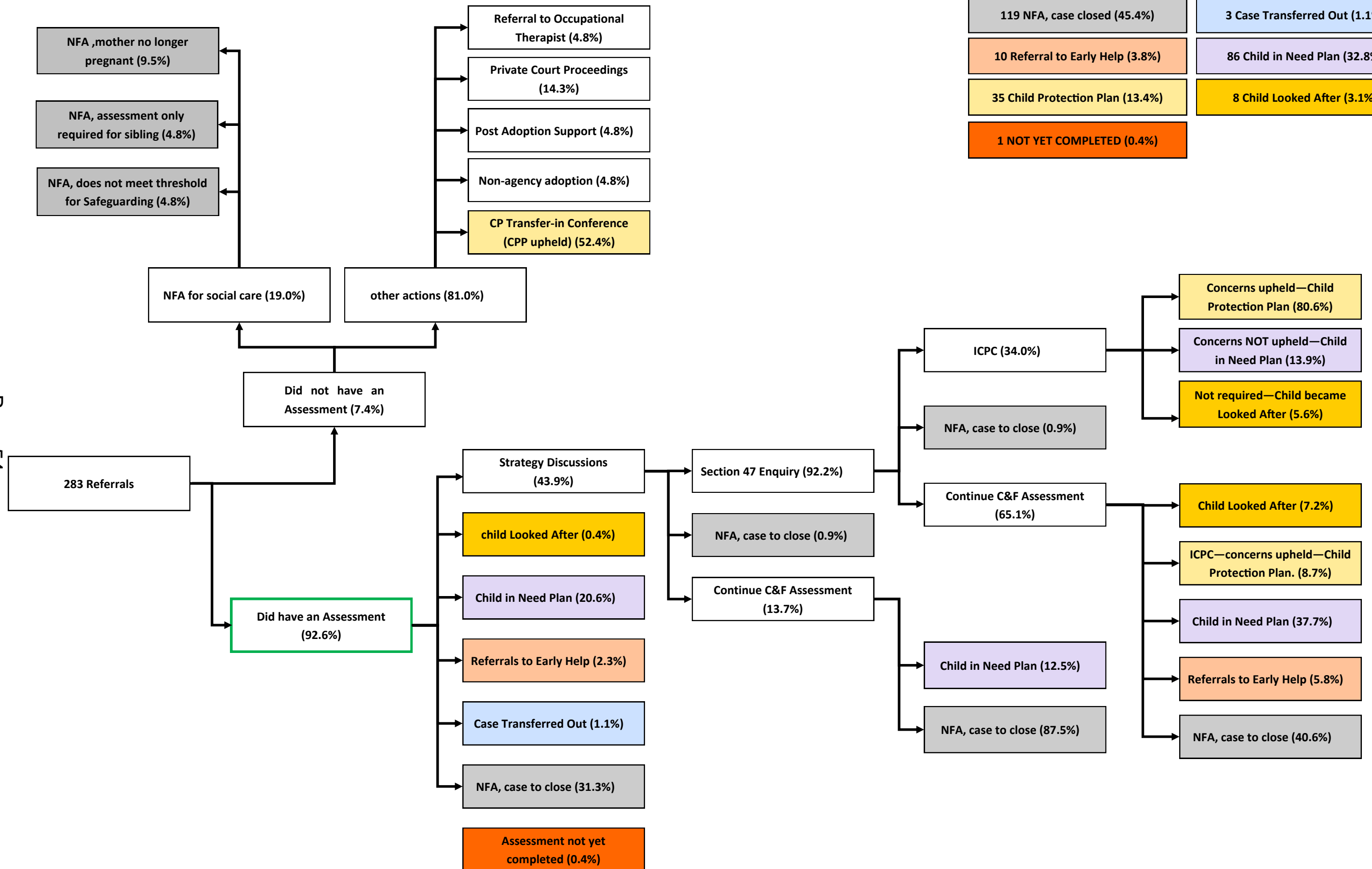
- There has been a dip in Return Home Interviews completed within 72 hours to 78.3% at the end of Q2. Analysis shows that late notification of missing episodes by the police contributed to a significant proportion of these. This will be closely monitored during Q3 to ensure that performance improves to the level it has been
- 80.4% of Child Protection Statutory Visits were completed within timescale at the end of Q2, which is slightly behind Q1 performance at 86% and last year's Q2 performance at 88.5%. Performance against this indicator will therefore continue to be closely monitored and managed
- Although assessments completed within 45 working days is 87%, this remains behind our target of 90%, and as a key emphasis of our sustained improvement it will be closely monitored over the next period. There has been an increase in the complexity of cases and the number of large sibling groups being referred to Children's Social Care during this Quarter, which is supported by the increase in the number of Strategy meetings, Section 47 enquiries and the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan. The work being undertaken regarding practice quality is also impacting slightly on completion timescales, which was anticipated by us
- There has also been a significant associated increase in Court work. However, despite this, we have maintained excellent timescales for cases concluded between 22/23 weeks
- At the end of Q2, 78.5% (73 out of 93) of dental health checks were completed, compared to 48.7% in Q1 (19 of 39), which shows good progress, however this area continues to undergo close scrutiny, with a tracker in place to ensure robust oversight and management

Full System Conversion Flow Q1 2018-19

Outcomes for the 262 children who had an assessment directly following a referral during Q1 2018-19:

119 NFA, case closed (45.4%)	3 Case Transferred Out (1.1%)
10 Referral to Early Help (3.8%)	86 Child in Need Plan (32.8%)
35 Child Protection Plan (13.4%)	8 Child Looked After (3.1%)
1 NOT YET COMPLETED (0.4%)	

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Quarter 1 Flows

Quarter 1 Flows

Of the 283 referrals received in the quarter, 262 (92.6%) resulted in an assessment, which remains in line with the recently published Darlington figure for 2017-18 (93.1%) and the National average of 90.6% (*Characteristics of children in need: 2017 to 2018*). Looking at individual months in Quarter 1, the rate of referrals leading to an assessment is over 94% for April and June, and 89.8% for May. July's rate was higher still at 95.2% indicating an upward trend sustained into the current reporting year.

The total rate of assessed cases resulting in no further action in the quarter was 50.4%, or 132 of the 262 referrals which led to an assessment. This includes cases which transferred to the services of another LA or were referred to another agency or internal department such as Early Help. This is lower than the average for 2017-18 (62.6%). Looking in detail, April June (and July) are consistently below the 2017-18 average at 43%, 44% and 55% respectively, with a spike in May of 64%.

The proportion of assessed cases closed with no further action *where only a C&F assessment was carried out* was 34.7%, again lower than the published 2017-18 figure which was 37.4%. The 82/132 "No Further Action" assessments have been further analysed to see whether they in fact fall into other categories such as transferring to Life Stages or being referred to other agencies, therefore the true NFA figure for Quarter 1 is 21.4% (further breakdown detailed below). Benchmarking shows statistical neighbours at 17.2% in 2017/18, nationally 28.5% and in the North East 21.1%.

43.9% of cases had a strategy discussion either during or as a result of a C&F assessment, with 92.2% of these leading to a section 47 enquiry. These conversion rates are both higher than the average for 2017-18, at 35.8% and 78.1% respectively, however 2017-18 showed considerable variance between quarters with Quarters 1 and 4 being at 92% and 86.3%, and Quarters 2 and 3 being lower at 64% and 68%. Taken into context with the limited data available from 2016-17 (Quarter 3 at 86% and Quarter 4 at 94%), the higher figures may not be outliers and further analysis work is required to ascertain whether there are any seasonal trends or other effects on this conversion. Published data for 2017-18 shows that the rate of Section 47 enquiries carried out was higher in Darlington at 190.0 than national (166.9) and Darlington's statistical neighbours (173.3), however below the North east rate (224.5).

The full journey of a child through the safeguarding process can take over 9 weeks therefore data is presented based on referrals to the service 3 months prior to the reporting month.

Full System Conversion Flow: Referrals in Quarter 1 2018-19

From contacts in Quarter 1 there were 283 referrals. 262 of these (92.6%) resulted in either a C&F assessment and / or Strategy discussion.

With regard to the 7.4% referrals that did not result in an assessment, a review has identified that:

- Referrals were for Transfer in Conferences (all subsequently upheld)
- Requested involvement in private court proceedings.
- Referred for post-adoption support
- Support regarding a non-agency adoption
- Referred to the occupational therapist
- Received Information and advice only, of which:

The outcomes for the 262 assessments that were completed in Quarter 1 are as follows:

- 0.4% became Looked After during the assessment process
- 31.3% NFA case closed following assessment*
- 2.3% referred to Early Help
- 20.6% Children in Need Plan
- 1.1% Case Transferred Out before further social care involvement
- 0.4% Assessment was not yet complete at the time of analysis
- **43.9% had a Strategy Discussion *Note that some of these took place during a C&F Assessment.***
 - Strategy discussion concluded with NFA
 - Directed to complete the ongoing C&F assessment resulting in
 - Child in Need Plan
 - NFA case closed
 - **92.2% progressed to a Section 47 enquiry and subsequently**
 - 27.4% children had an ICPC where concerns were upheld resulting in a CPP
 - children had an ICPC where concerns were NOT upheld resulting in a Child in Need Plan
 - children became Looked After before the ICPC was held (ICPC cancelled)
 - NFA case closed
 - **65.1% were directed to complete the ongoing C&F Assessment and subsequently**

- 5 children became Looked After
- 6 had a further Section 47 enquiry and ICPC; concerns were upheld resulting in a CPP
- 26 became the subject of a Child in Need Plan
- 4 were referred to Early Help
- 28 were concluded with NFA

*** Further analysis of the 82 assessments which were closed as NFA**

Further breakdown for the 82 “NFA” assessments as follows:

- Referred to Life Stages (*recorded as other actions*)
- Referred to another agency
- Transferred to another local authority
- Stepped down to Universal Services
- Consent not obtained, below threshold for statutory services.
- No Further Action

Contacts and Referrals

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

Numbers

- In Q2 the total number of contacts into the department was 1,464, which is comparable to Q1. If the current trend continues the result will be a 21% increase in contacts compared to the same period in 2017/18 (2,329)

Source

- Work continues to better understand contacts from Police, including information as part of Operation Encompass, as they remain the highest referral source, with the lowest number of contacts converting to referral. This will be reported on in Q3

Outcomes

- Contact outcomes remain comparable month on month with the exception of September, which shows an increase in contacts with an outcome of “school attendance”. This is expected given that schools were closed for part of July and all of August
- The outcome of contacts being referred to social care have decreased by 12.9% in September following a peak in August
- The conversion rate of contacts to referrals per 10,000 population at the end of Quarter 2 is 253.1. If this trajectory continues, the year-end figure would be 506.2 per 10,000 and is in line with statistical neighbours at 519.7 and below the national figure of 548.2 and the regional figure of 599.6. This will continue to be monitored to ensure we remain with the tolerance of our statistical neighbours

Timeliness

- The timeliness of decision making on contacts remains at 100% being completed within 1 working day. This indicates that children and families do not experience a delay in response to concerns, and receive services quickly

Re Referrals

- Re referrals rates were 16.66% at end of Q2, below our target of 20% and lower than statistical neighbours (18.5%) national (21.9%) NE (20.1%) rates. The reasons for re-referrals remain Domestic Abuse and Mental Health concerns. Further training is therefore being made available to workers to better understand the impact of these issues on family life

CONTACTS

DEFINITION
 Contacts are received through the Children's Access Point (CAP) and are screened against an agreed multi-agency threshold criteria for Social Care. The total number of contacts received by CAP shows how busy CAP are within each month; the number of new contacts shows how many contacts are made on cases which are not currently open to Social Care (a contact can include multiple children); the total number of children in the month (each child can appear more than once) allows us to demonstrate outcomes, as each child may appear more than once they will have different outcomes and different sources, and the distinct number of children (each child is counted only once not matter how many contacts were received) allows us to look at the demography.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 1,464 contacts were received during Quarter 2 2018/19 which is a 29.1% increase from Quarter 2 2017/18 where there were 1,134 contacts. These contacts related to 1,924 individual children in Quarter 2 2018/19; a 20.3% increase on the same period in 2017/18.

	CSC 004	CSC 004i	CSC 004k	
	Number of contacts received (monthly)	Number of children the contacts were regarding (a child can be counted more than once) (monthly)	Number of individual children contacts were regarding (monthly)	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Apr-18	420	701	544
	May-18	450	779	657
	Jun-18	615	970	760
	Jul-18	612	1017	794
	Aug-18	314	551	445
	Sep-18	538	860	685
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			
ANNUAL TREND	2015/16			
	2016/17			
	2017/18			
	2018/19 YTD	2949	4878	3885

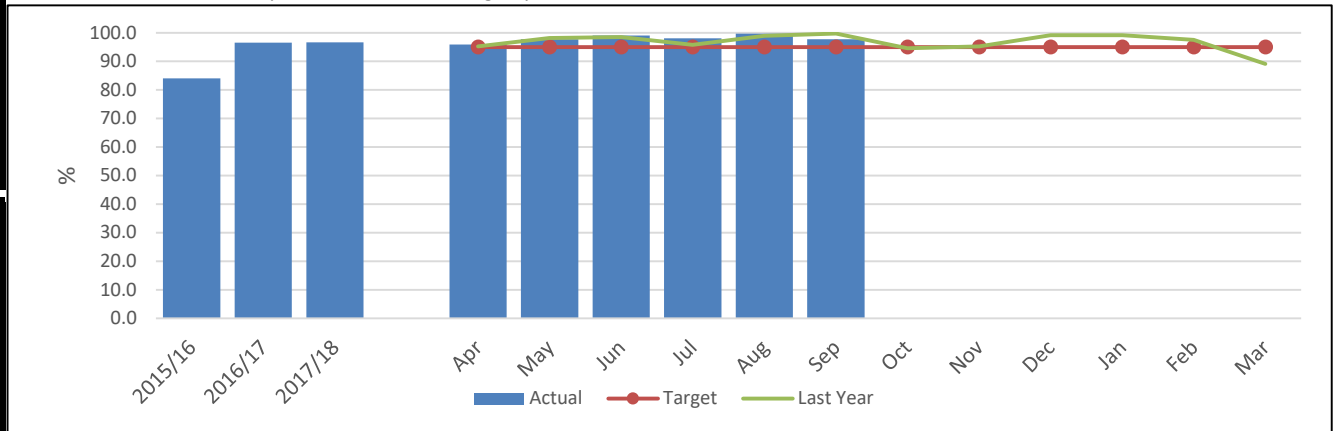
CONTACTS: TIMELINESS

DEFINITION Percentage of contacts completed within 1 working day and over 3 working days within the month. A higher rate of contacts completed within 1 day indicates that assessments are quick and cases are escalated effectively and efficiently without delay and drift.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 97.8% of the contacts were completed within 1 working day by the end of Quarter 2 2018/19 compared to 99.8% at the end of Quarter 2 2017/18.
This equates to, 1439 contacts out of 1464, (24 were completed between 24 hours and 72 hours and 3 contacts were completed over 72 hours).

CSC 006	CSC 009
% of contacts completed within 1 working day within the month	% of contacts completed over 3 working days within the month

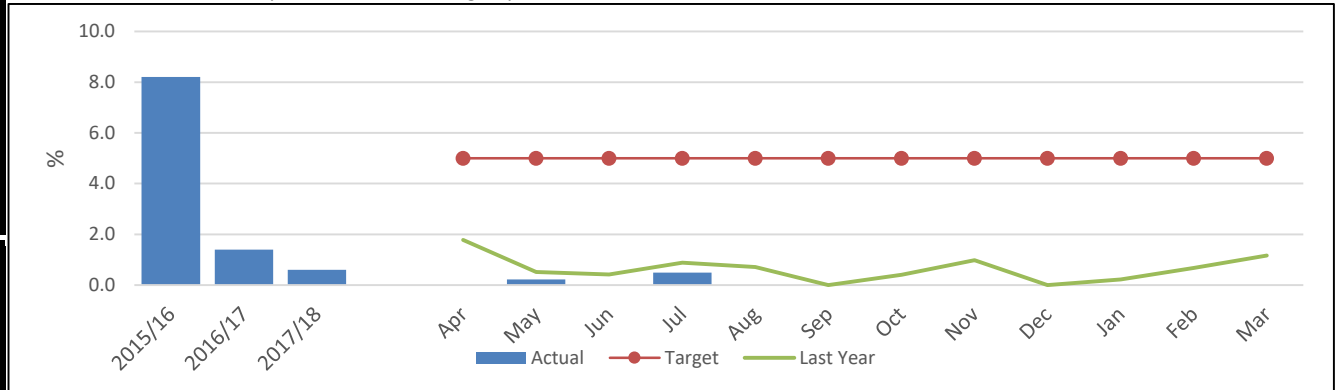
CSC 006: % of contacts completed within 1 working day within the month



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE

Month	Target	CSC 006	CSC 009
Apr-18	95.0	96.0	0.0
May-18	95.0	97.8	0.2
Jun-18	95.0	99.0	0.0
Jul-18	95.0	98.0	0.5
Aug-18	95.0	99.7	0.0
Sep-18	95.0	97.8	0.0
Oct-18			
Nov-18			
Dec-18			
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			

CSC 009: % of contacts completed over 3 working days within the month



Annual Trend

Year	CSC 006	CSC 009
2015/16	84.0	8.2
2016/17	96.6	1.4
2017/18	96.7	0.6
2018/19 YTD	98.0	0.1

REFERRALS

DEFINITION Monthly number of referrals to Children's Social Care and number of referrals started year to date. A contact will be progressed to a referral if it is considered that an assessment and/or service may be required.

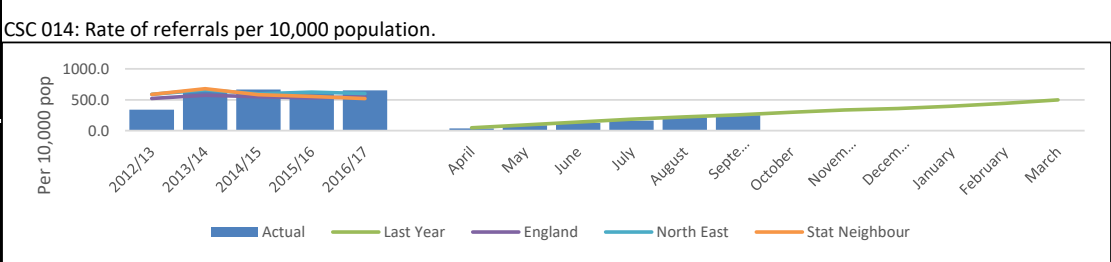
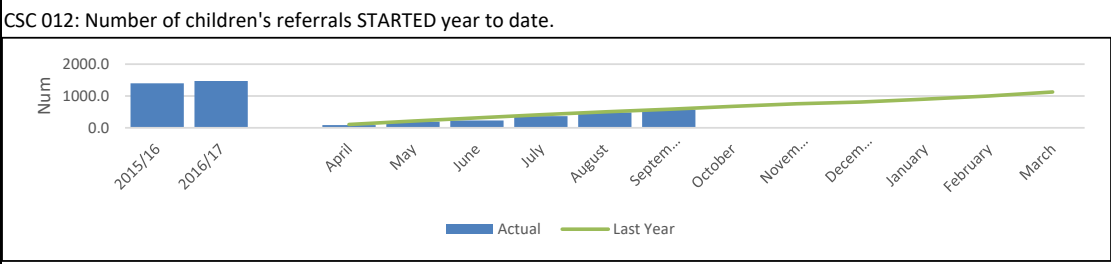
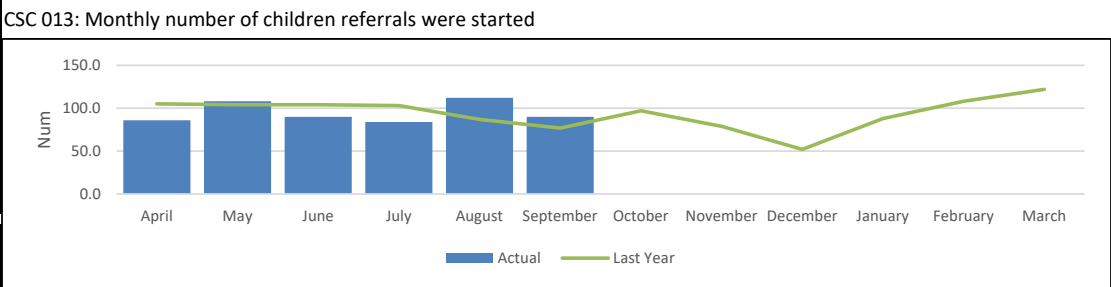
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

286 Children had a referral to Children's Social Care during Quarter 2 2018/19 which is a 7.1% increase from Quarter 2 2017/18 (267). There has been a very slight decrease in the percentage of contacts that led to a referral over Quarter 2 2018/19 when compared to Quarter 2 2017/18; Quarter 2 2017/18 had 267 referrals made from, 1134 contacts (23.5%), Quarter 2 2018/19 had 286 referrals made from, 1464 contacts (19.5%). Quarter 1 and 2 2018/19 have remained very similar in the number of referrals made. In terms of the rate of referrals, as of Quarter 2 there had been 253.1 referrals per 10,000 population. If this rate was maintained for the remainder of 2018/19, it would give a year end rate of 506. This is lower than national (548 per 10,000) and regional (599.6 per 10,000) benchmarks, but similar to statistical neighbours (518.7 per 10,000). Of the 570 children year to date referred to Children's Services in 2018/19, 3.3% (19) have previously had a Child Protection Plan (CPP).

CSC 013	CSC 012	CSC 014
Monthly number of children referrals were started	Number of children's referrals STARTED year to date.	Rate of referrals per 10,000 population.

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	(blank)	(blank)	(blank)
	Apr-18	86	86	38.2
	May-18	108	194	86.2
	Jun-18	90	284	126.1
	Jul-18	84	368	163.4
	Aug-18	112	480	213.2
	Sep-18	90	570	253.1
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			

ANNUAL TREND	2015/16	1398	1398	615.9
	2016/17	1472	1472	650.6
	2017/18	1126	1126	497.6
	2018/19 YTD	570	570	253.1



REFERRALS - TIMELINESS

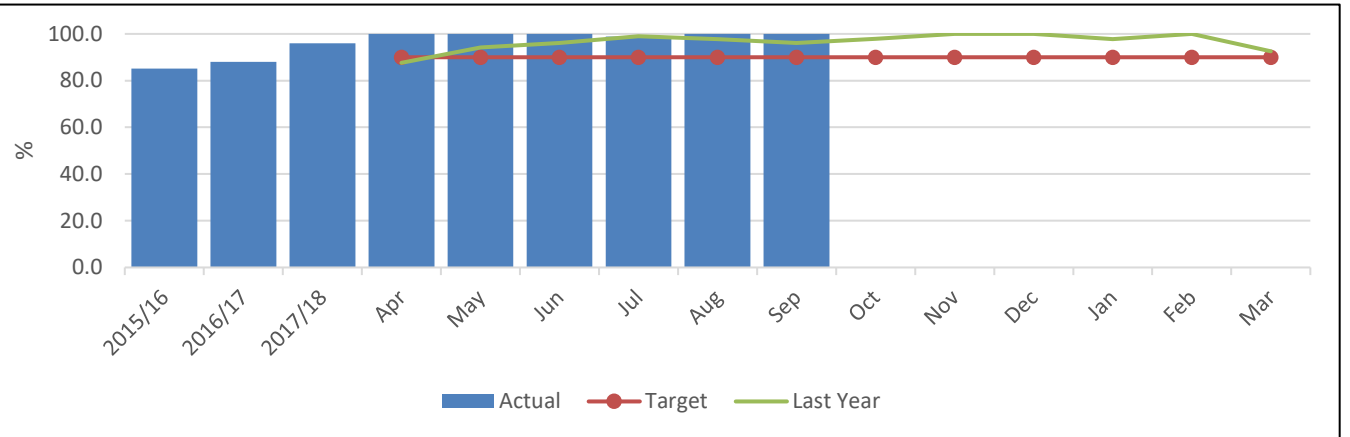
DEFINITION	Percentage of referrals completed within 24 hours and over 72 hours. Referrals completed within 24 hours indicates that decisions regarding the services required are made in a timely manner to minimise drift and delay and to ensure that children are safe.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	99.8% of all referrals were completed within 24 hours by the end of Quarter 2 2018/19, this compares favourably with 95.1% for the same period last year.
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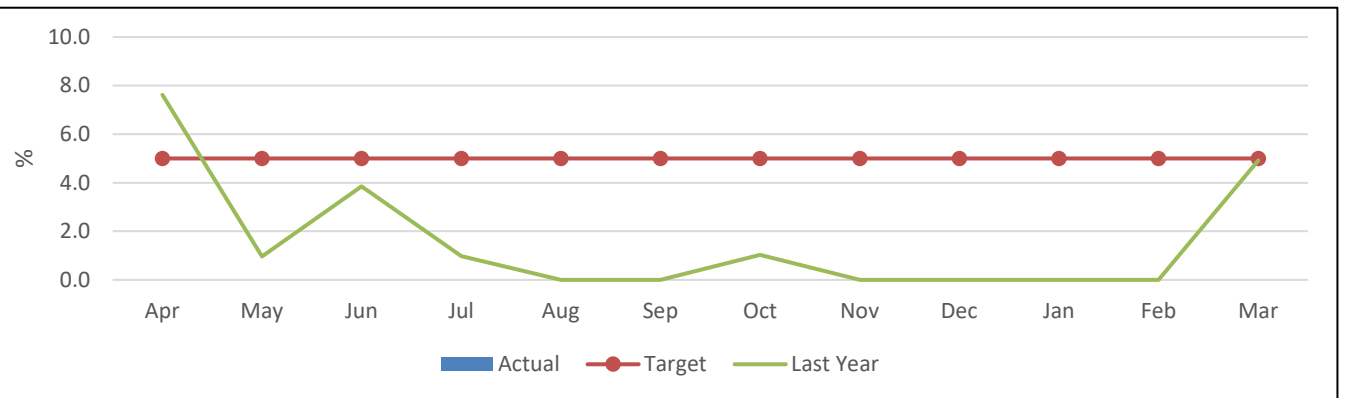
CSC 022	CSC 026
Monthly % of referrals completed within 24 hours.	Monthly % of referrals completed in over 72 hours.

CSC 022: Monthly % of referrals completed within 24 hours.



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90.0	5.0
	Apr-18	100.0	0.0
	May-18	100.0	0.0
	Jun-18	100.0	0.0
	Jul-18	98.8	0.0
	Aug-18	100.0	0.0
	Sep-18	100.0	0.0
	Oct-18		
	Nov-18		
	Dec-18		
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		

CSC 026: Monthly % of referrals completed in over 72 hours.



ANNUAL TREND	2015/16	85.2	
	2016/17	88.0	4.8
	2017/18	96.0	1.8
	2018/19	99.8	0.0

REFERRALS - RE-REFERRALS

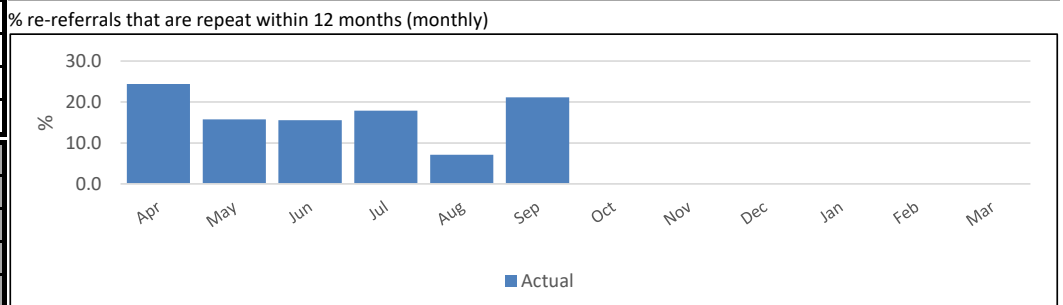
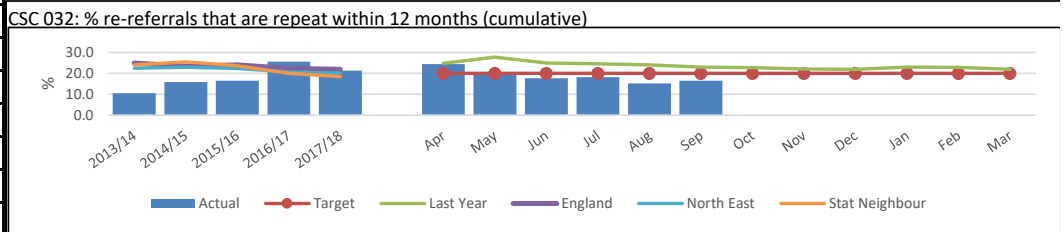
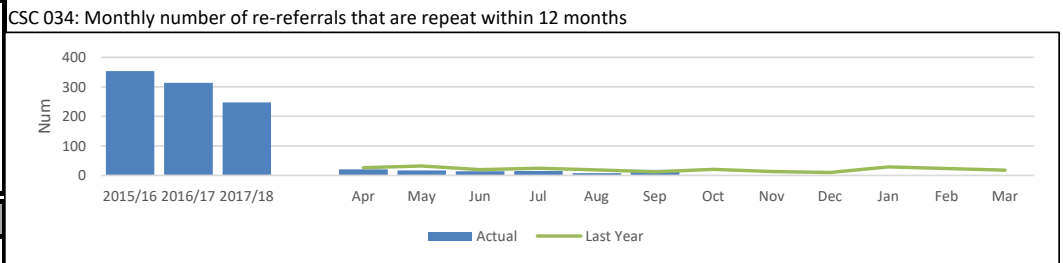
DEFINITION	Percentage of re-referrals that are a repeat referral within 12 months of a previous referral. A re-referral to Children's Social Care could be an indication that the previous referral was inappropriately closed down without addressing the initial concerns or issues.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>42 Children were re-referred during Quarter 2 2018/19 which is a positive decrease of 30.9% from 55 in Quarter 2 2017/18. There has also been a positive 19% decrease in re-referrals from Quarter 1 (52) to Quarter 2 (42).</p> <p>The percentage of re-referrals that are repeated within 12 months has also seen a positive decrease from 22.9% at Quarter 2 2017/18 to 16.5% at the end of Quarter 2 2018/19.</p> <p>Darlington's current rate of re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral is 16.5%, achieving our target of 20% or below, and is lower than the most recent regional (20.1%), statistical (18.5%) and national benchmarks (21.9%).</p> <p>The Service Manager continues to review re-referrals every month to identify any issues or concerns and to feedback actions and outcomes to all Team Managers.</p>
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CSC 034	CSC 032	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (monthly)
Monthly number of re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative)	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (monthly)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	(blank)	20.0	
	Apr-18	21	24.4	24.4
	May-18	17	19.6	15.7
	Jun-18	14	18.3	15.6
	Jul-18	15	18.2	17.9
	Aug-18	8	15.2	7.1
	Sep-18	19	16.5	21.1
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			

ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		16.5	
	2015/16	353	25.6	
	2016/17	314	21.4	
	2017/18	247	21.9	
	2018/19 YTD	94	16.5	



Early Help

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

Early Help:

- Work continues on the development of the Early Help scorecard, which is producing reportable data, but un-validated at this stage. This is providing managers and senior officers with an informed understanding of the work being undertaken, and its impact on the families being supported
- There was an increase in the number of assessments completed by external agencies during August and September
- The use of the success criteria in Early Help allows analysis of the work undertaken and the impact this has against the agreed aims of the interventions being put in place. Although reportable data is only available for September, it is demonstrating that: the number of cases which step up to social care is less than 10%, and those families making progress equates to 72.4% against 13.7% of families that saw no progress or a decline in progress (stepped up to social care). As the data continues to be collected more in depth analysis will be possible
- The percentage of Early Help assessments completed within 15 days is an internal target set at 75%, and will be monitored closely now that the data is available

Missing and CSE

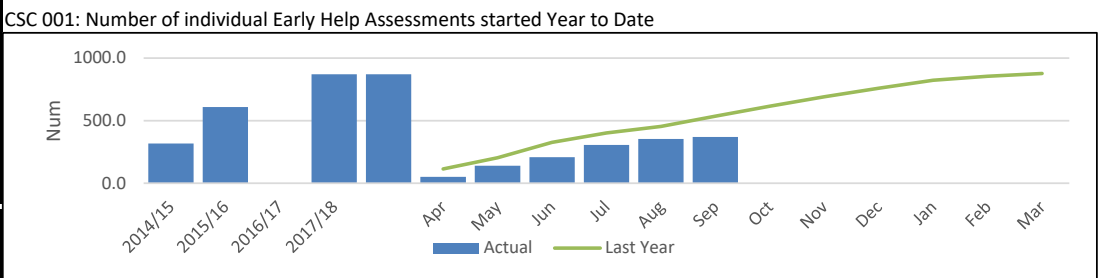
- In Q2 16% (8 children) were not known to services when they were reported missing. Of these the RHI (Return Home Interview) resulted in no further action for of the children and there has been no repeat episodes
- In Q2 88.6% of Missing from Home interviews were completed within 72hours
- Where the coordinator cannot engage the young person the presenting issues are explored with parents, carers, teachers or social workers. Although there has been a slight increase in those interviews not taking place in 72 hours, further analysis has shown that this was due to: police reports not being received in a timely manner
- Barnardo's completed an audit of the quality of the RHI which has resulted in an action plan to improve the quality of recording
- All RHI are shared with the ERASE team, which allows them to identify any themes/patterns in relation to associates, locations and known perpetrators
- All cases where children have regular missing episodes are discussed at the Missing and Exploited Group (MEG) and measures put in place to reduce missing episodes. Action plans to reduce missing episodes are also completed by the Missing Coordinator, and are forwarded to the social worker to consider
- In Q2 the number of missing episodes which involved children placed from other authorities was 20 %. The ERASE team, Barnardo's, Police were alerted as well as the placing authorities regarding these children

EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS - STARTED

DEFINITION Number of individual Early Help Assessments recorded in month and year to date and those of which were initiated by external agencies.

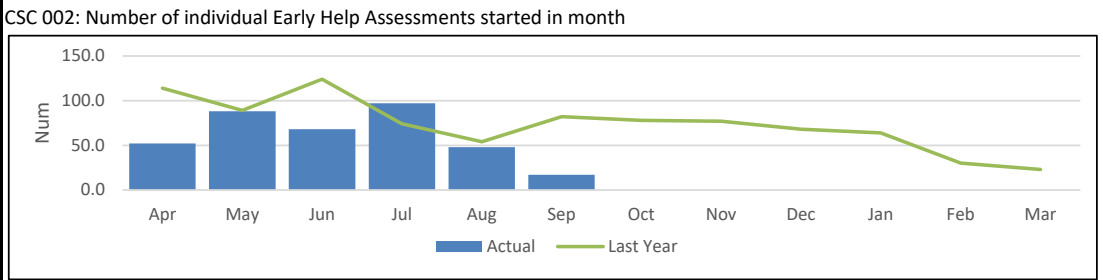
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 162 individual Early Health Assessments were started in Quarter 2 2018/19 with 370 started year to date. Early Help Assessments initiated by external agencies have seen a positive increase of 73.9%, from 23 started in Quarter 2 2017/18 to 40 being started in Quarter 2 2018/19 indicating that external engagement is working and having a positive effect. Up to the end of Quarter 2 115 of the 370 Early Help Assessments recorded were led by external agencies, which equates to 31.1% of all Early Help Assessments.

CSC 001	CSC 002	
Number of individual Early Help Assessments started Year to Date	Number of individual Early Help Assessments started in month	Percentage of the Early Help assessments initiated by external agencies per month

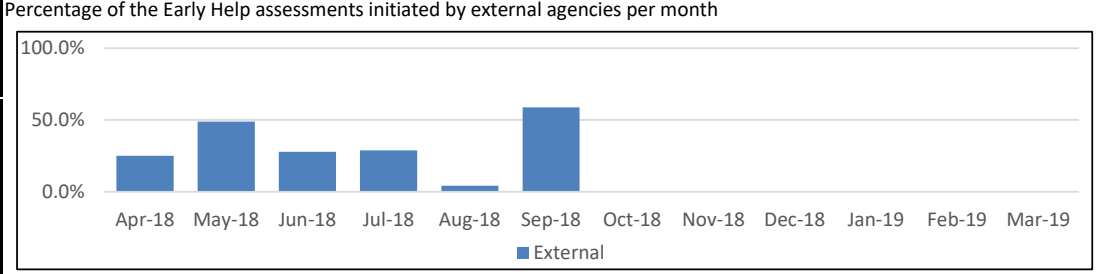


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IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target				30%
	Apr-18	52	52	13	25.0%
	May-18	140	88	43	48.9%
	Jun-18	208	68	19	27.9%
	Jul-18	305	97	28	28.9%
	Aug-18	353	48	2	4.2%
	Sep-18	370	17	10	58.8%
	Oct-18				
	Nov-18				
	Dec-18				
	Jan-19				
	Feb-19				
	Mar-19				



Annual Trend	2014/15	317	317		
	2015/16	608	608		
	2016/17	871	871		
	2017/18	877	877	178	20.3%
	2018/19 YTD	370	370	115	31.1%



MISSING EPISODES

DEFINITION	The number of episodes of children going missing in Darlington, including Looked After Children, Children Looked After by another authority and children who are not currently open to Social Care. The percentage of return home interviews completed within 72 hours.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>99 missing episodes were reported during Quarter 2 2018/19 involving 62 children which is a significant reduction in episodes (28%) and numbers of children (23%) from Quarter 1 2018/19 and a 40.4% reduction in episodes when comparing the episodes during Quarter 2 2017/18 (166 episodes). The number of children Missing over the Quarters is similar at 62 in Quarter 2 2018/19 and 60 in Quarter 2 2017/18. A small number of the 62 children who have been missing are also open to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) services. The missing episodes for the Darlington Looked After population is 44% (13 children) which is a slight decrease from Quarter 1 (14 children). However there are no children who have 10 or more episodes. In Quarter 2 2018/19, 16% (8 children) were not known to services when they were reported missing. Of these the Return Home Interview has resulted in no further action for the children and there have been no repeat episodes. This suggests that the Return Home Interviews have given these young people a voice to explore their risk taking behaviour.</p> <p>There is no significant difference in the number of females/males who are reported missing.</p> <p>In Quarter 2 2018/19 the numbers of missing episodes which involved children from other local authorities placed in Darlington is 20%. The ERASE team, have been alerted and are working with Barnardo's, Police, Local Authority and the placing Local Authorities to ensure the young people in these placements are appropriately placed.</p> <p>Missing from Home interviews have been completed within 72 hours in 88.6% of the cases. Where the coordinator cannot engage the young person they explore the issues with parents, carers, teachers or social workers. There has been a slight increase in those interviews not taking place in 72 hours. This is due to not receiving the report from the police in a timely manner and 2 particular children and their parents who avoided any contact with the Missing from Home Worker. 43% of those that went missing are looked after in residential care.</p> <p>All cases where children have regular missing episodes are discussed at the missing and Exploited Group (MEG) and measures explored to reduce missing episodes.</p>
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	CSC 215	CSC 246									
	Number of Missing Episodes (children)	Number of missing episodes relating to Children Looked After by Darlington Borough Council (children)	Number of missing episodes relating to Children Looked After by Darlington Borough Council placed more than 20 miles from home (children)	Number of missing episodes relating to other children open to Children's Services (children)	Number of missing episodes relating to other children open to Early Help (children)	Missing Episodes for Children of Other Authorities (children)	Missing Episodes for Children Not Currently Open to Social Care (children)	% of Return Home interviews completed within 72 hours (excluding CLA OLA)	Missing episodes where a Return Home interview was completed		
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Apr-18	51 (28)	27 (9)	<5	<5	<5	8 (6)	10 (9)	93.0%	100%	
	May-18	37(18)	23(10)	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	93.9%	100%	
	Jun-18	49 (33)	25 (12)	11 (5)	9 (6)	<5	8 (8)	9	<5	92.7%	100%
	Jul-18	41 (19)	26 (9)	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	94.6%	100%	
	Aug-18	25 (18)	8 (5)	<5	8 (6)	<5	<5	<5	89.5%	100%	
	Sep-18	33 (25)	10 (7)	<5	6 (5)	<5	10 (6)	6	<5	78.3%	100%
	Oct-18										
	Nov-18										
	Dec-18										
	Jan-19										
	Feb-19										
	Mar-19										
	Annual Trend	2014/15									
2015/16											
2016/17											
2017/18											
2018/19 YTD		236 (102)	119 (32)	47 (10)	39 (20)	14 (12)	40 (22)	24 (23)	91.3%	100%	

Assessments

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

Referral to Assessment

- At the end of Q2, 81 (90%) of referrals resulted in a single (children and family) assessment being undertaken. This means that a high percentage of referrals led to an assessment to determine needs and risks, desired outcomes and support required
- During Q2, 234 assessments were completed across all Social Work teams apart from the Looked after through Care team. This is significantly less than the 318 assessments completed in Quarter 1. As a cumulative figure across Quarter 1 and 2, 552 assessments have been undertaken. This is slightly lower than the same figure in 2017/18 at 578
- During Q2, the 234 assessments completed were undertaken by the following teams:
 - Children's First Response team – 199
 - Assessment and Safeguarding teams – 20
 - Life Stages team - 15

Timeliness

- At the end of Q2, the cumulative figure for the completion of assessments within 45 working days year to date was 87%, a slight reduction from the 2017/18 year end performance of 93.3%. This performance is slightly below the target of 90%, however reasons for this are well known by the department. Robust management oversight continues to be in place
- The monthly percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days during Q2 demonstrate month on month improvements to timeliness:
 - July – 84%
 - August – 96.3%
 - September – 97.2%
- All those assessments that have been completed outside of the 45 working day timescale are analysed and the rationale regarding why they were delayed follows:
 - A number of assessments went beyond the timescale due to the young person's non-engagement and also families non-engagement
 - A small number were not completed due to family or Social Worker's availability, during the holiday period

ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

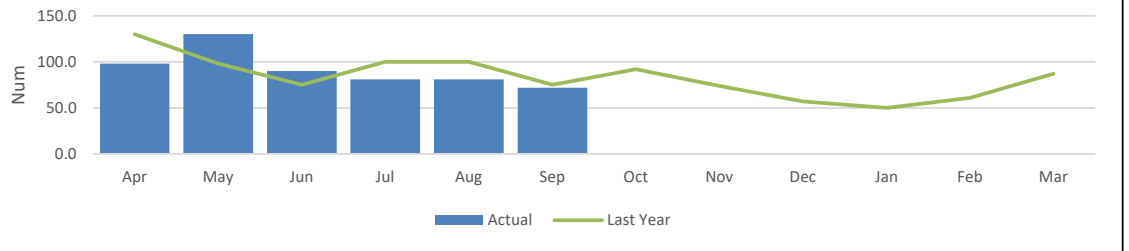
Monthly and cumulative number of assessments completed.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

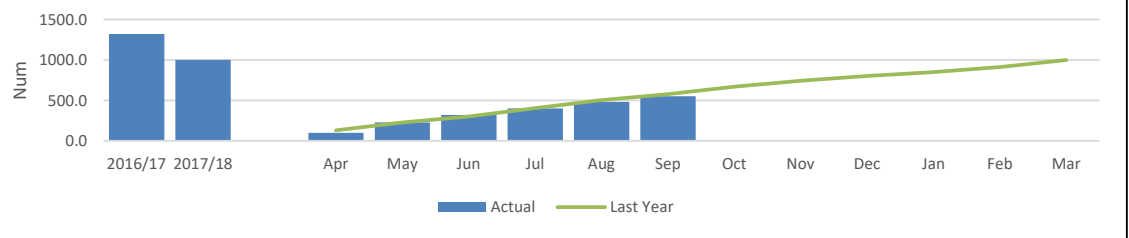
234 assessments were completed during Quarter 2 2018/19, across all Social Work teams. This is a reduction on the 318 assessments completed in Quarter 1 2018/19. 552 assessments had been undertaken year to date.

CSC 037	CSC 036	CSC 035
Monthly number of children & families assessments completed	Number of children & families assessments completed year to date	Rate of Children & Families assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.

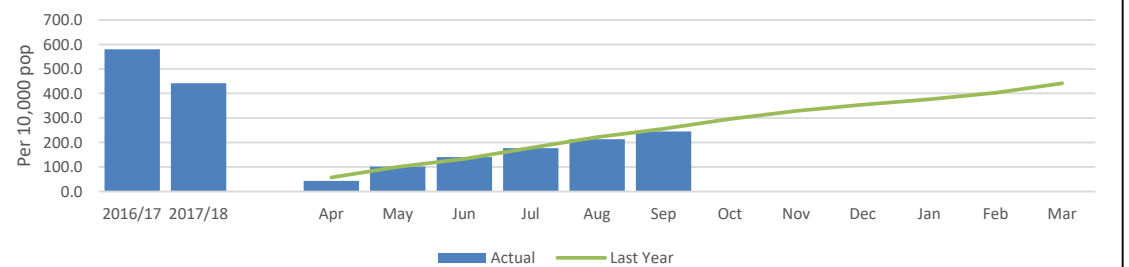
CSC 037: Monthly number of children & families assessments completed



CSC 036: Number of children & families assessments completed year to date



CSC 035: Rate of Children & Families assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE

Target	(blank)	(blank)	(blank)
Apr-18	98	98	43.5
May-18	130	228	101.3
Jun-18	90	318	141.2
Jul-18	81	399	177.2
Aug-18	81	480	213.2
Sep-18	72	552	245.1
Oct-18			
Nov-18			
Dec-18			
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			

ANNUAL TREND

2014/15			
2015/16		1284	565.6
2016/17		1321	579.8
2017/18		999	441.5
2018/19 YTD	552	552	245.1

ASSESSMENTS - TIMELINESS

DEFINITION
 Of those assessments completed in a period, the percentage completed within 45 working days. Day zero is the first working day on or after the start date of the referral, or strategy discussion decided to initiate S47 enquiries, or where new information indicates that an assessment should be undertaken. End date is the first working day on or after the recorded date the Team Manager closes the single assessment.
 A process indicator as a proxy measure for improved child safety and how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. Local authorities should investigate and address concerns in a timely and efficient way.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 87% of assessments were completed within 45 working days at the end of Quarter 2 2018/19, which is an increase from the percentage at the end of Quarter 1 2018/19 (83%).
 It is acknowledged this performance continues to be below the target of 90% and robust management oversight of this is in place. Analysis of the assessments completed outside of the 45 day timeframe is contained within the summary.

CSC 038	CSC 040	CSC 060	CSC 080	CSC 100
% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (Year to date)	Monthly % C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days	Monthly % C&F Assessments completed within 25 working days	Monthly % C&F Assessments completed within 15 working days	Monthly % C&F Assessments completed within 10 working days

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90%	90%	60%	40%	25%
	Apr-18	89.3	89.3	30.6	20.4	13.5
	May-18	85.1	84.6	39.2	26.2	19.2
	Jun-18	83.0	77.8	43.3	27.8	18.9
	Jul-18	83.2	84.0	40.7	17.3	12.4
	Aug-18	85.4	96.3	35.8	19.8	13.6
	Sep-18	87.0	97.2	37.5	13.9	1.4
	Oct-18					
	Nov-18					
	Dec-18					
	Jan-19					
	Feb-19					
	Mar-19					

2015/16	77.0	77.0	43.0	27.0	21.0
2016/17	93.0	93.0	58.0	40.0	33.0
2017/18	93.3	93.3	53.5	33.6	22.9
2018/19 YTD	87.0	87.0	37.9	22.3	15.5

Child Protection

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

Strategy Discussions

- In Q2 151 strategy discussions were held. This is slightly lower than the same period in 2017/18 (154). However, the cumulative figure year to date is 319 compared to 240 for this same period in 2017/18, which represents a significant increase
- As a cumulative figure year to date:
 - Children's First Response team held 55.5% of strategy discussions
 - Assessment and Safeguarding teams held 42.3% of strategy discussions
 - The Looked After Through Care team held 1.9% of strategy discussions
 - The Life Stages team held 0.3% of strategy discussions

Section 47 Enquiries

- The number of Section 47 enquiries started in Q2 was 148. This is significantly higher than this same period in 2017/18 at 98. As a cumulative figure, the number of Section 47 enquiries started year to date was 298, compared to 174 in the same period in 2017/18.
- The outcome of Section 47 enquiries that have been started in Quarter 1 and 2 is summarised as follows:
 - Continue to single assessment (63.1%)
 - Continue to Initial Child Protection Conference (34.1%)
 - Became Looked After (2.8%)

Child Protection Conferences

- At the end of Q2, the cumulative figure for Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) being held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/ Section 47 being initiated was 98%. The rationale for missed timescales is analysed each month. Performance is still higher than benchmarks – NE – 85.7%, Statistical Neighbour – 87.94%, England – 77.2%
- Throughout Q2, 59 children were discussed at ICPC. Across Quarter 1 and 2, this figure is 118. This is higher than this period in 2017/18 (83)

Child Protection Plans

- At the end of Q2, 99 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan, slightly higher than the end of Q2 2017/18 at 91. This equates to a rate of 44.0 per 10,000 of the 0 – 17 population. The figure is in line with the England (43.3%), but is still under the Statistical Neighbour (53.87) and NE (60.6)
- All CP cases were allocated to a qualified Social Worker throughout Q2. All CP plans were reviewed within timescales throughout Quarter 2.
- Of those children who are subject to a Child Protection plan:
 - 32% have been subject to a CP plan for under 3 months
 - 33% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 3 months but less than 6 months
 - 27% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 6 months but less than 1 year
 - 7% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 1 year but less than 2 years
 - 0% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 2 years
- There are no children who have been subject to a CP plan for longer than 2 years. This compares favourably with benchmarks from 2017 as the NE – 3.8%, Statistical Neighbour – 3.8% and England – 3.4%
- Throughout Q1 and 2, 113 children ceased to be subject to a CP plan. An example of the rationale as to why they were removed from a CP plan can be provided when September 2018 cases are analysed. In this month 25 children were removed from a CP plan. Of these 25:
 - 17 were stepped down to Child In Need
 - 8 were stepped up and their status changed to that of being a Looked After Child
- At the end of Q2, the figure for children becoming subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 or more years of a previous plan was 7.2%. This is higher than this period last year at 4.3%. All children who fall into this category have their cases analysed by a Head of Service. A number of the children that are in this cohort have now had their cases escalated into the Letter Before Proceedings process, and there are a number where care proceedings have been issued.

Statutory Visits

- At the end of Q2, the cumulative percentage of CP statutory visits that were completed across both Quarters within the internally set 10 working days (some LA's have visits at 15 days) was 80.4%. This Quarter has seen a drop in the timeliness of achieving all CP visits within this timescale. 94.2% of visits were completed within 15 days
- All statutory visits that are not undertaken within timescales are analysed by the Head of Service, and all reasons are known and acted upon.
- Assurances that children are being seen regularly, and even if one visit is not within the 10 working day frequency, they have been seen routinely and are seen soon after this timescale. In addition, children are seen by other professionals frequently in between Social Work visits at nursery, school, health appointments and other Children's Social Care employees such as the Early Help teams when they are working with a family to offer

services such as parenting support. One example is that a statutory visit was 1 day out of timescale but the children were seen the day before by a Social Worker from the Early Help team.

STRATEGY

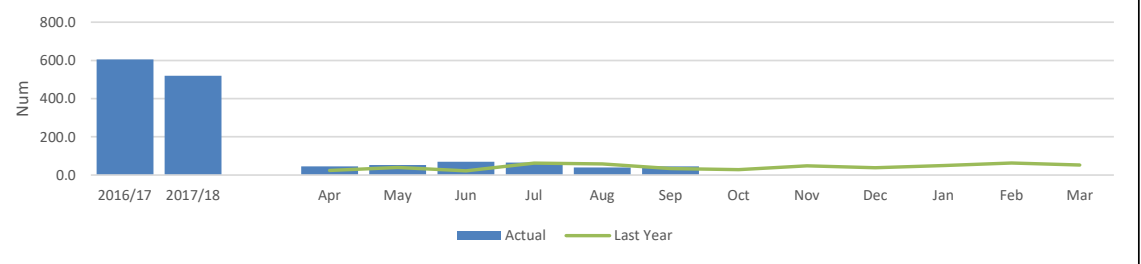
DEFINITION The number of strategy discussions started within the month and cumulatively throughout the year.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 151 strategy discussions were started in Quarter 2 2018/19 giving a year to date total of 319 strategy discussions. This is a 32.9% increase when comparing to the same period last year (240).

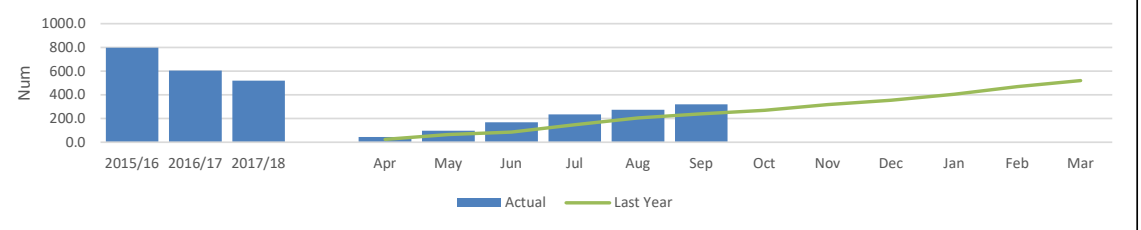
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	CSC 163	CSC 162	CSC 161
	Monthly number of strategy discussions started (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)	Total number of strategy discussions started (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)	Rate of strategy discussions per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE			
Target	(blank)	(blank)	(blank)
Apr-18	45	45	20.0
May-18	53	98	43.5
Jun-18	70	168	74.6
Jul-18	66	234	103.9
Aug-18	40	274	121.7
Sep-18	45	319	141.7
Oct-18			
Nov-18			
Dec-18			
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			
ANNUAL TREND			
2014/15			322.9
2015/16	796	796	363.9
2016/17	605	605	267.4
2017/18	520	520	229.8
2018/19 YTD	319	319	141.7

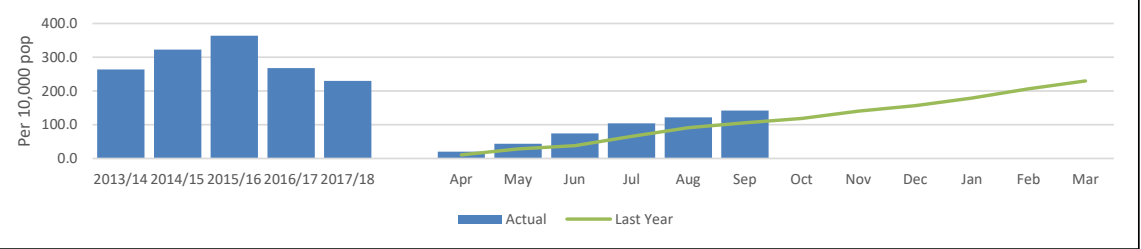
CSC 163: Monthly number of strategy discussions started (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)



CSC 162: Total number of strategy discussions started (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)



CSC 161: Rate of strategy discussions per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)



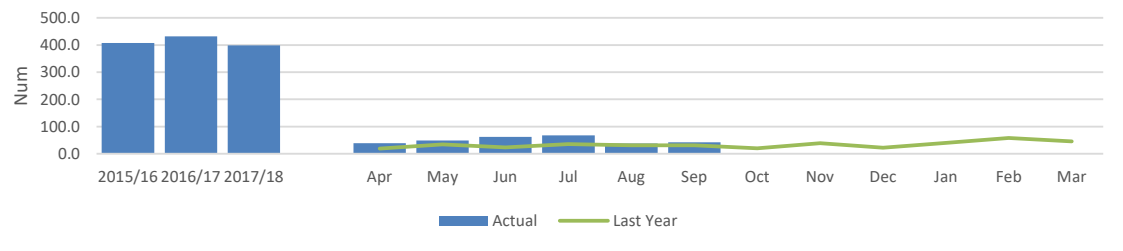
SECTION 47

DEFINITION Number of Section 47 enquiries started monthly and year to date.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 148 Section 47 enquires were started during Quarter 2 2018/19, an increase of 51% from the 98 started during Quarter 2 2017/18. The year to date figure of 298 is an increase of 71.2% compared to the same period last year (174).

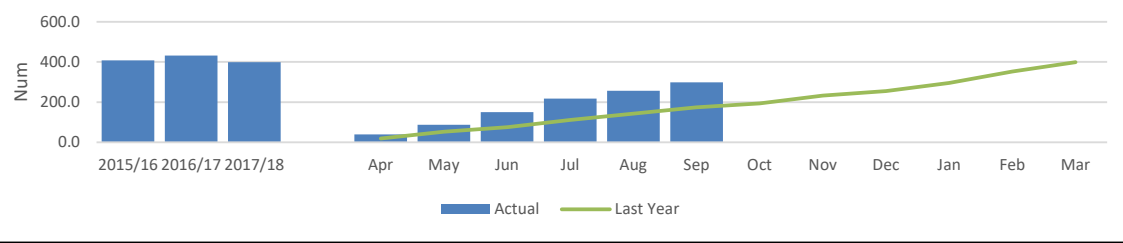
CSC 166	CSC 165	CSC 164
Monthly number of section 47 enquires started (CPP)	Number of section 47 enquires started within the year (CPP)	Rate of section 47 enquiries completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (CPP)

CSC 166: Monthly number of section 47 enquires started (CPP)

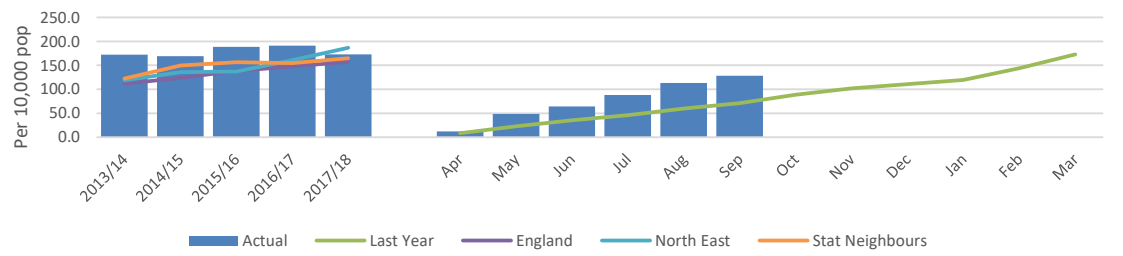


IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	(blank)	(blank)	(blank)
	Apr-18	39	39	12
	May-18	49	88	48
	Jun-18	62	150	64
	Jul-18	68	218	88
	Aug-18	38	256	113
	Sep-18	42	298	128
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
Mar-19				

CSC 165: Number of section 47 enquires started within the year (CPP)



CSC 164: Rate of section 47 enquiries completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (CPP)



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15			138.2
	2015/16	408	408	188.6
	2016/17	432	432	190.9
	2017/18	399	399	172.8
	2018/19 YTD	298	298	128

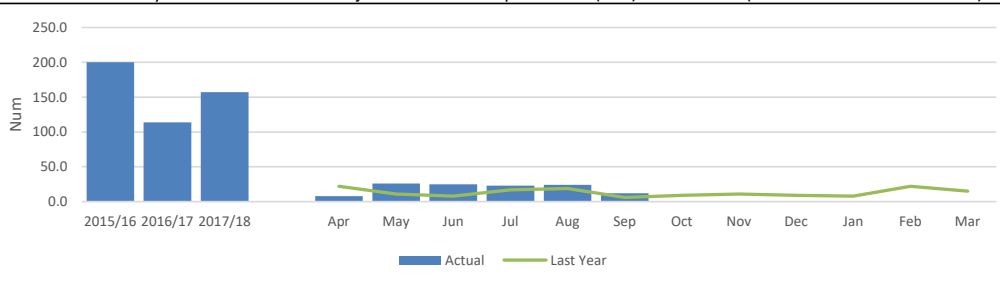
INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - CHILDREN

DEFINITION	Number of children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference monthly and year to date (including transfer in conferences).
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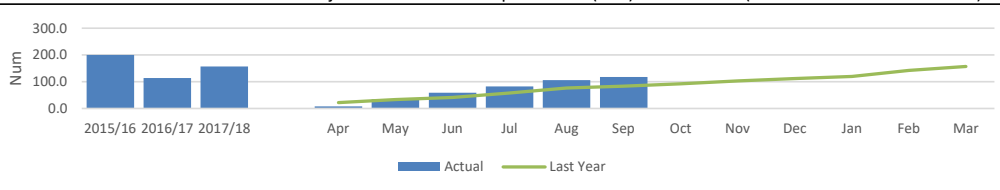
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	59 children were subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) during Quarter 2 2018/19 an increase of 40.4% compared with the same period last year. Year to date, 118 children have been the subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) an increase of 42.1% compared with the same period last year. This coincides with an increase in Strategy discussions and Section 47's.
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	CSC 172	CSC 171	CSC 173
	Monthly number of children subject of Initial child protection (CPP) conferences (inc. Transfer in Conferences)	Total number of children subject of an initial child protection (CPP) Conferences (inc. Transfer in Conferences)	Rate of initial child protection (CPP) conferences per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.

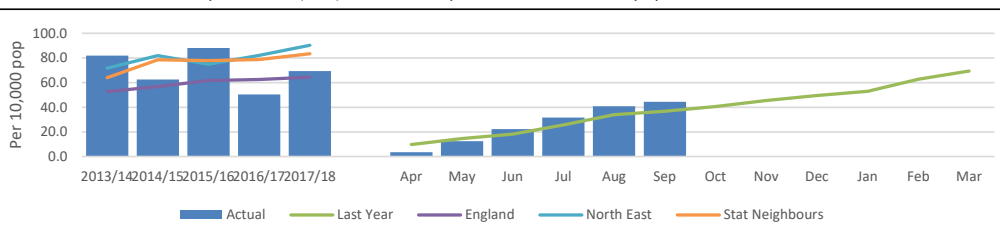
CSC 172: Monthly number of children subject of Initial child protection (CPP) conferences (inc. Transfer in Conferences)



CSC 171: Total number of children subject of an initial child protection (CPP) Conferences (inc. Transfer in Conferences)



CSC 173: Rate of initial child protection (CPP) conferences per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	(blank)	(blank)	(blank)
	Apr-18	8	8	3.6
	May-18	26	34	12.4
	Jun-18	25	59	22.2
	Jul-18	23	82	31.5
	Aug-18	24	106	40.9
	Sep-18	12	118	44.4
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			

ANNUAL TREND	2014/15			62.6
	2015/16	200	200	88.1
	2016/17	114	114	50.4
	2017/18	157	157	69.4
	2018/19 YTD	118	118	44.4

INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - TIMELINESS

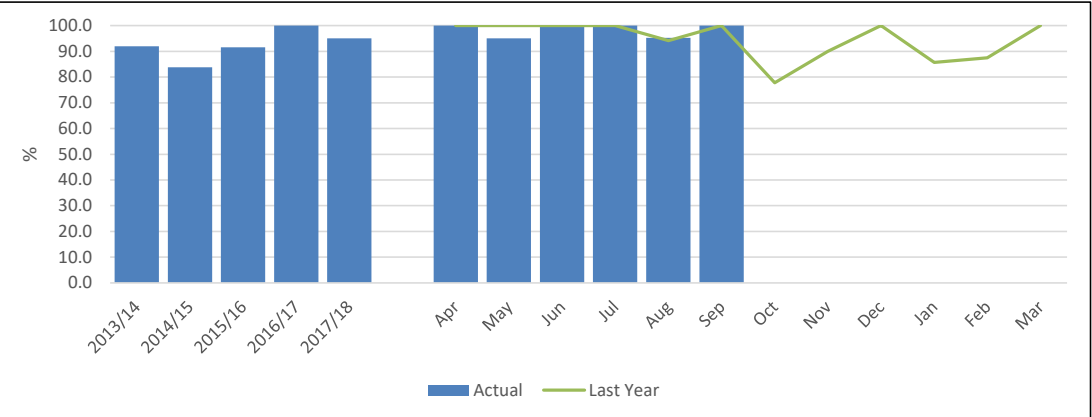
DEFINITION
 Of those ICPCs held within the period (excluding transfer ins), the percentage held within 15 working days of the S47 enquiry.
 Provides an indication of how quickly the safety of children who are judged to be continuing to, or likely to suffer significant harm is being considered by a multi-agency meeting.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 At the end of Quarter 2, the cumulative figure for Initial Child Protection Conferences being held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/section 47 being initiated was 98%, this figure is comparable to the same point at Quarter 2 2017/18.
 The rationale for missed timescales is analysed each month, Performance remains high than the following benchmarks:

- North East average – 85.7%
- Statistical Neighbour average – 87.94%
- England average – 77.2%

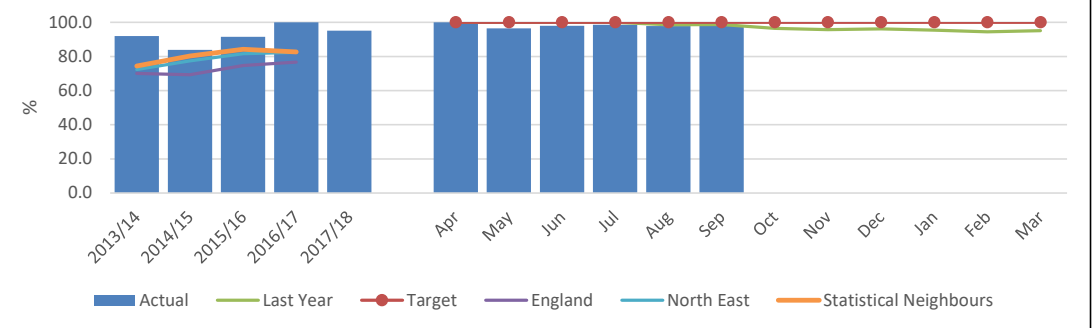
CSC 178	CSC 176
Monthly % of cases recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook where Child Protection strategy meeting / S47 start to initial child protection conference (ICPC) are within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences.	% of cases where the initial child protection conference (ICPC) was within 15 days of the initiating strategy discussion / S47 start recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook (CPP). This EXCLUDES transfer-in conferences. Year to Date

CSC 178: Monthly % of cases recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook where Child Protection strategy meeting / S47 start to initial child protection conference (ICPC) are within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences.



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	(blank)	100.0	
	Apr-18	100.0	100.0	100.0
	May-18	95.0	96.4	96.4
	Jun-18	100.0	98.0	98.0
	Jul-18	100.0	98.6	98.6
	Aug-18	95.2	97.8	97.8
	Sep-18	100.0	98.0	98.0
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
Mar-19				

CSC 176: % of cases where the initial child protection conference (ICPC) was within 15 days of the initiating strategy discussion / S47 start recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook (CPP). This EXCLUDES transfer-in conferences. Year to Date



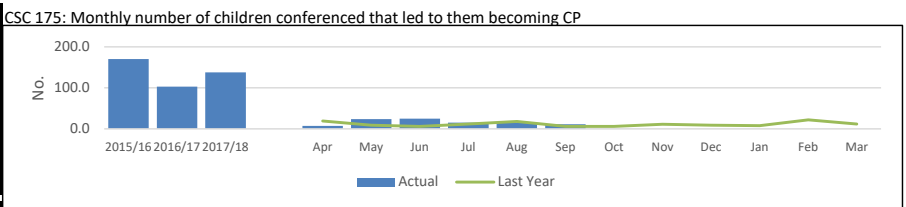
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	83.8	83.8
	2015/16	91.5	91.5
	2016/17	100.0	100.0
	2017/18	95.0	95.0
	2018/19 YTD	98.0	98.0

INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - CONVERSION TO CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

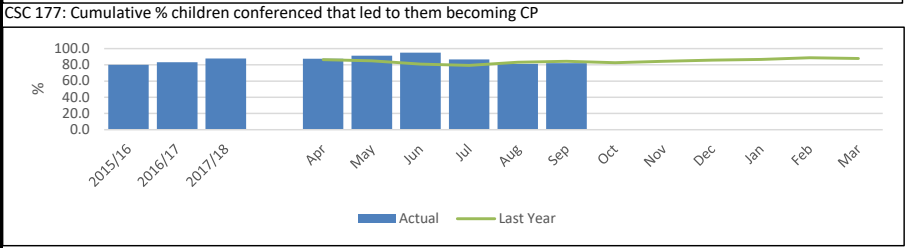
DEFINITION	Number and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan following an Initial Child Protection Conference (including transfers in).
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>69% which is 41 of the 59 children, who had an Initial Child Protection Conferences in Quarter 2 2018/19 became subject to a Child Protection Plan (69%). This is a reduction from the same period last year of 85.7% (36/42).</p> <p>In July 2018, 8 children were the subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference that did not result in a Child Protection Plan. Analysis by the Head of Service was that it was correct to have multi-agency consideration at Conference but that the decision not to progress to a Child Projection Plan was correct.</p> <p>In August 2018, 9 children were the subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference that did not result in a Child Protection Plan. Analysis by the Head of Service was that it was correct to have multi-agency consideration at Conference but that the decision not to make a Child Projection Plan was correct.</p> <p>Of the 18 children / young people in Quarter 2 2018/19 who did not become subject to a Child Protection Plan, Child In Need Plans were agreed in all cases.</p> <p>82% which is 97 of the 118 children who had an Initial Child Protection Conferences year to date became subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is a slight reduction of the year to date percentage of 84.3% in 2017/18.</p>
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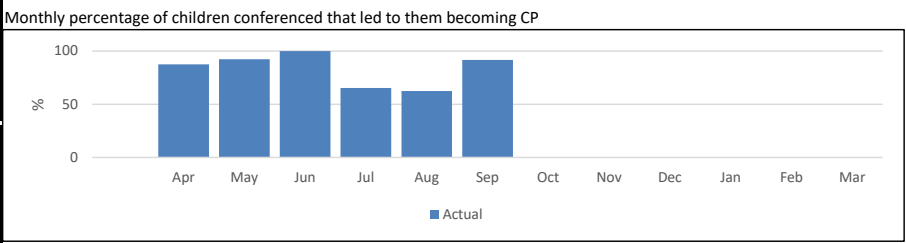
CSC 175	CSC 177	Monthly percentage of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP
Monthly number of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP	Cumulative % children conferenced that led to them becoming CP	Monthly percentage of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target			
	Apr-18	7	87.5	87.5
	May-18	24	91.2	92.3
	Jun-18	25	94.9	100.0
	Jul-18	15	86.6	65.2
	Aug-18	15	81.1	62.5
	Sep-18	11	82.2	91.7
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			



2015/16	170	80.0	
2016/17	103	83.3	
2017/18	138	87.9	80.0
2018/19 YTD	97	82.2	62.5



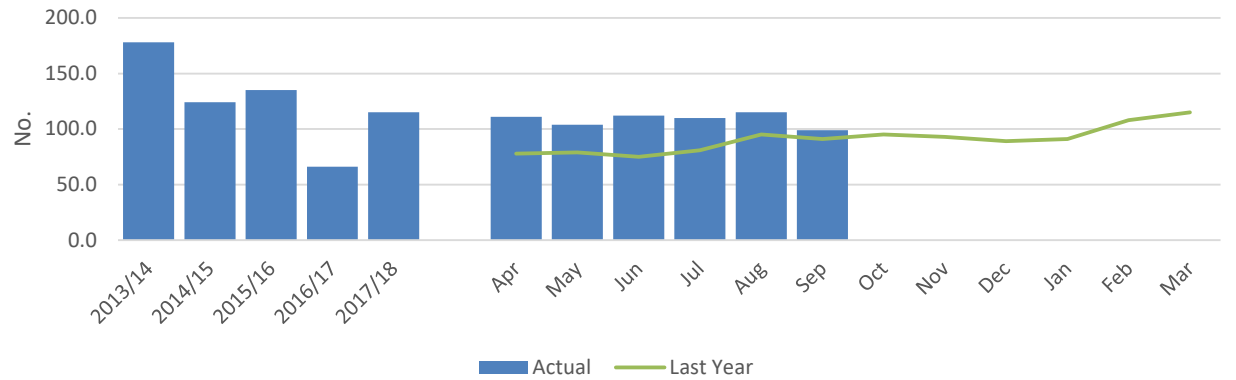
CHILD PROTECTION

DEFINITION	Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of the month.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	In Quarter 2, 99 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan compared to 91 children in Quarter 2 2017/18, an increase of 8.8%. Quarter 2 has seen a reduction of 11 children (13%) since end of Quarter 1.
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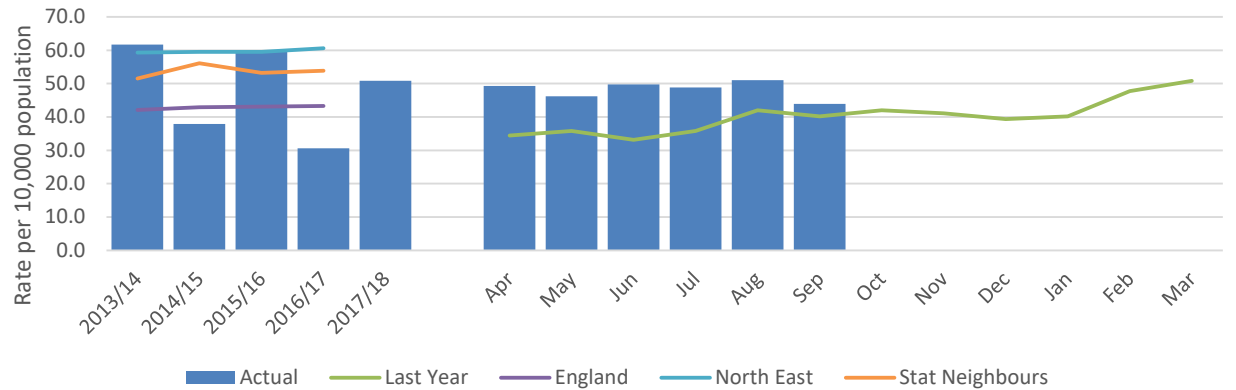
	CSC 182	CSC 181
	Number of children subject to a child protection plan	Rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population

CSC 182: Number of children subject to a child protection plan



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target		
	Apr-18	111	49.3
	May-18	104	46.2
	Jun-18	112	49.7
	Jul-18	110	48.9
	Aug-18	115	51.1
	Sep-18	99	44.0
	Oct-18		
	Nov-18		
	Dec-18		
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
Mar-19			

CSC 181: Rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	124	37.9
	2015/16	135	59.5
	2016/17	66	29.2
	2017/18	115	50.8
	2018/19 YTD	99	44.0

CHILD PROTECTION - ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

The percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of the month and who at that date had had a Plan continuously for at least the previous 3 months, whose case was reviewed within the required timescales.

Reviews are a key element in delivering Child Protection Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions. This indicator is a proxy for the measurement of effectiveness of the interventions provided to children subject to a Child Protection Plan. "Working Together to Safeguard Children" guidance requires that the first review should be within 3 months of the initial child protection conference and thereafter at intervals of no more than 6 months.

**PERFORMAN
CE ANALYSIS**

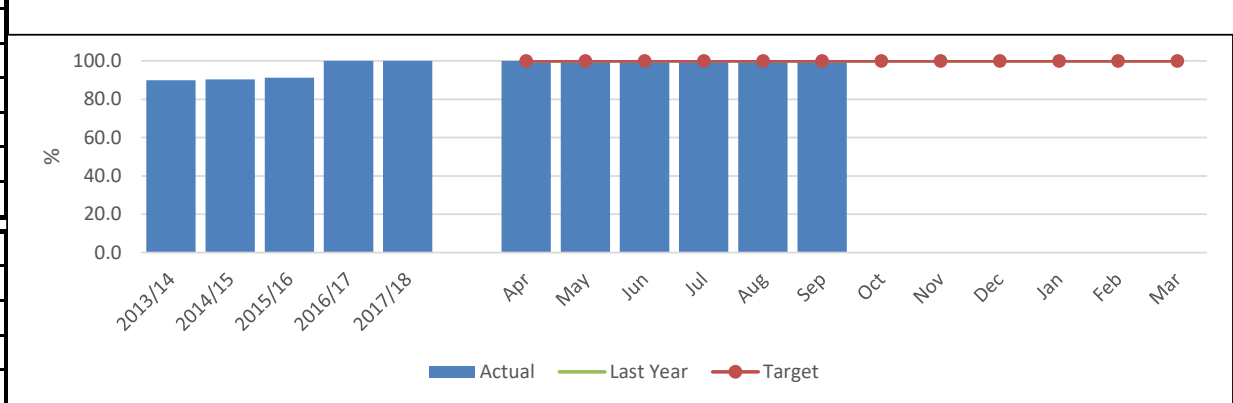
100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified Social Worker.
100% Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales. This is higher than Regional (95%), National (92%) and Statistical Neighbours (95%).

CSC 183	CSC 191
% Child Protection cases allocated to a qualified Social Worker	% of Children who were subject of a child protection plan whose case was reviewed within the required timescales.

CSC 183: % Child Protection cases allocated to a qualified Social Worker



CSC 191: % of Children who were subject of a child protection plan whose case was reviewed within the required timescales.



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IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	CSC 183	CSC 191
	Apr-18	100.0	100.0
May-18	100.0	100.0	100.0
Jun-18	100.0	100.0	100.0
Jul-18	100.0	100.0	100.0
Aug-18	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sep-18	100.0	100.0	100.0
Oct-18			
Nov-18			
Dec-18			
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			

ANNUAL TREND	CSC 183	CSC 191
2014/15		90.3
2015/16	100.0	91.2
2016/17	100.0	100.0
2017/18	100.0	100.0
2018/19 YTD	100.0	100.0

CHILD PROTECTION - TIME PERIODS

DEFINITION	<p>Percentage of children ceasing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan who had been subject to a Plan for 2 or more years and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for the 2nd or subsequent time.</p> <p>These indicators reflect the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to all children not needing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan within a maximum of two years, or becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.</p>
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>At the end of Quarter 2 the figure for children becoming subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending was 7.2%. (This relates to 7 children.) All children who fall into this category have their cases analysed by a Head of Service to determine if the previous plan was managed in a satisfactory manner, and also to determine whether the presenting issues are similar or different when episodes are compared. Any themes that arise are used as learning points.</p>
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		CSC 186	CSC 188	CSC 189	
		% children ceasing to be subject of a CPP who had been subject to a CPP for 2 or more years (Cumulative)	% of children becoming subject to a CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time within 2 years of a previous plan ending in the month (Cumulative)	% of children becoming subject to a CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time ever (Cumulative)	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	5.0			<p>CSC 186: % children ceasing to be subject of a CPP who had been subject to a CPP for 2 or more years (Cumulative)</p> <p>CSC 188: % of children becoming subject to a CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time within 2 years of a previous plan ending in the month (Cumulative)</p> <p>CSC 189: % of children becoming subject to a CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time ever (Cumulative)</p>
	Apr-18	0.0	0.0	0.9	
	May-18	7.1	3.2	18.3	
	Jun-18	5.1	12.5	23.2	
	Jul-18	4.0	9.9	19.1	
	Aug-18	3.5	8.1	19.1	
	Sep-18	3.5	7.2	22.2	
	Oct-18				
	Nov-18				
	Dec-18				
	Jan-19				
	Feb-19				
	Mar-19				
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	0.6	2.4		
	2015/16	3.3	6.0	14.0	
	2016/17	0.0	1.9	10.6	
	2017/18	0.0	6.5	19.1	
	2018/19 YTD	3.5	7.2	22.2	

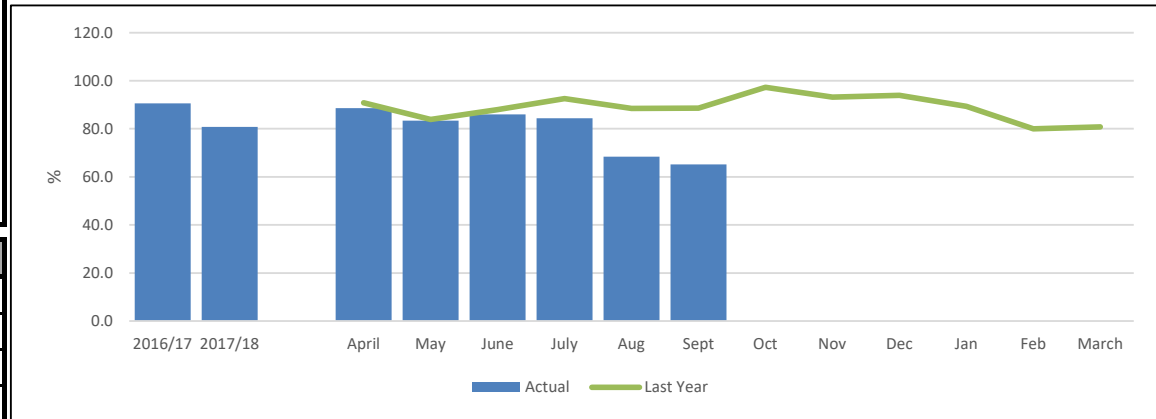
CHILD PROTECTION - STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan who had all statutory visits carried out within timescales and percentage of Child Protection statutory visits completed within timescale monthly and year to date.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 80.4% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within timescale at the end of Quarter 2.

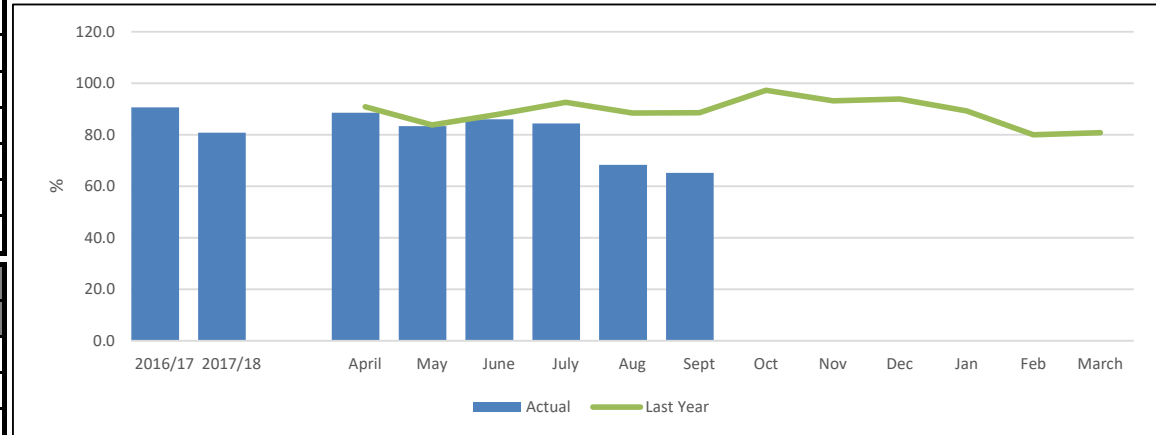
CSC 252a	CSC 252b
% Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale within the month	% Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale year to date

CSC 252a: % Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale within the month



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target		
	Apr-18	88.6	88.6
	May-18	83.4	86.1
	Jun-18	86.0	86.1
	Jul-18	84.4	85.5
	Aug-18	68.4	82.8
	Sep-18	65.2	80.4
	Oct-18		
	Nov-18		
	Dec-18		
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
Mar-19			

CSC 252b: % Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale year to date



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		
	2015/16		
	2016/17	85.6	85.6
	2017/18	80.8	88.9
	2018/19 YTD	80.4	80.4

Looked After Children

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

At the end of Quarter 2, the number of Children in Care was 254 which represents an increase of 39 children from the 2017/18 year end figure of 215.

Analysis

- A total of 55 children became looked after during Quarter 2. However, 33 children became looked after in July, all which have been analysed by Head of Service to determine assure Snr Managers that there was sufficient threshold for these children to become looked after
- The themes that were apparent in the majority of the 33 children and young peoples' cases were domestic abuse, substance (alcohol and drugs) misuse, parental mental health, registered sex offenders being in the family home, chronic neglect, chaotic lifestyles, and parental violence towards others. There were a small number of cases identified specifically for the older cohort who may have been prevented from being brought into care had there been an Edge of Care service available
- Head of Service approval to accommodate was evident for all the children and young people in this cohort, and also of legal meetings taking place to discuss the safeguarding of the children and determine threshold for removal of children from their parents. All decisions to accommodate the children and young people were appropriate. In a small number of cases such as the young person who was remanded and those children who were taken into Police Protection, the decision to accommodate was made by another organisation using their legislative powers

Allocated Social Workers, timeliness of reviews and permanence plans

- 100% of Children in Care had an allocated Social Worker
- At the end of Quarter 2, 98.7% of Children in Care had a Looked After Review completed within timescales.
- All Children in Care had a permanence plan at the second Looked After Review, which has consistently been 100% year to date
- All children who were subject to a Placement Order but had not yet been adopted have a plan in place to secure their permanence via adoption or a revocation of the Placement Order due to unsuccessful family finding. As can be seen in the Child Protection summary there are currently 3 sets of proceedings to revoke Placement Orders that are in the process of being issued

Timeliness of visits

- At the end of Q2, 90.1% of all statutory visits to Children in Care had been carried out in timescale. All visits that are not carried out within timescales are analysed to determine the reason. The following represent the reasons why visits were not completed in timescale:
 - The holiday period has affected the ability to see children as they have been away on summer breaks
 - There have been a number of young people who have been avoidant and are not at home when the Social Worker has arranged to visit
- Head of Service oversight and assurance is provided as previously highlighted within the Child Protection summary. Children and young people are being seen routinely but not always within the timescale set. No child or young person has been unseen for an unacceptable period of time. In addition, nurseries, schools, health professionals and Early Help colleagues do routinely see children in care alongside the Social Workers

Placement stability and distance from home

At the end of Q2:

- The percentage of children with 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months positively reduced to 8.7%, which is an improvement on the 2017/18 year end performance of 9.8%, and exceeds the target set of 10%
- The percentage of children who had been in their current placement for 2 years or more who had been in care for 2½ years or more was 63.1%, which is a slight reduction from the 2017/18 year end of 65.1%. This is due to a change in the denominator for this indicator, as at the end of Q1 the figure was 64.1% which represented 41 children out of 64, and the end of Q2 the 63.1% represents 41 children out of 65
- The percentage of children placed 20 miles or more away from home was 10.1%, meeting the target of 10%. This is an improvement on the 2017/18 year-end performance of 12%

Health and dental

- Year to date, 94.2% of Initial Health Review forms had been returned to Health within 7 working days
- At the end of Quarter 2, 47.5% of children have had a Review Health Assessment. Of those children that are due a Review Health Assessment, 93.6% have been carried out in timescale
- At the end of Quarter 2, 46.2% of children have had a dental check. Of those children that are due a dental check, 78.5% have been carried out in timescale

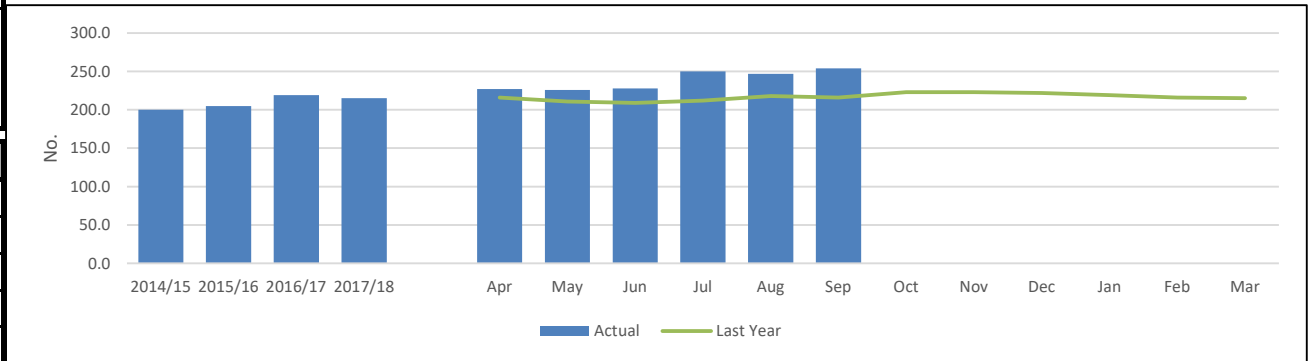
LOOKED AFTER

DEFINITION Number of Looked After Children at the end of each month.

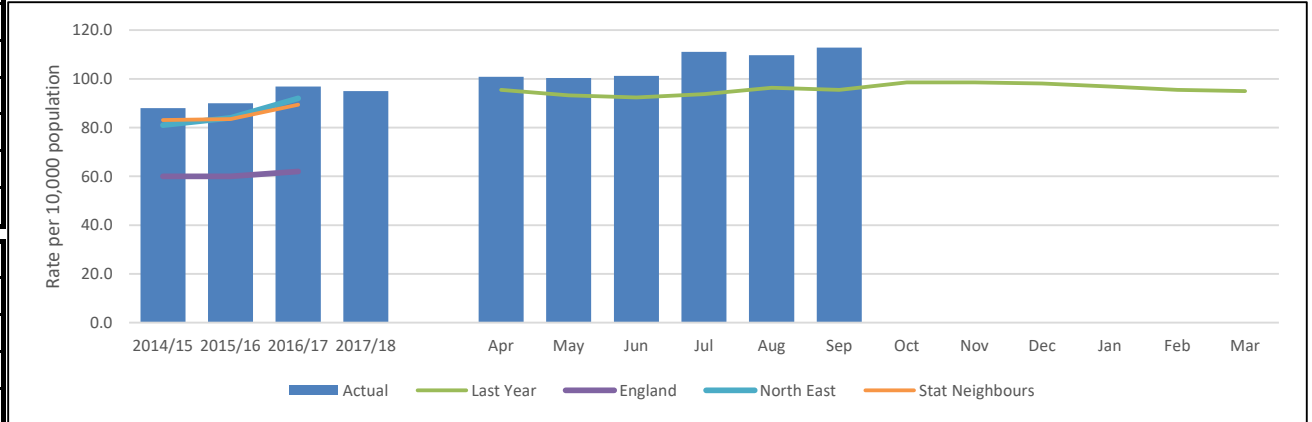
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 254 children are currently Looked After as at the end of Quarter 2.
 The rate of Looked after Children per 10,000 population is currently at 112.8 which is higher than the national rate (62 per 10,000), regional (92 per 10,000) and statistical neighbours (89.4 per 10,000) benchmarking figures.

CSC 201	CSC 200
Total number of Looked After Children	Rate of Looked After Children Per 10,000 population

CSC 201: Total number of Looked After Children



CSC 200: Rate of Looked After Children Per 10,000 population



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target			
	Apr-18	227	100.8	
	May-18	226	100.4	
	Jun-18	228	101.3	
	Jul-18	250	111.0	
	Aug-18	247	109.7	
	Sep-18	254	112.8	
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
Jan-19				
Feb-19				
Mar-19				

ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	200	88.0
	2015/16	205	90.0
	2016/17	219	96.8
	2017/18	215	95.0
	2018/19 YTD	254	112.8

LOOKED AFTER - ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

The percentage of Looked After Children cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time during the year and the percentage of Looked After Children cases that were allocated to a qualified social worker at the end of the month.

To improve compliance with local authorities' legal requirements under the Review of Children's cases Regulations 1991. The purpose of the review is to consider the plan for the child's welfare, to monitor the progress of the plan and amend it as necessary in light of changed information and circumstances. The statutory intervals are within 20 working days of placement, then within 3 months and 6 monthly thereafter, but reviews may be rescheduled or held inside these intervals if there are significant changes to the child's care plan.

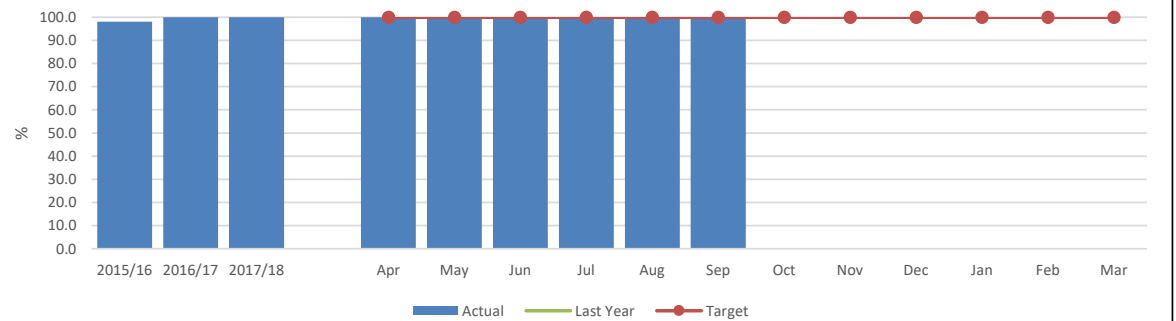
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

100% of Looked After Children were allocated to a qualified Social Worker during Quarter 2.
 98.7% of Looked After reviews had been completed within required timescales which is 232 out of 235.

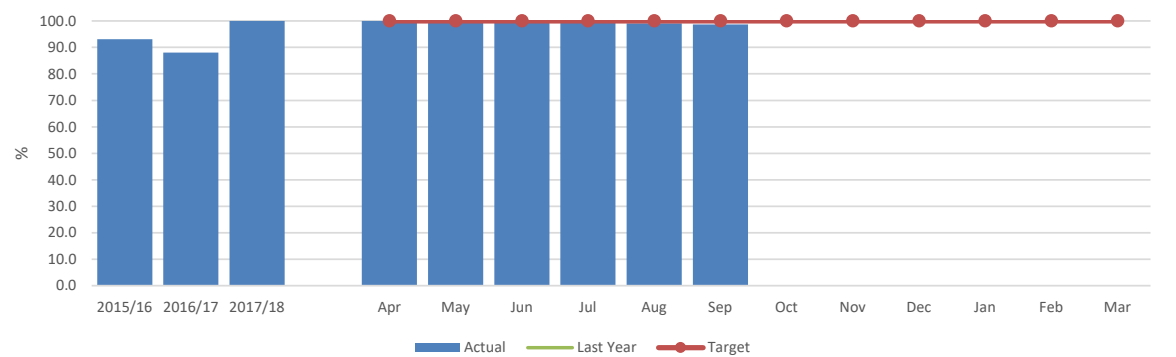
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		CSC 227	CSC 218
		% Looked After Children allocated to a qualified Social Worker	% of Looked After Children whose reviews had been completed within required timescales
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	100.0	100.0
	Apr-18	100.0	100.0
	May-18	100.0	100.0
	Jun-18	100.0	100.0
	Jul-18	100.0	100.0
	Aug-18	100.0	99.1
	Sep-18	100.0	98.7
	Oct-18		
	Nov-18		
	Dec-18		
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		92.3
	2015/16	98.1	93.1
	2016/17	100.0	88.0
	2017/18	100.0	100.0
	2018/19 YTD	100.0	99.6

CSC 227: % Looked After Children allocated to a qualified Social Worker



CSC 218: % of Looked After Children whose reviews had been completed within required timescales



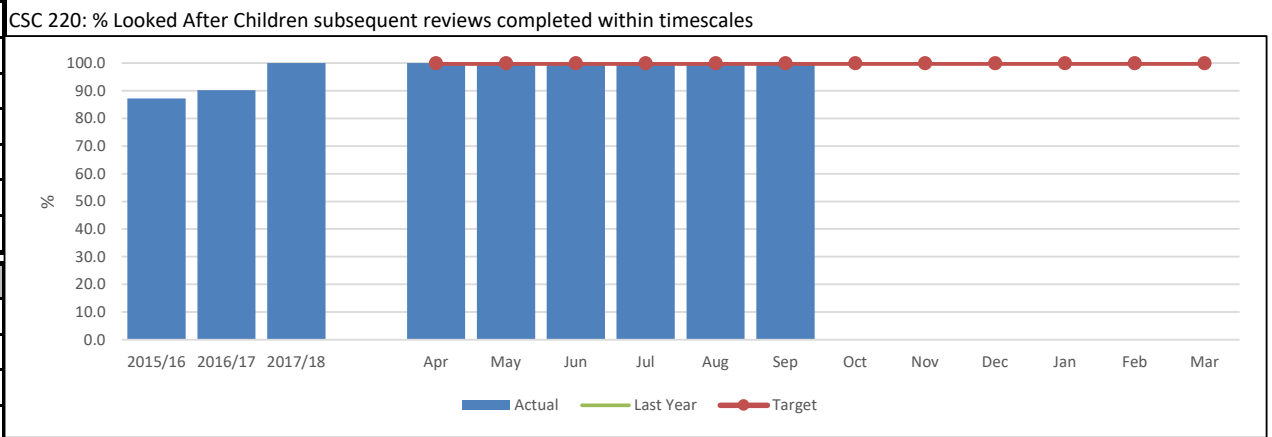
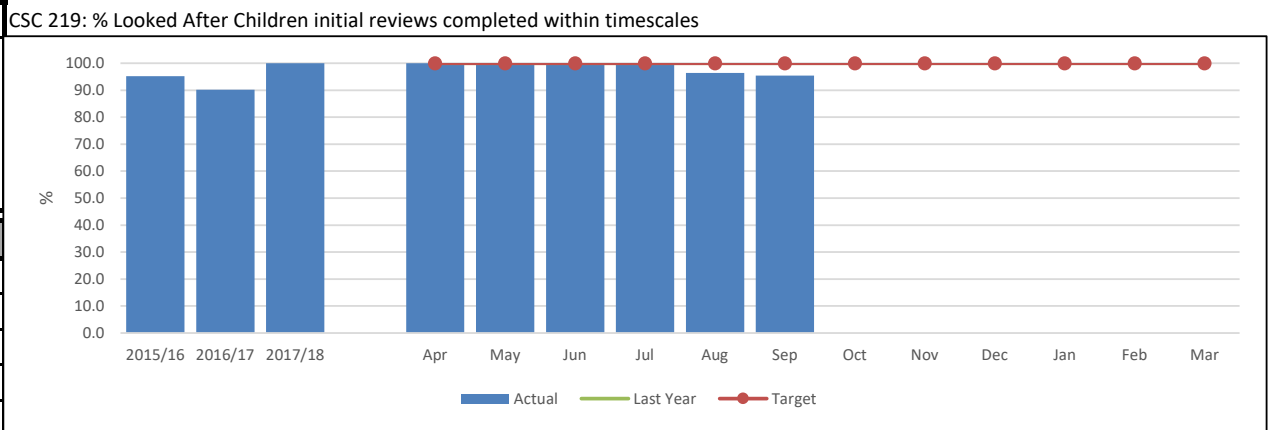
LOOKED AFTER - REVIEWS

DEFINITION Percentage of the current Looked After Children who had had their initial reviews and all of their subsequent reviews completed within the required timescales.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 62 of 65 Looked After reviews (95.4%) had been completed within required timescales as at end of Quarter 2.

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		CSC 219	CSC 220
		% Looked After Children initial reviews completed within timescales	% Looked After Children subsequent reviews completed within timescales
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	100.0	100.0
	Apr-18	100.0	100.0
	May-18	100.0	100.0
	Jun-18	100.0	100.0
	Jul-18	100.0	100.0
	Aug-18	96.4	100.0
	Sep-18	95.4	100.0
	Oct-18		
	Nov-18		
	Dec-18		
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		
	2015/16	95.2	87.3
	2016/17	90.1	90.2
	2017/18	100.0	100.0
	2018/19 YTD	98.6	100.0

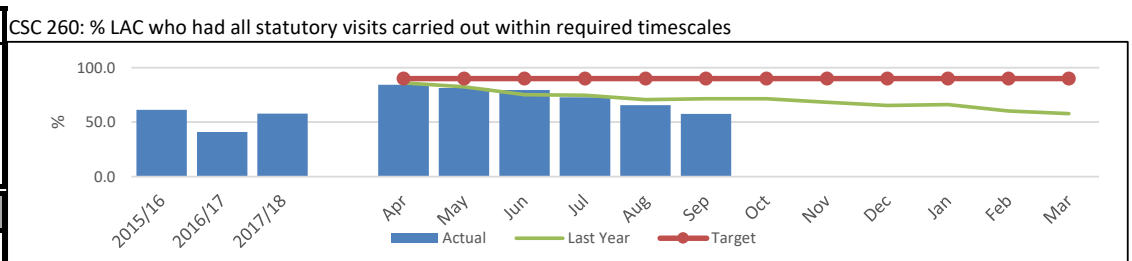


LOOKED AFTER - STATUTORY VISITS

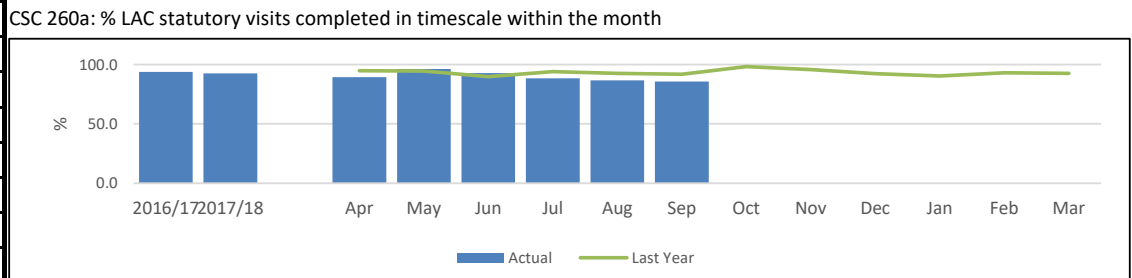
DEFINITION	Percentage of Looked After Children who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales and percentage of Looked After statutory visits completed within timescales each month and year to date.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	At the end of Quarter 2, 90.1% of all statutory visits to children in care had been carried out in timescale across both Quarter 1 and 2.
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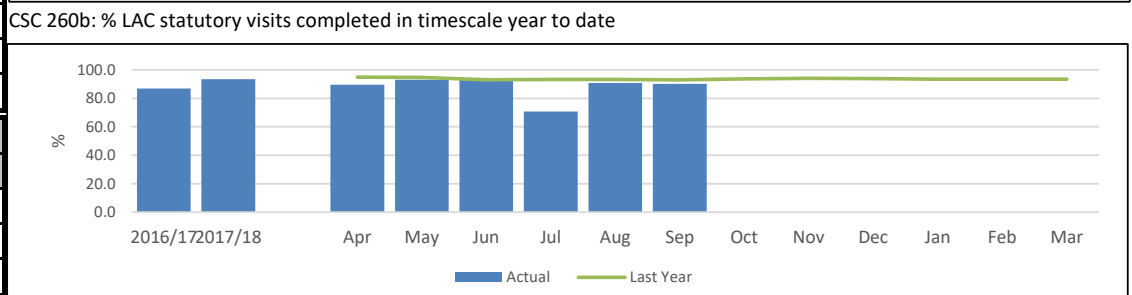
CSC 260	CSC 260a	CSC 260b
% LAC who had all statutory visits carried out within required timescales	% LAC statutory visits completed in timescale within the month	% LAC statutory visits completed in timescale year to date



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90.0		
	Apr-18	84.2	89.5	89.5
	May-18	81.3	96.3	93.1
	Jun-18	79.4	92.7	93.0
	Jul-18	72.8	88.5	70.7
	Aug-18	65.6	86.8	90.7
	Sep-18	57.7	85.8	90.1
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
Mar-19				



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	65.9		
	2015/16	61.3		
	2016/17	41.0	93.8	86.9
	2017/18	57.8	92.6	93.4
	2018/19 YTD	57.7	90.1	90.1



LOOKED AFTER - PLACEMENTS

DEFINITION

Of those Looked After Children at the point in time (excluding series of short-term placements), the percentage that had 3 or more separate placement in the previous 12 months; who had been in their current placement for 2 or more years. and who were placed more than 20 miles away from their home address.

On the whole stability is associated with better outcomes, placement instability has been highlighted as a key barrier to improving educational outcomes. Proper assessment and an adequate choice of placements to meet the varied needs of different children are essential if appropriate stable placement are to be made. Inappropriate placements often break down and lead to frequent moves. Nevertheless, the circumstances of some individual children will require 3 or more separate placements during a year if they and others are to be kept safe.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

8.7% (22) of children in care in Quarter have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is in line with benchmark data of 9.5% for Statistical Neighbours and 10% National.

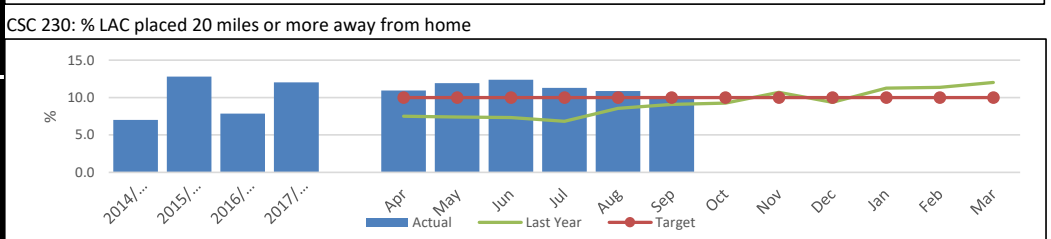
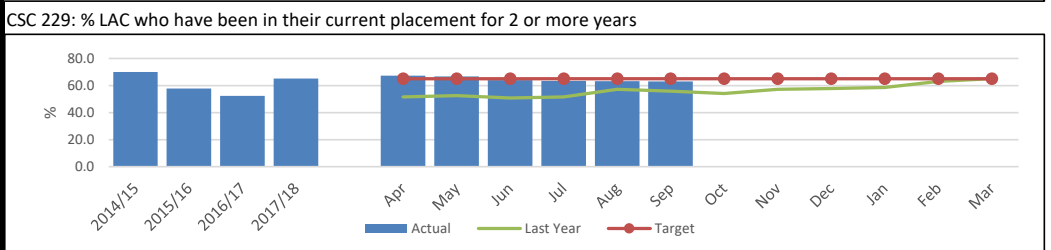
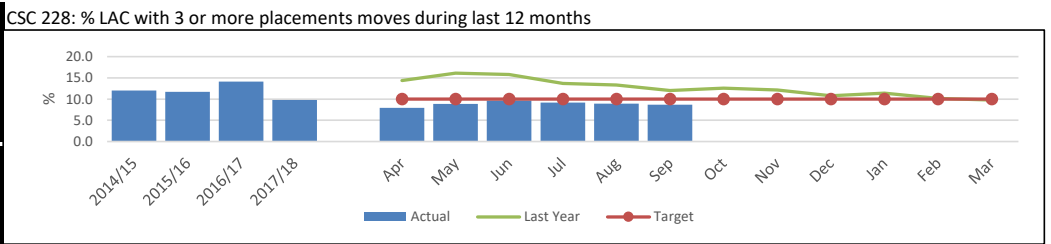
In Quarter 2, 2018/19, 63.1% (41 out of 65) of children aged under 16 and Looked After (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is an improvement of 7.4% from Quarter 2, 2017/18 which was 55.7%. Benchmarking data for 17/18 for statistical neighbours is 71.8% and nationally 70%, therefore this remains a focus for improvement.

10.1% (25 out of 247) of children have been placed 20 or more miles away from home in Quarter 2, 2018/19. This is comparable to Quarter 2, 2017/18 which was 9.1%.

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CSC 228	CSC 229	CSC 230
% LAC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months	% LAC who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years	% LAC placed 20 miles or more away from home

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	10	65	10.00
	Apr-18	7.9	67.2	11.0
	May-18	8.9	66.7	11.9
	Jun-18	9.7	64.1	12.4
	Jul-18	9.2	63.5	11.3
	Aug-18	8.9	63.2	10.9
	Sep-18	8.7	63.1	10.1
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 YTD
% LAC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months	12.0	11.7	14.1	9.8	8.7
% LAC who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years	70.0	57.8	52.4	65.1	63.1
% LAC placed 20 miles or more away from home	7.0	12.8	7.8	12.0	10.1

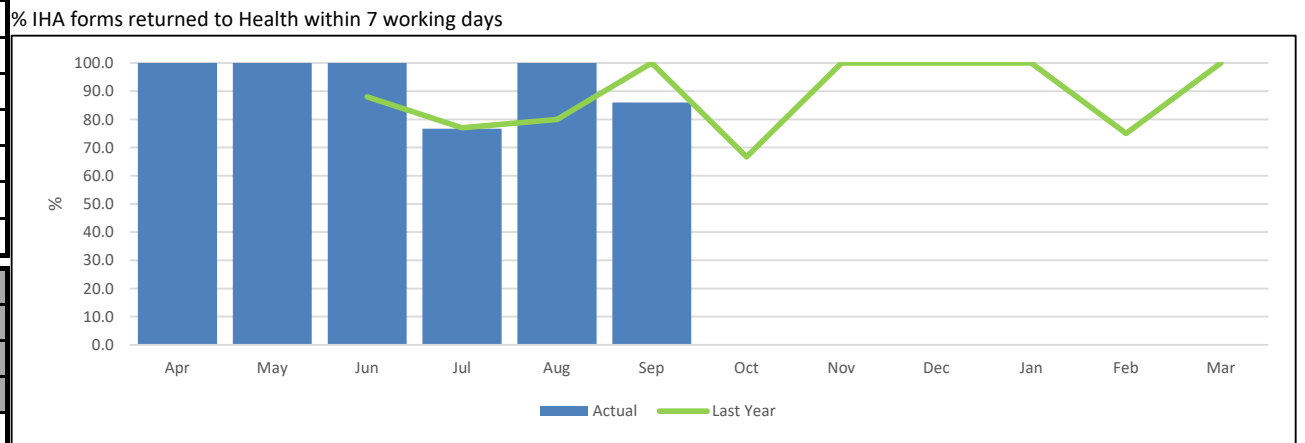
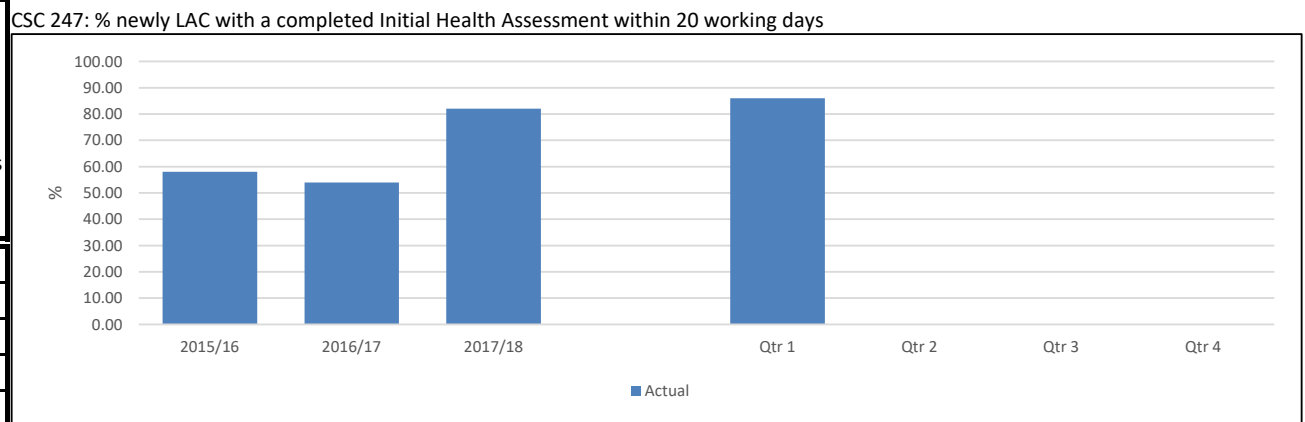
LOOKED AFTER - INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child becoming Looked After year to date, and percentage of IHA forms returned to Health within 7 working days.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

42 of the 51 IHA were returned within 7 days in Quarter 2. The reasons for the delay have been reviewed.

The IHA guidance is circulated to all teams on a regular basis in order for staff to be aware of the requirements and timescales and the Service Manager closely reviews timescales as they are approaching deadline in order to prompt workers to ensure the forms are returned in timescale. Data from Health is not yet available for September 18 data.



	CSC 247	
	% newly LAC with a completed Initial Health Assessment within 20 working days	% IHA forms returned to Health within 7 working days
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		
Apr-18		100
May-18		100
Jun-18	86	100
Jul-18		77
Aug-18		100
Sep-18		86
Oct-18		
Nov-18		
Dec-18		
Jan-19		
Feb-19		
Mar-19		
ANNUAL TREND		
2014/15		
2015/16	58.0	
2016/17	54.0	
2017/18	82.0	
2018/19 YTD	86.0	94.2

LOOKED AFTER - HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

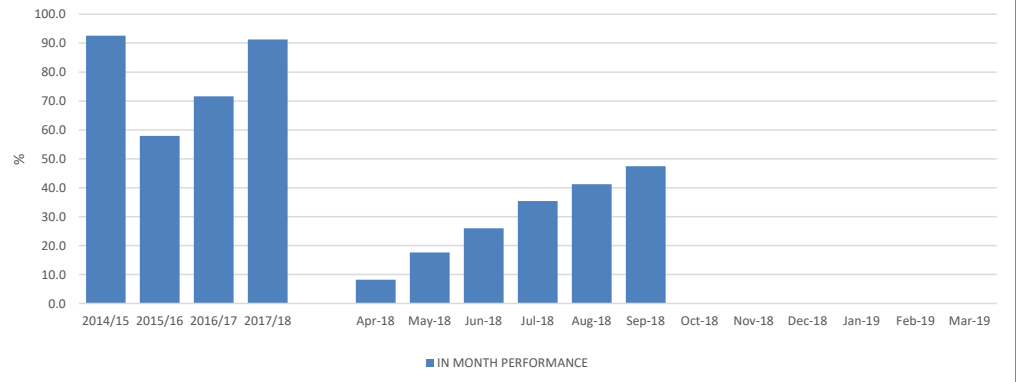
DEFINITION
 Of the children in care at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed and the percentage who have an up to date Health Check.
 Looked After Children share many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, but often to a greater degree. These indicators track the participation of our Looked After Children in health as a proxy for monitoring the general health and wellbeing of the children, as well as providing a check on the effectiveness of joint working with Health to secure good health outcomes for Looked After Children.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 At the end of Quarter 2, 47.5% of children have had a Review Health Assessment. Of those children that are due a Review Health Assessment, 93.6% have been carried out in timescale.

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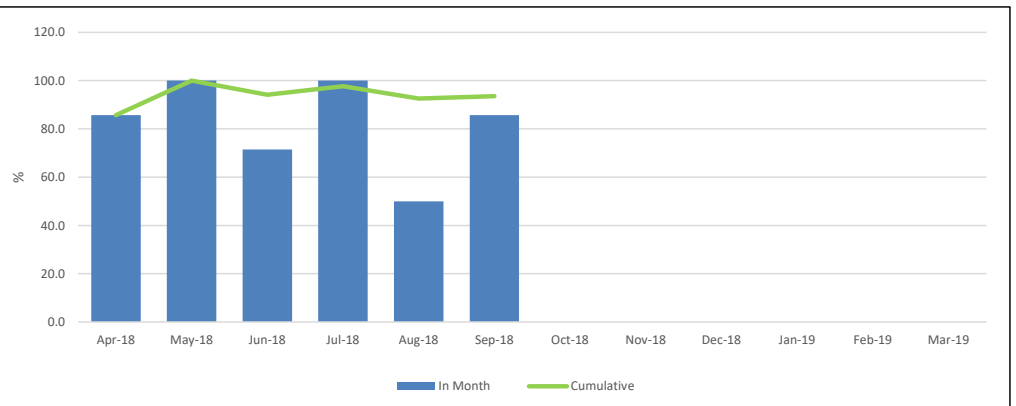
CSC 250	CSC 250a	CSC 250b
% of Looked After Children (LAC) with up to date Health Checks (CLA 1 yr +)	The % of Looked After Children (LAC for 1y+) who were due a Review Health Assessment in the month and was completed in month.	The % of Looked After Children (LAC for 1y+) who were due a Review Health Assessment and was completed (cumulative)

CSC 250 % of Looked After Children (LAC) with up to date Health Checks (CLA 1 yr +)



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target			
	Apr-18	8.2	85.7	85.7
	May-18	17.6	100.0	100.0
	Jun-18	26.0	71.4	94.1
	Jul-18	35.4	100.0	97.7
	Aug-18	41.3	50.0	92.6
	Sep-18	47.5	85.7	93.6
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			

CSC 250a&b The % of Looked After Children how have had there RHA completed monthly and cumulative.



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	92.6		
	2015/16	57.9		
	2016/17	71.6		
	2017/18	91.3		
	2018/19 YTD	47.5	85.7	93.6

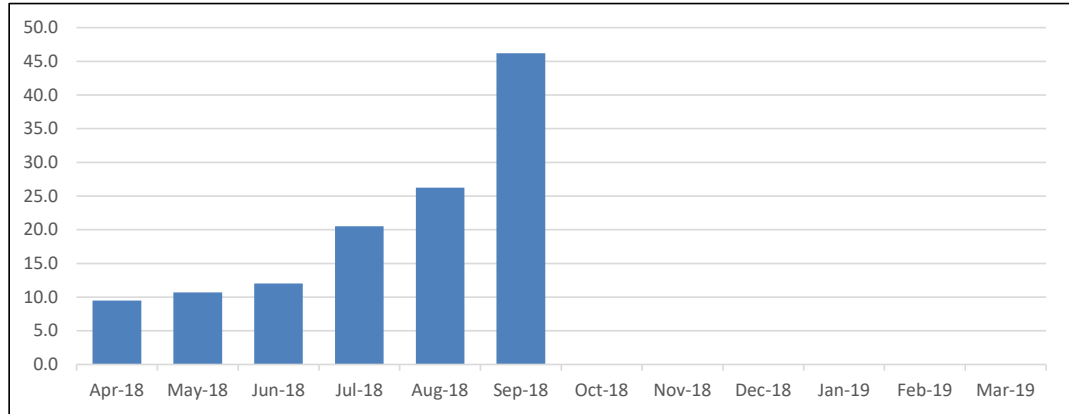
LOOKED AFTER - HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION
 Of the children in care at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who had had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and the percentage who had had an annual health check during the previous 12 months.
 Looked After Children share many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, but often to a greater degree. These indicators track the participation of our LAC in dental checks as a proxy for monitoring the general health and wellbeing of the children, as well as providing a check on the effectiveness of joint working with Health to secure good health outcomes for Looked After Children.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 At the end of Quarter 2, 46.2% of children have up to date dental checks. Of those children that are due a dental check, 78.5% have been carried out in timescale. Currently 6 young people have refused a dental check this equates to 3.8% of Looked after children.

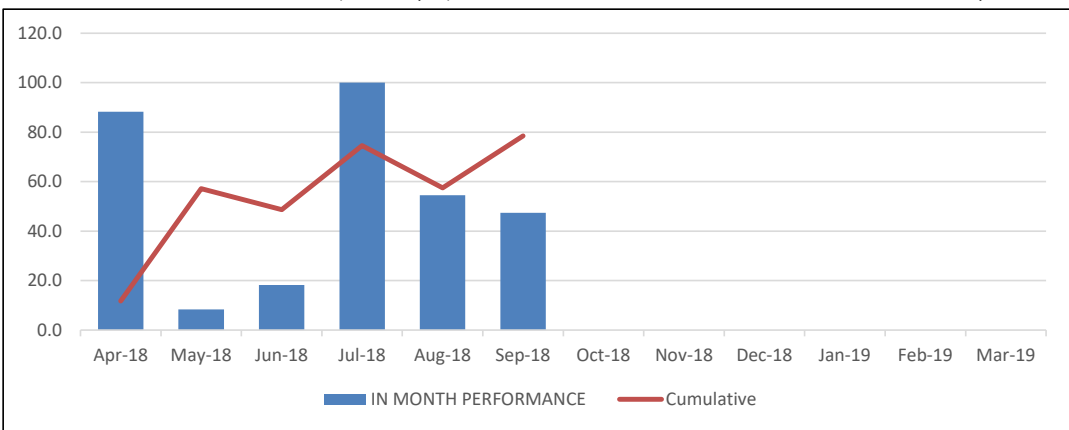
CSC 251	CSC 251c	CSC 251d
The % of Looked After Children (LAC) with up to date Dental Checks (LAC 1yr +) during reporting year.	The % of Looked After Children (LAC for 1yr+) who were due a Dental Check in the month and have had one by month end.	The % of Looked After Children (LAC for 1yr+) were due a Dental Check between 1st April and the current reporting date, and have had one

CSC 251: The % of Looked After Children (LAC) with up to date Dental Checks (LAC 1yr +) during reporting year.



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target		
	Apr-18	9.5	88.2
May-18	10.7	8.3	57.1
Jun-18	12.0	18.2	48.7
Jul-18	20.5	100.0	74.6
Aug-18	26.3	54.6	57.5
Sep-18	46.2	47.4	78.5
Oct-18			
Nov-18			
Dec-18			
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			

CSC 251c: The % of Looked After Children (LAC for 1yr+) who were due a Dental Check in the month and have had one by month end



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	92.6		
	2015/16	90.2		
	2016/17	75.9		
	2017/18	87.5		
	2018/19 YTD	46.2	47.4	78.5

Care Leavers

Quarter 2 Performance Summary

Accommodation

- We are in touch with all care leavers
- At the end of Q2, the percentage of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation was 96.2%
- The 3.8% of Care Leavers in unsuitable accommodation. This percentage is an improvement on Q1 (94.1%), but slightly below target of 100%, and represents one less Care Leaver serving a custodial sentence

Not in education, employment or training (NEET)

- 25% of Care Leavers were NEET (13 Care Leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 out of 52). This significantly exceeds the target set at 33.0% and is a reduction of 7.2% of the 2017/18 year end figure (32.3%)
- Of the 13 Care Leavers who are not in education, employment or training:
 - NEET because of illness or disability
 - NEET because of other circumstances
 - NEET because of pregnancy or parenting
- The monthly NEET Reduction Group manages all NEETs, each young person who falls into this cohort are discussed and plans developed in an effort to re-engage them in education, employment or training
- In addition to this, the weekly Job Club (commenced in May 2018), run in conjunction with the Morrison's Trust, focuses on further engaging the NEET population in an effort to re-engage them with education, employment or training
- Of the 75% (39 out of 52) of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment or Training:
 - 5 were engaged in full-time studies in higher education (ie. Studies beyond A level)
 - 14 were engaged in full-time training or employment
 - 20 were engaged in part-time training or education
- At the end of Q2, there were 134 eligible, former relevant and relevant Care Leavers who were entitled to a service. Of these 134 Care Leavers, there are:
 - 27 eligible Care Leavers who are aged 16 – 18 years old and are still Looked After
 - 5 relevant Care Leavers who have left care aged 16 – 18 years old who are supported with a service without a Care Order in place
 - 102 former relevant Care Leavers aged 18 – 25 who have left care

CARE LEAVERS

DEFINITION

The percentage of former care leavers who are eligible for care leavers support who are under the age of 21 who were in suitable accommodation at their most recent contact, and the percentage who were not in employment, education or training at their most recent contact.

This measures accommodation and employment outcomes for young people formerly in care - a key group at risk of social exclusion. It is intended to increase the proportion of former care leavers who are in suitable accommodation and employment, education or training.

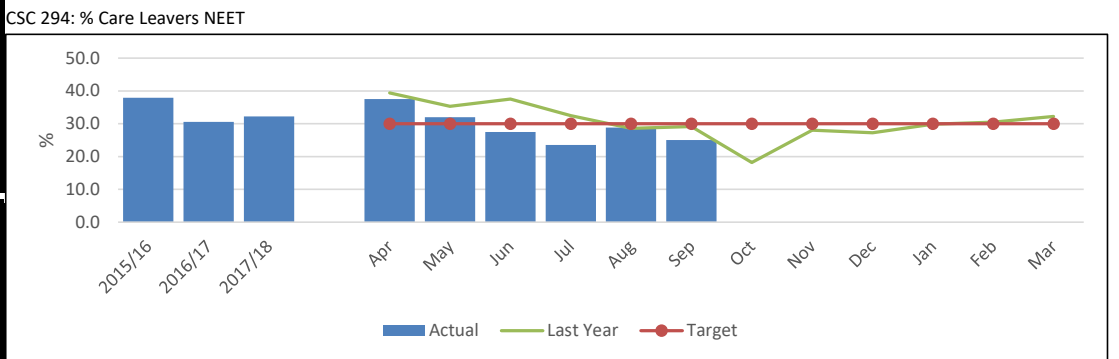
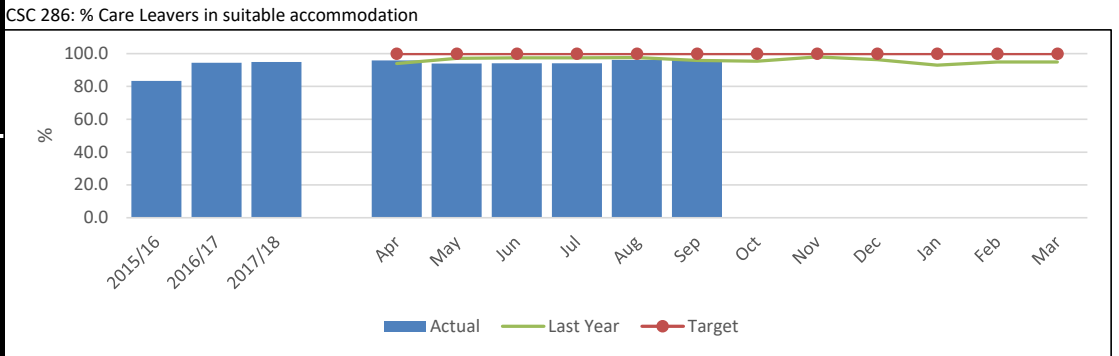
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

At the end of Quarter 2, the percentage of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation was 96.2%. This percentage is an improvement on Quarter 1 (94.1%), but slightly below target of 100%. At the end of Quarter 2, the percentage of Care Leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) was 25% (13 Care Leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 out of 52). This exceeds the target set at 33.0% and is a positive reduction of 2.5% against Quarter 1.

Of the 13 Care Leavers who are not in education, employment or training:

- NEET because of illness or disability
- NEET because of other circumstances
- NEET because of pregnancy or parenting

	CSC 286	CSC 294	
	% Care Leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care Leavers NEET	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	100.0	30.0
	Apr-18	95.8	37.5
	May-18	94.0	32.0
	Jun-18	94.1	27.5
	Jul-18	94.1	23.5
	Aug-18	96.2	28.9
	Sep-18	96.2	25.0
	Oct-18		
	Nov-18		
	Dec-18		
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		
	2015/16	100.0	37.9
	2016/17	96.4	30.6
	2017/19	94.9	32.2
	2018/19 YTD	96.2	25.0



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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 DECEMBER 2018

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS – ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2017-2020

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an update to the Children and Young People Scrutiny on the progress to date against the delivery of the Special Educational Needs Accessibility Strategy 2017-2020 [the Strategy] and the actions required to comply with legislation.

Summary

2. Whilst the Strategy does not form a part of the Council's Policy Framework it is a statutory requirement as required by Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 [the Act] for the Local Authority to prepare an Accessibility Strategy [the Strategy] in relation to schools for which it is the responsible body¹ [the Duty]. The Strategy was therefore approved by Council in 2017.
3. The Strategy (2017-2020) is available on the Local Offer:
<https://livingwell.darlington.gov.uk/Services/649>
4. The Strategy sets out how the Local Authority will work with schools to:
 - increase the extent to which disabled children and young people can participate in the school curriculum;
 - improve the physical environment of schools;
 - improve delivery of information to pupils with disabilities and/or learning difficulties.

¹ Described in the Act as “Responsible body” means—

(a) in relation to a maintained school or a maintained nursery school, the Local Authority or governing body;

(b) in relation to a pupil referral unit, the Local Authority;

(c) in relation to an independent educational institution [F2 or an alternative provision Academy that is not an independent educational institution], the proprietor;

(d) in relation to a special school not maintained by a Local Authority, the proprietor.

5. The summary of local government statutory duties, DFE_166, explains that the Duty came into force on 1 October 2010 replicating duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Under this same legislation all schools need to have Accessibility plans which should be reviewed every three years.
6. The Local Authority responsibility under the SEND Code of Practice 2014 states that *'The Local Authority has made regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010), to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between disabled and non-disabled children and young people when carrying out their functions', and, 'The Local Authority has published information to demonstrate their compliance with this general duty and published objectives which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound to achieve the core aims of the general duty'*.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that :-

- (a) Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny note the updated Accessibility Strategy.
- (b) Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny note the progress in implementing the Strategy and steps to support schools embed Accessibility even further.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

Background Papers

Special Educational Needs Accessibility Strategy 2017 – 2022 Revised October 2018

Eleanor Marshall : Extension 6134

S17 Crime and Disorder	No recommendations from this report
Health and Well Being	Support schools to provide accessible facilities, environment, curriculum and information to enhance children's life chances and opportunities to thrive. This includes prevention and early intervention.
Carbon Impact	Schools are both encouraged, and where works are undertaken by the Local Authority in support of accessible environments, that these are done with the highest regard to sustainability and aim to reduce the carbon footprint and environmental resources.
Diversity	The principles of inclusion, (equality and diversity) are set out in the Strategy. Schools should work with parents, carers and the wider community to create greater understanding of differences and to remove barriers and potential barriers to participation and achievement.
Wards Affected	The maintained schools and settings to which this Strategy applies are: Redhall and Lingfield (Redhall Primary School), Whinfield (Whinfield Primary School), Pierremont (George Dent Nursery School), North Road (Rise Carr Pupil Referral Unit and Harrowgate Hill Primary School) , Park East (Borough Road Nursery School) Eastbourne (St Teresa's RC VA Primary School)
Groups Affected	Children and Young People at maintained schools and settings.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	Yes - This Strategy affects more than one ward.
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Children with the best start in life Enough support for people when needed
Efficiency	The outcome of this report will enable the Council to support maintained schools in the most efficient manner to improve their Accessibility plans.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report presents a Strategy that will benefit all Children regardless of being Looked After or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. Since implementation of the Strategy, Darlington Borough Council has been working to ensure that the vision for children and young people with SEND is realised and to help all educational settings identify and achieve their own aims. This includes the development of a revised draft SEND Strategy.
9. The adoption of the Children and Young People's plan has also taken place since the adoption of the Accessibility Strategy.
10. The Accessibility Strategy has therefore been updated in line with these updated Plans/Strategies, and in line with the updated data.
11. Since implementation of the Strategy Darlington Borough Council has been monitoring its use in maintained settings. The DFE states that fewer than 50% of schools have Accessibility Plans. (National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network – Feb 17). Following implementation of the Strategy 100% of our maintained settings have produced Accessibility Plans that are available on the school websites.
12. Monitoring has been supported by development of an audit tool and specific and targeted support to maintained schools.
13. Darlington Borough Council also developed a Traded Service for Academies providing advice and guidance through working with schools to use the audit tool and in delivery of bespoke training.
14. Darlington Borough Council has received some key messages from supporting and guiding educational settings in their development of Accessibility Plans which underpin this strategy:

Awareness

- There is strong evidence of good inclusive practice and educational settings have been encouraged to develop case studies to support these

Curriculum Access

- All staff benefit from regular updated training in order to understand and act on the additional needs of children and young people with SEND
- Children and young people with SEND want to be included in trips and clubs

Physical Access

- Some educational settings have older buildings with particular access issues (eg no lifts) and are working towards identifying creative solutions to maximise access for children and young people with SEND

Information and Advice

- Ongoing opportunities for participation and co-production with parents and children and young people to inform developments

15. The following priorities have been identified as support and training for settings that is required on an ongoing basis:
 - Awareness of the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 10 specifically)
 - Use of the Accessibility Audit Tool to support educational settings in assessing their compliance with ALL relevant legislation and Codes of Practice
 - Linking the Plan and SEND report to the Local Offer
 - Adhering to the anticipatory duty

- Ensuring the inclusivity of all overall policies and practices
- Reviewing and revising Accessibility Plans and SEN reports in partnership with stakeholders
- Celebrating the strengths of all children and young people

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ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY- 2017-2020 (Special Educational Needs and Disability)



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PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2017-2020

Introduction

Darlington Borough Council is committed to ensuring that the Council meets and, where practicable, exceeds its requirements under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act (the Act) 2010. The Council has therefore researched and developed an Accessibility Strategy for the schools for which it is responsible¹ therefore this strategy applies to all maintained schools, which includes maintained nursery schools and the pupil referral unit. The Pupil Referral Unit provides education for vulnerable children and young people unable to attend a mainstream school.

In researching and developing this strategy, Darlington Borough Council has met its statutory duties under:

- Equality Act 2010
- Reasonable adjustments duty (schedule 13 of the Equality Act 2010)
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) regulations 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice January 2015
- Supporting children and young people at school with medical conditions (DfE September 2014)

Please see the additional guidance in Appendix 2.

Sustainable Community Strategy ‘One Darlington: Perfectly Placed’

The local Sustainable Community Strategy ‘One Darlington: Perfectly Placed’ sets out the overall vision for Darlington up to 2026. It sets the direction for the various organisations within the One Darlington Partnership, and how by working together we can make the borough an even better place to live and work. It was first drawn up in 2008, but since then the economic environment in which we all operate has changed dramatically. The current plan aims to respond in positive and innovative ways to the impact of economic change on local businesses, public services and the wellbeing of local people. All of the outcomes that the plan aims to achieve focus on creating and maintaining a good quality of life by and for everyone in Darlington (One Darlington), and about making Darlington the best possible place to live and work (Perfectly Placed).

Our vision for children and young people within Darlington is that each and every one has the “**Best Start in Life**”. We recognise that in order to achieve this we need to provide services that meet the needs of children and young people and ensure that they are protected from harm, have their welfare safeguarded and promoted and receive help and support tailored to their individual needs.

¹ Four Local Authority maintained schools, 2 nursery schools and Pupil Referral Unit.

Draft Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) 2019-22

Darlington's Draft SEND Strategy 2019-2022 for improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND 0-25 giving them the 'best start in life' outlines the vision and key priorities for supporting Darlington's children and young people with SEND and their families.

VISION

Our vision for all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities is that they have the right support and opportunities at the right time so that they become resilient, happy adults.

This is set within the national context and our statutory requirement to meet the needs of children and young people under the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and our local context with the rising numbers of children who have a range of complex needs and the need to provide high quality and responsive services within financial constraints.

Darlington is fully committed to the children and young people with SEND and their families and strives to ensure that they receive the highest quality provision wherever possible.

Guiding set of principles

This strategy was reviewed and updated following consultation in 2017. Darlington Borough Council was given some key messages which underpin this strategy which are encompassed within the following set of guiding principles.

- **Inclusion:**
Equality and diversity should be actively promoted and celebrated within all schools to maximise inclusion. Policies and practice should develop awareness and understanding for children, young people and their parents/carers of differences and to **remove barriers and potential barriers** to participation and achievement to which all children and young people are entitled.
- **Access and quality:**
A range of high quality services should be available to children, young people and their families at the **time that they need them and in places that make sense to them**. Children and young people should be supported in the context of their own families and local communities/services unless it is not safe or appropriate to do so.
- **Prevention and early intervention:**
Intervening early, particularly in the early stages of a child's life, where appropriate Darlington Borough Council will endeavour to achieve;
 - the early identification of children and young people's needs
 - early intervention to support them
 - collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support

- **Listening, active participation and partnership:** Children and young people (**Pupil Voice**) and their families should be active participants in designing, planning and reviewing the services that they receive. Agencies will work in partnership with them and each other to promote self-alliance;
- **Safeguarding:** agencies will work with each other and their families to ensure that children and young people are kept safe;
- **Rights and Responsibilities:** agencies will work with children, young people and their families in a way which ensures their rights and responsibilities are clearly recognised and promoted.

Definition of Disability

The definition of disability is set out in the Equality Act 2010 and states that a disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect² on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

This definition includes children and young people with physical, sensory, intellectual or mental impairments, those with learning difficulties, autism, speech language and communication needs, severe dyslexia, diabetes and epilepsy.

Within this context we will see and value the child or young person, not his or her disability and in doing so endeavour to break down barriers by promoting informed understanding of what a child or young person can do. Importantly, we will seek to overcome barriers to learning.

The special educational needs and disability code of practice 0-25, states that ‘A child or young person has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions ‘

² at least a year or lifelong

Darlington's Local Offer

The Local Offer sets out in one place the support available to families of children and young people with SEND in Darlington. To ensure the effectiveness of the local offer, the Local Authority:

- encourages educational settings to link their Accessibility Plan and SEND Information Report to the Local Offer;
- reviews and updates the Local Offer regularly, responding to feedback from professionals, children and young people and their families;
- makes the Local Offer available both online – external link: <https://livingwell.darlington.gov.uk/Categories/528> and through distribution of leaflets to a wide range of organisations in Darlington, including health services, social care, education and schools, voluntary organisations, reception areas, and private companies.

PART 2: THE ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

1. Scope of the Strategy

This Accessibility Strategy sets out how the Local Authority will work with schools for which is responsible³ to:

- increase the extent to which disabled children and young people can participate in the schools' curriculum
- improve the physical environment of schools
- Improve delivery of information to children and young people with disabilities and/or learning difficulties

It is the Local Authority vision that this Strategy provides best practice for which all schools in the borough will benefit.

1.1 Increasing participation in the school curriculum

Schools are responsible for providing a broad and well balanced curriculum including the wider curriculum such as enrichment activities and school trips. The Local Authority will support and encourage schools to:

- provide training and awareness raising opportunities for staff, governors and parents/carers;
- share good practice across schools;
- set suitable learning challenges;
- respond to disabled children and young people's diverse learning needs;
- overcome potential and perceived barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of disabled children and young people;
- ensure that schools are aware of support services that provide advice to schools and staff;
- provide specialist help where possible to identify ways forward in increasing the inclusion of all disabled children and young people;
- Schools should also consider the implications of accessibility for disabled parents and carers.

1.2 Improving the physical environment of schools

Physical environment includes the school buildings and facilities as well as physical aids to access education. The Local Authority will support schools to identify and address, where practicable, the following:

- making reasonable adjustments to enable better physical access to the school, its' classrooms and activities;
- rearranging of room space or changing the layout of classrooms to create extra physical space/opportunities to move around where needed;
- the needs of children and young people with complex physical impairments who use wheelchairs to move around the school;

³ Four Local Authority maintained schools, 2 nursery schools and Pupil Referral Unit.

- children and young people with less complex physical impairments who are ambulant but still require adaptations or adjustments to the school environment;
- children and young people with a sensory impairment or other difficulty requiring adaptations to the school environment or the presentation of information in appropriate formats;
- children and young people who for various reasons require toilet and changing facilities;
- consider and plan for the needs of future disabled children and young people where practicable;
- where a distinct, unusual or specific impact is likely to affect disabled children and young people, then a full Disability Impact Assessment is desirable.

In the case of the Local Authority funded capital works, Darlington Borough Council will take every opportunity to explore the viability of going beyond obligations and duties in striving to eliminate all barriers faced by disabled children and young people, and to meet their needs.

1.3 Improving the delivery of information

The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 details the minimum requirements for information which must be provided on school websites and reproduced as a paper copy without charge on request by parents/carers.

School websites must be reviewed annually and include:

- name, postal address and telephone number of the school and the name of the person to whom enquiries should be addressed;
- admission arrangements for the school, including any selection or oversubscription criteria or guidance on how to access such information on the Local Authority website;
- information as to where and how parents/carers may access the most recent school inspection report, key stage 2 and key stage 4 results and school performance tables;
- Information about the school curriculum, details of any reading schemes and lists of any courses offered which lead to qualifications e.g. GCSEs;
- the school's behaviour policy;
- the school's policy for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities;
- the school's allocation from the pupil premium grant, plans for its expenditure and details of how the previous allocation was utilised and the impact on attainment for the children and young people in respect of whom the funding was allocated;
- the school's complaints procedure;
- it is the school's responsibility to consult with parents/carers, and consider needs in order to meet above regulations.

The Local Authority will work in partnership with schools and other agencies to provide access for children and young people with specific impairments or disabilities to a range of human, paper and electronic sources of information which may include as a minimum:

- the use of the development of appropriate formats to ensure that information is accessible by all, regardless of a child or young person's disability, for example, written material being produced in a minimum of 12 point and in a plain font such as Arial. This may not be sufficient for some visually impaired individuals and advice should be sought on the production of more accessible written material;
- easy read formats which delivers information using large print with illustrations and can be supported by audio;
- language is free from jargon and straightforward;
- provision of specialist access equipment for children and young people with severe communication difficulties including members of the Deaf community.
- handouts/timetables;
- development and management of an accessible website.

2. School Accessibility Plans

Just as Section 10 of the Equality Act requires local authorities to prepare an Accessibility Strategy, it also requires that schools' responsible bodies produce Accessibility Plans. This Strategy and Accessibility Plan template⁴ aim to support all schools in being able to meet this duty in writing and publishing their plan.

Schools have a statutory duty to develop and implement their own Strategies (including development of Accessibility Plans)⁵, setting out how they are going to meet the needs of children with and young people with disabilities to enable them to access the curriculum⁶ and to make their learning and studying environment enrichment⁷ activities and all educational visits both on and off school sites as accessible as possible.

Accessibility Plans must be published on-line, which should include details of how they support the above objectives. The Accessibility Plan can either be a freestanding document or be part of another document (such as the school development plan), in this later case this must be clearly signposted from the school's website. The Accessibility Plan must be reviewed every three years. Further support to do so is found in Appendix 4.

3. External Resources

Darlington Borough Council provides guidance and support to schools through:

- Development of Special Educational Need graduated response 'ranges' guidance for SENCOs and schools/services to assess and identify the needs of

⁴ Part 4 sets out a draft template of an Accessibility Plan that outlines the duties of Schools set out in schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

⁵ The Department for Education (DfE) has stated that fewer than 50% of schools have Accessibility Plans. Source: National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network accessed 22 February 2017

⁶ There are statutory programmes of study and attainment targets for physical education at key stages 1 to 4. Sport is included in the definition of physical education.

⁷ Activities outside of the core curriculum including any sporting/physical activity.

pupils and to put into place the appropriate support. They describe the pupil's needs and provide suggestions for the types of interventions that will be required within each of the SEND Code of Practice broad areas of need.

- provision of specialist equipment according to the Local Authority policy
- the Local Asset Management Plan Agreement which is a shared agreement of schools asset management priorities between the maintained school/setting and the Local Authority;
- allocation of school condition improvement funding for maintained non-VA schools which is agreed with schools on an annual basis;
- commissioning of specialist SEND places in special schools, and resource bases in mainstream schools that specialise in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech Language and Communication Needs and Cognition and Learning needs. We also have a specialist provision for in-reach water therapy;
- provision of advisory teacher and teaching assistants outreach support to all schools that supports schools graduated response for children and young people, specifically with social, communication and language needs, including ASD, cognition and learning needs
- training through outreach services all schools have fully trained ASD Leads whose role is to embed good practice in their setting in order to meet the needs of pupils who have autism or who are identified as having social communication difficulties;
- specialist teachers within a Low Incidence Needs Service that provides support for children and young people with visual and hearing impairments,
- a physical needs advisor (qualified occupational therapist) provides support to schools to conduct environmental assessments, and provides moving and handling training and risk assessments in the school environment;
- the Local Authority SEND partnership officer who provides ongoing training for School SEN co-ordinators including graduated response ranges;
- the Darlington Life Stages Service can support disabled children and young people with a learning disability and /or physical disability aged 0-25 years. Experienced social care coordinators in the team work with children and young people and their parents/carers, as well as partner agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people who have a variety of needs;
- the educational psychology service provides advice and guidance to educational establishments;

4. Monitoring and review

Darlington Borough Council is responsible for keeping its Accessibility Strategy under review during the period to which it relates (2017-2020) and if necessary to revise it implementing any changes in relevant legislation. This will be achieved annually through means of:

- Monitoring the number of schools which meet the minimum standards for accessibility
- Monitoring admissions to maintained schools
- Feedback from parents/carers
- Feedback from disabled children and young people
- Monitoring outcomes from equality impact assessments

This strategy is the responsibility of the Education and Inclusion Service within the People Directorate. It will be monitored by officers within that service and monitored by the Education Senior Management Team and governed by the Children's and Adult Services Directorate Leadership Team. An Annual Report will be provided to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee.

In its first year of monitoring the key messages arising for this Strategy are:

Awareness

- There is strong evidence of good inclusive practice and educational settings have been encouraged to develop case studies to support these

Curriculum Access

- All staff benefit from regular updated training in order to understand and act on the additional needs of children and young people with SEND
- Children and young people with SEND want to be included in trips and clubs

Physical access

- Some educational settings have older buildings with particular access issues (eg no lifts) and are working towards identifying creative solutions to maximise access for children and young people with SEND

Information and advice

- Ongoing opportunities for participation and co-production with parents and children and young people to inform developments

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PART 3: APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Definitions

Appendix 2 – Legal Framework

Appendix 3 – Data

Appendix 4 – Guidance and Best Practice

Appendix 1 - Definitions

Settings/Schools

All maintained schools, maintained nurseries and the pupil referral unit for which Darlington Borough Council is responsible.

Discrimination

Public bodies, specifically schools this instance, must not disadvantage a disabled child or young person as a direct consequence of their disability. As required by the Equality Act 2010 schools must not implement changes which apply to all children and young people but could have a significant adverse effect on disabled children and young people.

Children and young people

Children and young people spoken of in this strategy are of compulsory school age and in attendance in a maintained setting, i.e. nursery school, school, or pupil referral unit, and where a nursery school provides childcare and education for 2 to 4 year olds.

Compulsory school age

Start of compulsory school age

A child reaches compulsory school age on or after their fifth birthday. If a child turns five between 1 September and 31 December, they are of compulsory school age on 31 December. If a child turns five between 1 January and 31 March they are of compulsory school age on 31 March. If a child turns five between 1 April and 31 August they are of compulsory school age on 31 August.

End of compulsory school age

A child can leave school on the last Friday in June if they are 16 by the end of the summer holidays. Then, they must do one of the following until they are 18:

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- start an [apprenticeship](#) or [traineeship](#)
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

Appendix 2 - Legal framework

Darlington Borough Council has met its legal obligations relating to the Accessibility Strategy under the following legislation:

- Equality Act 2010
- Reasonable adjustments duty (schedule 13 of the Equality Act 2010)
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) regulations 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice January 2015
- Supporting children and young people at school with medical conditions (DfE September 2014)

A brief overview of the key points from each piece of legislation which have been considered in developing the Accessibility Strategy are given below.

Equality Act 2010

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act explains that local authorities in England and Wales must prepare an accessibility strategy for the schools for which it is responsible. An Accessibility Strategy is intended to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled children and young people can participate in the school curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of schools for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled children and young people are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the schools;
- improve the delivery to disabled children and young people of information which is readily accessible to children and young people who are not disabled.

Darlington Borough Council (as the local authority) must keep its accessibility strategy under review following its implementation during the period to which it relates (usually three years) and, if necessary, revise it.

The Equality Act 2010, Schedule 10, also states that a relevant inspection may extend to the performance by the responsible body of its functions in relation to the preparation, publication, review, revision and implementation of its Accessibility Strategy.

The law on disability discrimination is different from the rest of the Equality Act 2010 in that it only works in one direction, e.g. it protects disabled people but not people who are not disabled. This means that schools are allowed to treat disabled children and young people more favourably than non-disabled children and young people. The disability equality duties state that the Local Authority must:

- Promotes equality of opportunity.
- Eliminates unlawful discrimination.
- Eliminates disability – related harassment.

- Promotes positive attitudes towards disabled people.
- Encourages participation by disabled people in public life.
- Take steps to meet disabled people's needs by doing things you would not normally do for non-disabled people.

School governing bodies and proprietors **must** also publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children/young people, the steps taken to prevent disabled children/young people being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children/young people, and their accessibility plans.

Where a child or young person is covered by SEN and disability legislation, reasonable adjustments and access arrangements should be considered as part of SEN planning and review. Where school governors are publishing information about their arrangements for disabled children and young people, this should be brought together with the information required under the Children and Families Act 2014.

Positive Action provisions allow schools to target measures that are designed to alleviate disadvantages experienced by, or to meet, the particular needs of pupils with particular protected characteristics.

Reasonable adjustments duty

The reasonable adjustments duty is part of the Equality Act 2010 and came into force on 1 October 2010 (as part of the original Act). The Equality Duty came into force later, 5 April 2011, but is still part of the original Act.

Under the Equality Duty 2011 the duty to make reasonable adjustments in schools is as follows:

- If a school takes an action which places a disabled children and young people at a disadvantage when compared to other children and young people who do not have disabilities, then the school must take reasonable steps to try and avoid that disadvantage.
- Schools will also have to consider reasonable adjustments for disabled children and young people generally – both current and future. The duty to make reasonable adjustments is an anticipatory duty so schools should not wait until a disabled children or young person arrives before making or planning to make reasonable adjustments.
- Schools are not obliged to anticipate and make adjustments for all potential disabilities and need only consider general reasonable adjustments e.g. producing documents in a large font.
- Schools will be required to consider the reasonableness of adjustments based on each individual case.

The Equality Act does not set out what would be a reasonable adjustment or a list of factors to consider in determining what is reasonable. Schools may consider financial

or other resources required for an adjustment, its effectiveness, the effect on other children and young people, health and safety requirements and whether aids should be made available from other agencies.

A reasonable adjustment should be decided by agreement between the Local Authority, the school and parents/carers.

Children and Families Act 2014

There are four key principles in the Act for Local Authorities:

- to consider the views, wishes and feelings of the child, young person and their parents
- to involve the child, young person and their parents in decisions that affect them
- to give the child, young person and their parents the information and support they need to be involved in decision making
- to support the child, young person and their parents to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The Local Authority is required to arrange for children or young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and their parents to have information and advice about these. This should include information on health and social care and personal budgets.

Local Authorities need to develop and publish a Local Offer setting out the support and services available for local children and young people with SEND.

They should also talk to them about developing their education, health and care (EHC) plan, including the schools and colleges they can choose and how they can use personal budgets.

All parents, children and young people should have access to impartial information, advice and support about SEND which includes different options.

The Act includes the right of parents or children and young people to challenge decisions made by the Local Authority in relation to their education, health and care. The Act details how Local Authorities should identify ways of dealing with any disagreements and what further action parents or children and young people can take to resolve any disagreements.

The Local Authority has specific additional responsibilities for children and young people with SEND who are:

- looked after (in care);
- care leavers;
- in need of additional social care in addition to special educational support and services;
- educated away from home (in another Local Authority Area) educated at home;

- in education somewhere other than at school;
- in hospital;
- in custody or detention;
- the children of parents in the armed forces.

SEN and Disability Code of Practice 2014

The principles which underpin the Code of Practice are:

- the views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person, and their parents
- the importance of the child or young person, and their parents, participating as fully as possible in decisions; and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions
- the need to support the child or young person, and their parents, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.

The local offer should reflect the services that are available. The local offer must include provision in the local authority area. It must also include provision outside the local area that the local authority expects is likely to be used by children and young people with SEND or disabilities.

Parents, children and young people must be involved in the development and review of the Local Offer. This includes:

- collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support. Schools must use their best endeavours to offer high quality teaching which is differentiated and personalised for all children and young people and in addition high quality special educational provision - that which is additional to or different from what is provided to all – for those who need it;
- a child or young person who does not have an EHC plan must be educated in mainstream setting except for specific circumstances.

Local authorities are required to arrange for children and young people with SEN or disabilities and their parents to be provided with information and advice about matters relating to their SEND, including matters related to health and social care.

The SEND Code of Practice emphasises that educational settings including further education establishments must not have discriminatory admissions policies. Where a child or young person has SEN but does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan they must be educated in a mainstream setting except in specific circumstances set out in the Code of Practice.

Supporting Children and Young People at School with Medical Conditions (DfE September 2014)

Local Authorities are required to provide support, advice and guidance, including suitable training for school staff, to ensure that the support specified within individual healthcare plans can be delivered effectively. They should work with schools to support children and young people with medical conditions to attend full time. Where children and young people would not receive a suitable education in a mainstream school because of their health needs then the Local Authority has a duty to make other arrangements.

The intention is to ensure that children and young people at school with medical conditions are properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Governing bodies are expected to ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support children and young people with medical conditions and detail those requirements.

Appendix 3 – Data

Darlington Context

The number of children and young people under the age of 18 living in Darlington is 22,627 (2015 mid-year) which equates to 21% of the current population. Over the last five years, birth rates in Darlington have fallen from 1,357 in 2010 to 1,226 in 2014.

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 6% of all children living in the area, compared with 22% in the country as a whole. The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Asian and mixed. The proportion of residents that identified themselves as Gypsy and Travellers in the 2011 Census was three times higher than the national average but equates to only 0.3% of the population.

The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language in primary schools is 5% (the national average is 19%), in secondary schools it is 4% (the national average is 14%). The unemployment claimant count in Darlington for 16-64 year olds stood at 3.5% of the resident population in March 2017, compared with a Great Britain average of 2.0%. However the figure hides an underlying issue regarding youth unemployment.

The claimant count in Darlington for 18-24 year olds stood at 6.6% of the resident population in March 2017, compared with a Great Britain average of 2.9%, over double the national average and just under double that of the 16-64 year old cohort in Darlington.

[Source: Nomis Labour Market Profile]

Prevalence of Disability in Children in Darlington

Children with long-term disability are a diverse group. Some will have highly complex needs requiring multi-agency support across health, social services and education – the most extreme example perhaps being those who are technology-dependent. Other children will require substantially less support, although nevertheless have a long-term disability.

There have been many attempts to provide accurate estimates of disability in children and young people. Some of these have provided condition based estimates based on the literature and others have utilised specific survey data. Information on self-reported (by the parent) long-standing illness or disability is provided from the General Household Survey.

Routine data are collected by local authorities on children with Statement of Special Educational Need (Statement), and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), but this does not reflect the spectrum of disability and is only a weak proxy measure for severity. There is ongoing work to define disability in the context of the child's participation in usual activities, using questionnaires to families and children. If this

approach were to be adopted nationally (for local implementation) then meaningful comparisons could start to be made.⁸

The number of disabled children and young people in England is estimated to be between 288,000 and 513,000 by the Thomas Coram Research Unit (TCRU). The mean percentage of disabled children and young people in English local authorities has likewise been estimated to be between 3.0 percent and 5.4 percent. If applied to the population of Darlington this would equate to between 641 and 1,153 children or young people, experiencing some form of disability.

The health of children and young people, Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2004 calculated prevalence rates using two sources – the General Household Survey (GHS) and the Family Fund Trust (FFT) register of applicants. Much of the following analysis and observation is taken from this document. The resulting age-specific estimates⁹ are as follows for Darlington.

- Age-specific estimates (population aged 0 to 19 years) with long-standing illness or mild disability - 8,998. Children aged 0 to 4 years display lower prevalence than children in the higher age groups.
- Age-specific estimates (population aged 0 to 19 years) of severely disabled population – 36. The rates are higher for children in the 0 to 4 age group.

For the population aged 0 to 19 years of age (estimates), with long-standing illness or disability

Boys aged 0-4	462
Boys aged 5-9	800
Boys aged 10-14	620
Boys aged 15-19	594

Girls aged 0-4	416
Girls aged 5-9	522
Girls aged 10-14	589
Girls age 15-19	496

Age-specific estimates (population aged 0 to 19 years) of severely disabled population

Boys aged 0-4	5
Boys aged 5-9	4
Boys aged 10-14	2
Boys aged 15-19	1

Girls aged 0-4	3
Girls aged 5-9	1
Girls aged 10-14	1
Girls age 15-19	1

⁸ Source: National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network accessed 22 February 2017

⁹ Source: National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network accessed 22 February 2017 unpublished analysis of Family Fund Trust statistics

Prevalence rates by socio-economic background

The prevalence rates of children and adolescents with mild disabilities were found¹⁰ to be higher for those from semi-skilled manual and unskilled manual family backgrounds. The prevalence of children with mild disabilities from professional family backgrounds were lower in comparison to the other socio-economic groups. The rate of severe disability was found to be greatest amongst children from semi-skilled manual family backgrounds, whilst the lowest rates were for children from professional and managerial family background.

Children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)

Darlington has a higher than average number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) when compared with both the regional and national averages and has more pupils with EHCPs in Special Schools than in mainstream settings.

Across all ages the most common type of SEN primary need for those with SEN Support or EHCPs is Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD), followed by Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). The numbers identified with SEMH are higher than the national average in both the primary and secondary sectors. There is also a higher than average incidence of MLD pupils in special schools. SLCN is the most significant SEN need in the primary sector for those with SEN Support or EHCPs and is above the national average.

For those with EHCPs, Autism Spectrum Disorder is the most significant need (32% of all primary EHCPs). MLD and Specific Learning Difficulty (SPLD) are the most significant SEN need for those with SEN Support or EHCPs in the secondary sector, closely followed by SEMH.


For those with EHCPs SEMH is the most significant need (27.6% of all secondary EHCPs) and is double the national average. SEMH accounts for 28.8% of all EHCP pupils in Special Schools closely followed by ASD at 25.6%.


Special Educational Needs remains more prevalent in boys and pupils eligible for free school meals and the number of Early Years children receiving SEN support is higher than the national average, whilst the number with EHCPs is lower.


source: The Darlington Strategic Needs Analysis of children and young people with Special Educational Needs (<https://livingwell.darlington.gov.uk/Documents/Download/137/SEN-Strategic-Analysis>)

¹⁰ Source: National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network 2011 accessed 22 February 2017

Appendix 4 – Guidance and Best Practice

 [SEND Code of Practice \(DfE July 2014 - updated in January 15\) PDF format 3.32MB\)](#)

 [SEND Regulations \(DfE 2015\) \(PDF format 210KB\)](#)

 [Statutory Guidance on Supporting Children and young people at School with Medical Conditions \(PDF format 402KB\)](#)

The Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years

Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

Statutory guidance to support Children and young people with medical needs in schools

DFE Guidance (external link)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>

The framework for the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities

DFE Guidance (external link)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online>

The DFE guidance for maintained schools for **publication of the Accessibility Plan in compliance with [paragraph 3 of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010](#)**. This can be provided as part of the SEND information report on school's policy for children and young people with SEND.

DFE Guidance (external link)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-academies-free-schools-and-colleges-should-publish-online>

The DFE guidance for Academies and free schools to carry out Accessibility Planning for disabled children and young people under the [Equalities Act 2010](#). **The Accessibility Plan can either be a freestanding document or part of another document (such as school development plan).**

DFE Guidance (external link)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/410294/Advice_on_standards_for_school_premises.pdf

The DFE guidance helps schools and local authorities understand their obligations and duties in relation to:

- the [School Premises Regulations 2012](#)
- part 5 of the revised [Education \(Independent School Standards\) \(England\) Regulations 2010](#), which came into force on 1 January 2013

Health and Wellbeing Strategy – external link

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/2636/darlington-health-and-wellbeing-plan-as-adopted-by-health-and-wellbeing-board-october-2017.pdf>

Darlington Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022

Darlington Borough Council's Children and Young People's Plan 2017-2022

Children and Young People's Plan – external link

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/cypp/>

DFE Guidance:
Advice on standards for school premises. For local authorities, proprietors, school leaders, school staff and governing bodies

Advice on school premises

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/410294/Advice_on_standards_for_school_premises.pdf

School Premises Regulations 2012, which came into force on 31 October 2012, and Part 5 of the revised Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, which came into force on 1 January 2013.

Background to what the Public Sector Equality Duty is, how it came about and why we need it. A PowerPoint presentation is also available to download covering the same.

Public Sector Equality Duty and Human Rights Regulations

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty>

PART 4: EXAMPLE ACCESSIBILITY PLAN TEMPLATE (FOR SETTINGS)

An Accessibility Plan must show how school access is to be improved for pupils/students, staff and visitors with disabilities in a given timeframe. It must anticipate the need to make reasonable adjustments where ever practicable. This will be provided to schools as a separate document.

Example Accessibility Plan (including action plan template)

Purpose of Plan

The purpose of this plan is to show how our educational setting intends, over time, to increase accessibility to the physical environment, the curriculum and written information so that all pupils/students with a disability can take full advantage of their education and associated opportunities.

Definition of disability

A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Key Aims

To increase and eventually ensure for pupils/students with a disability that they have:

- total access to our setting's environment, curriculum and information and
- full participation in the school community.

Principles

- Compliance with the Equality Act is consistent with the Local Authority's aims and equality and diversity policy and SEN information report.
- Our staff recognise their duty under the Equality Act:
 - Not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions, and provision of education and associated services
 - Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably
 - To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
 - To publish an Accessibility Plan
- In performing their duties governors have regard to the Equality Act 2010
- Our school
 - recognises and values the young person's knowledge/parents' knowledge of their child's disability
 - recognises the effect their disability has on his/her ability to carry out activities,
 - respects the parents' and child's right to confidentiality
- The school provides all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum that is differentiated, personalised and age appropriate.
- This Accessibility Plan and SEN Information Report will be linked to the Darlington Local Offer and be available as part of the school Local Offer.



**Accessibility Action Plan (Template)
201x - 201x**

Name and address of school:

Head Teacher:

Our Actions

As a school our priorities are, as set out according to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010:

Increasing Access for disabled pupils to the school curriculum

This includes teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after school clubs, leisure and cultural activities or school visits.

-

Improving access to the physical environment of the school

This includes improvements to the physical environment of the school and physical aids to access education.

-

Improving the delivery of written information to disabled pupils

This will include planning to make written information that is normally provided by the school to its pupils available to disabled pupils. Examples might include handouts, timetables, textbooks and information about school events. The information should take account of pupils' disabilities and pupils' and parents preferred formats and be made available within a reasonable time frame.

-

Financial Planning and control

The Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and the finance committee will review the financial implications of the Accessibility Plan as part of the normal budget review process.

-

Accessibility Action Plan Template – add rows as necessary

Aspire to improve to do more than the minimum, additional best practice

Compliance with the Equality Act					
Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Who responsible	Long, medium or short-term	Time Frame	Notes

Access to the physical environment - statutory

Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Who responsible	Long, medium or short-term	Time Frame	Notes

Ensuring inclusion in the school community

Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Who responsible	Long, medium or short-term	Time Frame	Notes

Access to the curriculum - statutory

Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Who responsible	Long, medium or short-term	Time Frame	Notes

Access to information advice and guidance - statutory

Accessibility Outcome	Action to ensure Outcome	Who responsible	Long, medium or short-term	Time Frame	Notes

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 DECEMBER 2018

ITEM NO.

SEND STRATEGY AND FUNDING/TRAVEL ASSISTANCE POLICY CONSULTATION REVIEW GROUP

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the outcome and findings of the Review Group established by this Scrutiny Committee to examine the proposals and submit comment on the consultation process.

Summary

2. Members will recall that, at a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 29 October 2018 Members received a report outlining plans to consult on a strategic plan for delivering better outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and proposed amendments to the application of the High Needs Block in relation to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
3. Members also received a report on plans to consult on the introduction of a SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Travel Assistance Policy.
4. The Review Group has met on 26 November and their findings are outlined in the report.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Members of this Scrutiny Committee approve the recommendations to be forwarded as the formal response of this Scrutiny Committee on the consultation process.

Councillor Chris Taylor
Chair of the Review Group

Background Papers

Special Educational Needs Strategy and Funding Report and Special Educational Needs Home to School Transport to Scrutiny on 29 October 2018

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	Increased engagement for children and families in the receiving of timely services.
Carbon Impact	There is no carbon impact in relation to this report.
Diversity	There are no specific diversity issues in this report.
Wards Affected	There are no specific Wards which are affected by this report.
Groups Affected	Children and families in Darlington.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has no impact on the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This report does not constitute a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	To enable children with the best start in life.
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information

6. A number of Members of this Scrutiny Committee attended the various public consultation events that had been organised by this authority between 5 and 21 November 2018 to consult on the SEND Strategy and Funding and the SEND Travel Assistance Policy.
7. Members met on 26 October 2018 to discuss the feedback received at the various consultation events attended and to propose a Scrutiny response to the proposals in the strategy.

SEND Strategy and Funding

8. With regard to the SEND Strategy and Funding the feedback from those parents that attended the consultation events was in general supportive of the principle of the money following the child or young person.
9. There were some concerns around transition between phases; the current lack of specialist provision in Darlington; the poor communication between home and school especially in secondary education; and the out of area placements which was above average in Darlington.
10. Parents also expressed their desire to have more information on their own child's funding and felt that there could be improved liaison between the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and schools and the overall sharing of information between professionals could be improved.

SEND Travel Assistance Policy

11. The main feedback received regarding this Policy was around ensuring that each case is examined to prevent hardship and encourage better utilisation of local facilities.

Conclusion

12. From our discussions on the feedback from the various consultation events we concluded that in general there is support for the proposals in the SEND Strategy and Funding from parents and Members, however we felt that there were some improvements that could be made to services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. .
13. One of our main concerns was the lack of local resource bases and Members agreed that now was a good time to review the outside provision as the last commissioning was in 2010.

14. Members also agreed that the appointment of a key person for accountability and communication between parents and schools was key to the success of the proposed strategy.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that:

- (a) There is adequate monitoring of the funding allocated, especially within the Academies.
- (b) Consideration be given to the appointment of a Parental Liaison Officer.
- (c) That more Resource Bases are commissioned in Darlington mainstream provision.
- (d) The need for a Portage Service in Darlington be re-examined.
- (e) The working arrangements with the health organisations and CAMHS be improved.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
10 DECEMBER 2018**

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the draft work programme for this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

Summary

2. The proposed work programme has been reviewed and revised for the Municipal Year 2018/19 and Members are requested to consider the attached draft programme.

Recommendation

3. Members' views are requested.

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Allison Hill Extension 5997

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the eight outcomes.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

1. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion. **Appendix 1**
2. Each topic has been reviewed to link it to the outcomes and the conditions in the Sustainable Community Strategy – One Darlington Perfectly Placed:-

SCS Outcomes:

- a) Children with the best start in life
- b) More businesses more jobs
- c) A safe and caring community
- d) More people caring for our environment
- e) More people active and involved
- f) Enough support for people when needed
- g) More people healthy and independent
- h) A place designed to thrive

Three Conditions:

- a) Build strong communities
- b) Grow the economy
- c) Spend every pound wisely

3. In addition, each topic has been linked to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework (PMF) to provide robust and accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake. There are some topics where appropriate PMF indicators have not yet been identified however; these can be added as the work programme for each topic is developed.
4. The topics have been grouped into two sections as follows:
 - a) Overarching e.g. Performance Management
 - b) Children and Young People

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

2018/19

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation	Q1 10 September 2018	Sharon Raine	Children with the best start in life	Build strong communities	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
	Q2 10 December 2018		A safe and caring community	Spend every pound wisely		
	Q3 11 March 2019		Enough support for people when needed			
	Q4 June/July 2019		More people healthy and independent			
Children and Young People Public Health Overview 2019	September 2019	Ken Ross/Rachel Osbaldeston	Children with the best start in life A safe and caring community Enough support for people when needed More people healthy and independent	Build strong communities	PBH 009 PBH 013c PBH 016 PBH 018 PBH 020 PBH 021 PBH 054	Annual monitoring - Children and Young People's Profile 2018, Healthy Lifestyle Survey 2017, Childhood Healthy Weight Action Plan 2017-2022 and Oral Health Plan 2017-2022

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Extension of Funding to 21 for Children in Foster Care	11 March 2019	Jane Kochanowski	Children with the best start in life A safe and caring community Enough support for people when needed More people healthy and independent	Build strong communities		Annual monitoring – a duty on Local Authorities to facilitate, monitor and support staying put arrangements
2018/19 Childcare Sufficiency Review	10 December 2018	Tony Murphy	Children with the best start in life A safe and caring community Enough support for people when needed	Build strong communities		To provide an annual report to elected Members on how the authority meets its duty to secure sufficient childcare places.
Services for Families with children with disabilities 0-3 years Review Group	Review of the service. Date to be arranged.	Kevin Kelly/Yvonne Coates	Children with the best start in life Enough support for people when needed	Build strong communities		Following the recommendation of the Review Group to review the service after 6 months and meet again with professionals,

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
						families and stakeholders.
Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board	29 October 2018 October 2019	Amanda Hugill/ Simon Hart, Independent Chair		Build strong communities	LSB Annual Report	Annual monitoring
IRO Annual Report	September 2019	Martin Graham	Children with the best start in life		CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer for Looked After Children
Designated Officer Annual Report	September 2019	Amanda Hugill Carol Glasper				To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned
Children and Young People Plan 2017-22	29 October 2018 Jun/Jul 2019	Christine Shields	Children with the best start in life			Half yearly update to Members.
SEND High Needs Review: Strategy and Funding	29 October 2018 10 Dec 2018	Tony Murphy	Children with the best start in life More People healthy and independent			To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider 3 of the 4 core elements of the Review.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Home to School Transport	29 October 2018		Enough support for people when needed			Members to carry out a T/F Review on the proposals.
SEND Strategy and Funding Consultation Review Group	10 December 2018		Children with the best start in life			To give a Scrutiny response to the consultation on the SEND Strategy and Funding and SEND Travel Assistance Policy
Children Services Accessibility Strategy	10 December 2018					To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider the Strategy prior to Cabinet.
Learning and Skills Service Annual Report	June 2019	Paul Richardson	Enough support for people when needed			

JOINT REVIEW WITH HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY:

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
<p>Childhood Obesity/ Oral Health/Mental Health Links</p>	<p>November 2017 – February 2018</p> <p>Scoping meeting held on 27 November 2017</p> <p>2nd Meeting held on 31 January 2018</p>		<p>Children with the best start in life</p> <p>Enough support for people when needed</p> <p>More People Healthy and Independent</p>	<p>Build strong communities</p>		<p>To investigate the high incidence of childhood obesity in Darlington and the associated links to poor dental health; and whether the desire to promote good 'self image' has an impact on mental health issues in young people.</p>

ARCHIVED ITEMS

Early Help Service	7 November 2016 9 January 2017 19 June 2017	Jane Kochanowski	Children with the best start in life Enough support for people when needed	Build strong communities	CSC001 CSC022 CSC038	To receive regular reports on the progress towards aligning all Early Help Services into one single service in line with MTFP target.
Youth Unemployment	30 October 2017	Paul Richardson	Enough support for people when needed			To examine youth unemployment in Darlington
SEND Inclusion Strategy	4 September 2017 30 October 2017	Christine Shields/ Helen Ellison	Children with the best start in life More people healthy and independent Enough support for people when needed	Build strong communities		To consult with Scrutiny on the draft Strategy prior to Cabinet approval
Workforce Sufficiency, Skills, Recruitment and Retention	12 September 2016	Yvonne Coates/Paige Thomason/Corina Dias)	Children with the best start in life A safe and caring community	Build strong communities		To examine social work caseloads, workforce recruitment and retention and

	30 October 2017		Enough support for people when needed			pressures on social workers
Children and Young People's Plan 2017/22	10 April 2017 (draft plan) 4 September 2017	Christine Shields/Rosie Banks	Children with the best start in life Enough support for people when needed			To consult with Scrutiny prior to consideration by Cabinet
Sustainability and Transformation Plan (Maternity Services)	19 June 2017	CCG	Children with the best start in life More people healthy and independent			To challenge the CCG on the impact to children and young people in Darlington of the STP (maternity services and services for forces families)
LAC Missing from Care – Reasons and Interventions	16 April 2018 10 September 2018	Joanne Stoddart	Children with the best start in life Enough support for people when needed		CSC246	To examine the reasons why children in care go missing and the interventions in place to avoid. To invite the Police Liaison Officer to attend Scrutiny to discuss

						Update information regarding Missing Episodes following the report to the meeting in April
Educational Landscape	Archived on 3 Oct 2018	Tony Murphy	Children with the best start in life	Build Strong Communities	CSC 044 Basket of LAIT KS1, KS2, GCSE & A Level indicators. Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) academic year 2014/15/ Ofsted Sept 2014/ Department for Education (DFE) performance data	To examine school improvement including the decline in performance for maths and English and what action is being taking to address this.
Recording practices for statutory visits for Child Protection Cases	27 June 2016 Continual monitoring	Jane Kochanowski	Children with the best start in life A safe and caring community Enough support for people when needed	Build strong communities	CSC 252	To examine recording practices. To be monitored via the regular performance reports in future
Stability of Places for Looked After Children	10 December 2018	Joanne Stoddart	Children with the best start in life	Build strong communities	CSC 228 CSC 229	To monitor annually the stability of places for Looked After Children.

			Enough support for people when needed			To be monitored via the regular performance reports in future
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