

# Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda



**9.30 am Monday, 11 March 2019**  
**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 meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on :-
  - (a) 10 December 2018 (Pages 1 - 6)
  - (b) 21 January 2019 (Pages 7 - 8)
4. Quarter 3 Performance Indicators –  
Report of the Director of Children and Adults Services  
(Pages 9 - 64)
5. Update regarding 'Staying Put' Arrangements for Young People previously in  
Foster Carer Placements –  
Report of the Director of Children and Adults Services  
(Pages 65 - 72)
6. Adoption Tees Valley Bi-Annual Summary Report 2018 –  
Report of the Service Manager Adoption Tees Valley  
(Pages 73 - 80)
7. Work Programme –  
Report of the Managing Director.

(Pages 81 - 94)

8. 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.
9. Questions.



**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Friday, 1 March 2019**

**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 Carly Spence

**Non Statutory Co-optees**

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

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Allison Hill, Democratic Officer, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays email: [allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk) or telephone 01325 405997

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 10 December 2018

**PRESENT** – Councillors C Taylor (Chair), Crudass, Mrs Culley, Curry, L Hughes, Kelly and Mills

**STATUTORY CO-OPTees** –

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – John Armitage

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Lister, Storr and Wright, ,

**ABSENT** – Councillors Malcolm Frank, Paul Rickeard, Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Nick Lindsay, Sanja Miah and Janet Woodcock

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors C L B Hughes

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Jane Kochanowski (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Raine (Head of Performance and Transformation), Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Tony Murphy (Head of Education and Inclusion), Marshall (School Forum Monitoring and Support Officer) and Davies (Early Years Project Officer)

### **CYP25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **CYP26 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2018**

**MINUTES** - Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 29 October 2018.

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

### **CYP27 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REVIEW 2018/19**

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the findings of the 2018/19 Childcare Sufficiency Review and to set out the authority's 2018/19 Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan (also previously circulated).

Local authorities are required by the Department for Education's 'Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities June 2018' to ensure sufficient childcare as 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; and to report annually to elected Members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and to make this report available and accessible to parents.

It was reported that factors which affect childcare demand included the number of parents in work in the Borough and recent trends showed an improving picture regarding skills and productivity of Darlington residents with an increase in the

employment rate and a reduction in the unemployment rate; regeneration projects; the availability of appropriate family housing and residential development in the Borough; and the number of new dwellings all affecting childcare demand.

Supply data for 2018 revealed that the early education and childcare market in Darlington remained fairly stable; however feedback from a pre-school childcare gap analysis carried out in Summer 2018 showed that there was a latent demand for childcare in the borough with cost being the main barrier to high take up of private hours. Parents also would welcome more flexibility to accommodate their work and training arrangements at short notice. Analysis of the overall volume of supply showed that there was sufficient capacity to meet demand; and parent and provider feedback also suggested that there was sufficient capacity to meet overall demand for 30 Hour places.

It was also reported that there was evidence to indicate that providers were under increasing financial pressure with several settings reporting that their operating costs were higher than funding rates; financial pressures were also impacting on the capacity for some providers to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities; and feedback from parents and employers called for greater flexibility and lower childcare costs.

To enable the local childcare market and schools to 'plug the childcare gaps' identified, it was reported that 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).

Members discussed in particular the unmet demand for after-school provision and holiday childcare and the unmet demand for places for those children with special educational needs and disabilities; the lack of financial support from employers to help employees with childcare needs; the rising cost of childcare; the reduction in schools being able to provide extra curricula activities after school as a result of reduce funding to schools; and the submission by Whinfield Primary School to the Department for Education's School Nurseries Capital Fund for a 52 full time equivalent place nursery with wrap around at the start and end of the day and on-site holiday provision.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That Members note the information and findings of the 2018/19 Childcare Sufficiency Review.

(b) That Members note the Local Authority's 2018/19 Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan and to continue to monitor on an annual basis.

## **CYP28 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 2018/19**

The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated)

to provide Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators.

The submitted report provided Quarter 2 (July to September) performance information in line with an indicator set agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group and subsequently by each individual Scrutiny Committee.

The submitted report highlighted where Children and Young People were performing well and where there was a need to improve. It was also highlighted that where indicators are reported annually quarterly updates will not be available.

It was highlighted that 97.8 per cent of contacts were completed within 24 working hours, an increase of 25.4 percent compared to last year; 93.6 per cent who had a Review Health Assessment due received their assessment within the required month; 98 per cent of Initial Child Protection Conferences were held within 15 working days; 100 per cent Child Protection reviews had been completed within the required timescales; 100 per cent of children with a Child Protection Plan and Children Looked After have an allocated Social Worker; 98.7 per cent of Looked After reviews were completed within timescale; 90.1 per cent of statutory visits of Looked After Children were completed in timescale, which was above the target of 90 per cent; 8.7 per cent of Looked After Children had three or more placement moves within the last 12 months, an improvement of 3.3 per cent when compared to the end of Quarter 2 2017/18 and in line with benchmark data for statistical neighbours at 9.5 per cent and the national average at 10 per cent; and 25 per cent of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET).

The areas highlighted for improvement in Quarter 2 included the percentage of dental health checks completed which was currently at 78.5 per cent (73 out of 93), which showed good progress from Quarter 1 however was still an area to undergo close scrutiny; and 80.4 per cent of child protection statutory visits were completed within timescale at the end of Quarter 2 which was slightly behind Quarter 1 performance at 86 per cent and will continue to be closely monitored and managed.

Members discussed the increase in demand for Children and Young People services which has continued to increase from Quarter 1 and the possible reasons for this added pressure on the service.

Members also discussed the number of children and young people from out of the area and that this authority was the highest importer of Looked After Children from other areas because of the number of private children's homes and independent fostering places within the authority. As the number of private homes was increasing Members agreed that this and the planning restrictions imposed on the setting up of private homes may be an area for further examination by this Scrutiny.

The Assistant Director of Children's Services advised Members that the increase in the number of Looked After Children was an area that officers were monitoring closely and the Edge of Care wrap around support that was due to go live in January had a number of projects to actively work towards reducing the numbers.

**RESOLVED** – That the performance information provided for Quarter 2 2018/19 be noted.

## **CYP29 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS - ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2017/20**

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on progress to date against the delivery of the Special Educational Needs Accessibility Strategy 2017/2020 and the actions required to comply with legislation.

All local authorities are required by Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 to prepare an accessibility strategy in relation to schools for which it is the responsible body and was approved by Council in 2017.

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; and improve delivery of information to pupils with disabilities and/or learning difficulties.

It was reported that although the strategy was in relation to the authority's maintained schools the Council had 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.

The submitted report also outlined some key messages received from supporting and guiding educational settings in their development of Accessibility Plans which underpin the strategy.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That Members note the updated Accessibility Strategy.

(b) That Members note the progress in implementing the Strategy and the steps to support schools embed accessibility further.

## **CYP30 SEND STRATEGY AND FUNDING CONSULTATION REVIEW GROUP**

The Chair of this Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated) to present the findings and recommendations of the Review Group established to examine the proposals and submit comment on the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Strategy and Funding and Travel Assistance Policy consultation process.

It was reported that some Members of this Scrutiny Committee had attended the various public consultation events that had been organised during the consultation period of 17 October to 28 November 2018 and Members met on 26 October 2018 to discuss the feedback received at the various consultation events and to propose a Scrutiny response to the proposals in the Strategy.

Members of the Review Group concluded that there was support for the proposals in the SEND Strategy and Funding from both parents and Members, however Members felt that there were some improvements that could be made to services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The main concern of Members was the lack of local resource bases and agreed that now was an appropriate time to review this provision which was last commissioned in 2010 and also proposed a key person responsible for accountability and communication between parents and schools.

The Head of Education and Inclusion discussed the recommendations in detail with Members and confirmed that they would be included as part of the consultation on the 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 those children and young people.

The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio also acknowledged and supported the work and recommendations of the Review Group.

**RESOLVED** – That the recommendations below be approved by Scrutiny Members and referred to Cabinet as part of the overall consultation on the Strategy:

- (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.

### **CYP31 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.

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

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## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 21 January 2019

**PRESENT** – Councillors C Taylor (Chair), Mrs Culley, L Hughes, Kelly, Lister, Mills and Storr

**STATUTORY CO-OPTees** –

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Glenis Harrison and John Armitage

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Crudass and Curry, ,

**ABSENT** – Councillors Wright, Malcolm Frank, Paul Rickeard, Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Nick Lindsay, Sanja Miah and Janet Woodcock

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors C L B Hughes

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Elizabeth Davison (Assistant Director Resources) and Tony Murphy (Head of Education and Inclusion)

### **CYP32 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) 2019/20**

Submitted – A report (previously circulated) of the Chief Officers Executive which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 December 2018, in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2019-20 to 2022-23 and proposing a 2019/20 to 2022/23 capital programme for consultation.

It was reported that the delivery of the core offer which was agreed in 2016 remained extremely challenging with some significant pressures arising in children's social care, however, through innovative financial investments and increased income from economic growth, the Council could still deliver the agreed balanced plan and extend the MTFP. A further £0.600 million had also been identified which could be used to bolster the Futures Fund themes or be returned to reserves.

It was noted that the Council had allocated £4.1 million to the futures fund in 2018/19, £2.5 million of which was allocated between the five community themes. To date £1.063 million had been committed to the futures fund themes with a balance of £1.437 million remaining.

Discussion ensued on the significant work which had been undertaken to achieve economic growth within the Borough, particularly in relation to Symmetry Park, which had been rewarded with a positive net increase in the projected National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) collected over the coming MTFP.

It was reported that there were no proposed reductions in service levels within the 2019/20 MTFP and that fees and charges had been reviewed and increased where appropriate.

Members noted the additional monies identified for winter pressures amounting to £501,000 this year and for next year to be divided between residential and domiciliary

care and to be agreed with our NHS colleagues.

Members also noted the significant pressures arising in Children's social care and the demand pressures on external residential placements and independent fostering placements in Children's Services and additional one off finance to be used to offset some of the pressure on Children and Adult social care.

**RESOLVED** - That this Scrutiny Committee has no comment to make on the proposed schedule of fees and charges for those services within its remit and supports Cabinet's proposal in relation to those fees and charges and the proposed Council Tax increase of 2.99 per cent for the next financial year.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 11 March 2019

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### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Q3 2018/19

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#### **Purpose of the Report**

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

#### **Summary**

2. This report provides Quarter 3 (October – December) 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. 98.1% 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. 97.3% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the Strategy meeting being held/Section 47 being initiated.
7. 100% Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.
8. 100% of children with a Child Protection Plan and 100% of Children Looked After have an allocated social worker.
9. 99.2% of Looked After reviews were completed within timescale.
10. 89.6% of statutory visits to Looked After Children were completed in timescale.
11. 93.8% who had a review health assessment due, received their assessment within the required timescale.
12. 19.3% of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET).

### Where do we need to improve?

13. Timeliness of assessment is slightly below the target of 90%, reasons for this are analysed and monitored by the Head of Service.
14. 94.2% statutory child protection visits were completed within 15 working days, with 77.8% completed within 10 working days, this is slightly behind Quarters 1 and 2. Performance against this indicator will therefore continue to be closely managed.
15. Missing from home interviews have been offered within 72 hours in 91.3% of the cases, however 75.4% of young people actually engaged in the interview. Where the coordinator cannot engage the young person, they explore the issues with parents, carers, teachers or social workers.
16. The rate of Looked After Children is 110.6 per 10,000 population, this is above statistical, regional and national benchmarks.

### **Recommendation**

17. 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 Performance & Quality Assurance Report

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Quarter 3 2018/19

Children and Young People Scrutiny

## Key Performance Indicators

### Quarter 3 Performance Summary

#### Performing Well

Contacts & Referrals  Page 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite an increase in number of contacts, year to date 98.1% of contacts and 99.6% of referrals are screened and completed within 1 day, above target of 95 and 90% respectively.</li> <li>• 95.3% (1,482 out of 1,555) of contacts were screened within 1 working day in Quarter 3 compared to 98.2% (1439 out of 1464) in Quarter 2. This is a slight reduction in the percentage completed within 24 hours however it is still in line with our target.</li> <li>• As of Quarter 3 there had been 373 referrals per 10,000 population. If this rate was maintained for the remainder of 2018/19, it would give a year end rate of 497.36 referrals per 10,000. This is lower than national (552.5 per 10,000) and regional (601.7 per 10,000) benchmarks, but similar to our statistical neighbours (505.54 per 10,000) in 2017/18. Regional Benchmarking (ADCS) in Quarter 2 of this year is showing an increasing trend (638 per 10,000).</li> <li>• 16.4% of re-referrals were repeated within 12 months, better than target of 18%.</li> <li>• Of the 840 children referred to Children’s Services year to date, 3.6% (30) previously had a Child Protection Plan (CPP).</li> </ul>
Early Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year to date 33.2% (208 of 626) of Early Help Assessments have been initiated by external agencies, which is above our target of 30%.</li> </ul>
Missing and CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of children missing from home, had their interviews following a missing episode.</li> <li>• 93.6% (88/94) of the episodes missing in Quarter 3 were for a period of 48 hour or less. 26.6% (25/94) of the episodes were for young people who are looked after by another local authority.</li> <li>• Year to date, 17 Children subject to Sexual Exploitation (CSE) have been downgraded to low risk or referred to other services.</li> </ul>
CiN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year to date, 93.5% (775/829) of children had their CiN reviews held in timescale.</li> </ul>
Strategies, Section 47 and ICPC’s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICPC’s completed within 15 days of the strategy was 97.3%, above target and better than statistical, regional and national averages.</li> </ul>
CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% Child Protection reviews were completed within the required timescales. This is higher than Regional (95%), National (92%) and Statistical Neighbours (95%).</li> <li>• 2% of children ceased to be subject of a CPP who had been subject to a CPP for 2 or more years, better than target of 5% and compares well with our statistical neighbour, regional and national averages.</li> <li>• 6% of children from the 840 year to date have previously had a CPP.</li> </ul>
LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 97.3% of Looked After Children had their initial review completed within required timescales year to date and a 100% of subsequent reviews have been completed in timescale.</li> <li>• 87.9% (138 out of 157) of children over the age of 4yrs participated in their Looked After review during Quarter 3, an improvement on the 81% at same period 17/18.</li> <li>• 9.4% of children were placed 20 or more miles away from home, better than the 10% target and comparable to our statistical neighbour, regional and national averages.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73% of Looked After Children aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years.</li> <li>• The proportion of children placed in residential care has improved, 13.7% at December 2018</li> <li>• Of those children due a Review Health Assessment, 93.2% have been carried out within timescale year to date, better than 90% target.</li> </ul>
Fostering & Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of children looked after who were adopted year to date figure is 9.</li> <li>• 62.5% of children waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family as at December 2018 which is above target of 60%.</li> </ul>
Care Leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 94.7% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of December. Those not in suitable accommodation were due to currently being in custody.</li> <li>19.3% of Care Leavers were NEET, significantly better than target of 33%.</li> </ul>

## For Focus

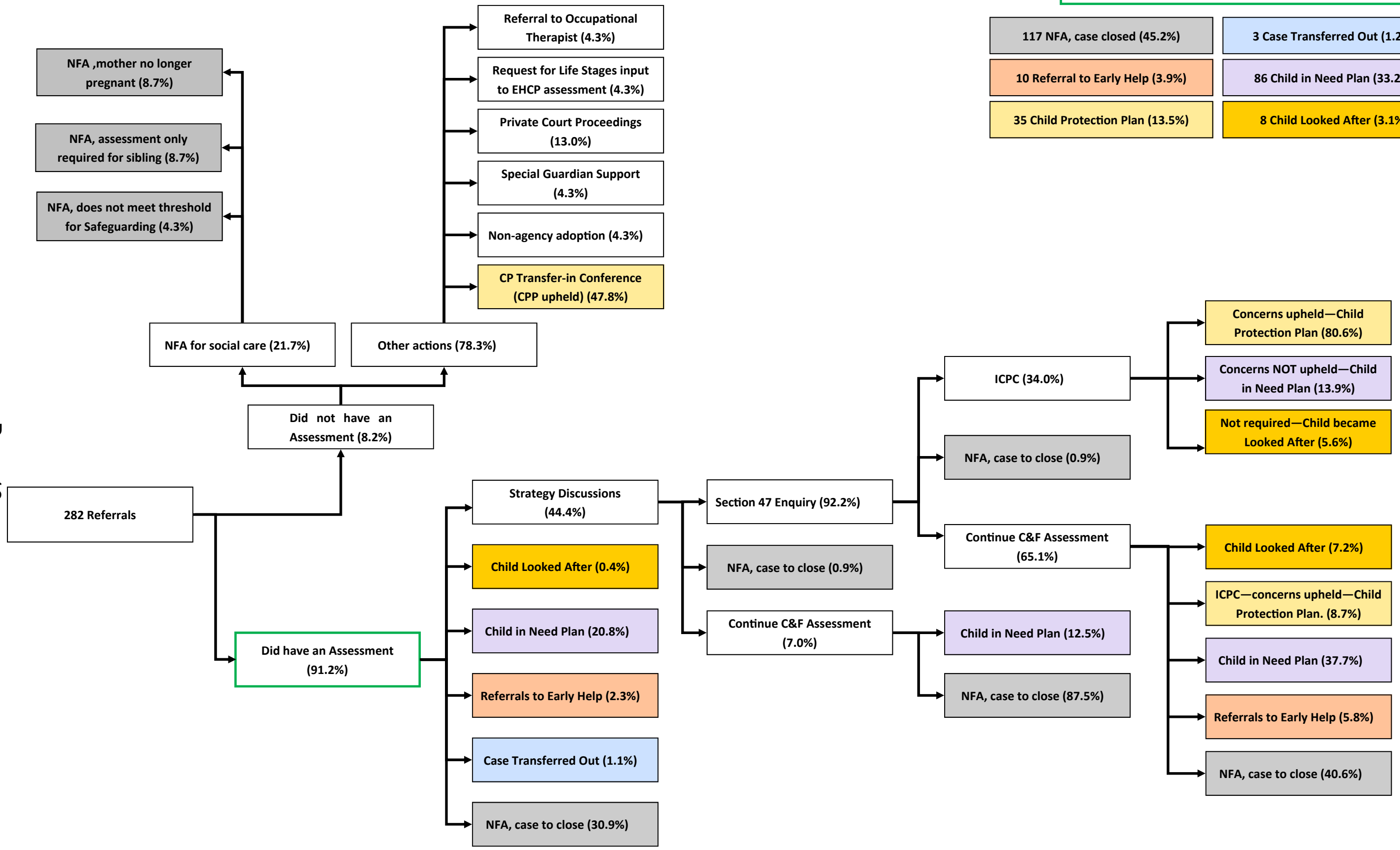
Contacts & Referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year to date there have been 4,501 contacts received, a 21.3% increase compared to the same point in 2017/18.</li> <li>• Of the 43 children from 21 families re-referred during Quarter 3, 29 children (67.4%) from 16 families (76.1%) were re-referred with the same presenting issues as the original referral.</li> </ul>
Missing and CSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing from home interviews have been offered within 72 hours in 91.3% of the cases, however 75.4% engaged in the interview. Where the coordinator cannot engage the young person, they explore the issues with parents, carers, teachers or social workers.</li> </ul>
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeliness of assessment is slightly below target of 90%, however reasons for this are known and monitored.</li> </ul>
CiN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 332 children were subject to a CiN plan at the end of December 2018, an 18.1% increase compared to the same period last year.</li> <li>• Cumulatively as at December 2018, 85.9% of CiN visits were completed in timescale, a slight reduction on same period last year.</li> </ul>
Strategies, Section 47 and ICPC's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 172 strategy discussions were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 49.6% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18. This gives a year to date total of 492 strategy discussions, a 38.6% increase from the same point in 2017 (355 strategies).</li> <li>• 117 Section 47 enquires were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 44.4% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 (81 enquiries). The year to date total is 415, a 62.7% increase on the same period last year (255). The increase in Strategy and Section 47 is not connected to referral numbers as these have remained consistent. Further analysis is planned to understand the increase.</li> </ul>
CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 94.2% (712/756) of the visits were completed within 15 working days, with 77.8% (588/756) having their statutory visits within 10 working days.</li> </ul>
LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rate of Looked After Children (LAC) per 10,000 population 110.6 per 10,000, above statistical, regional and national benchmarks.</li> <li>• 20 children (within 15 families) became Looked After Children during Quarter 3 2018, compared to Quarter 3 2017/18 11 children become looked after.</li> <li>• 89.5% (638 out of 713) of Looked After Children's (LAC) statutory visits due in Quarter 3 were completed within timescale. This is an improvement on Quarter 2 which saw 87.7% of visits completed in timescale.</li> </ul>

# Full System Conversion Flow Q1 2018-19

Outcomes for the 259 children who had an assessment directly following a referral during Q1 2018-19:

117 NFA, case closed (45.2%)	3 Case Transferred Out (1.2%)
10 Referral to Early Help (3.9%)	86 Child in Need Plan (33.2%)
35 Child Protection Plan (13.5%)	8 Child Looked After (3.1%)

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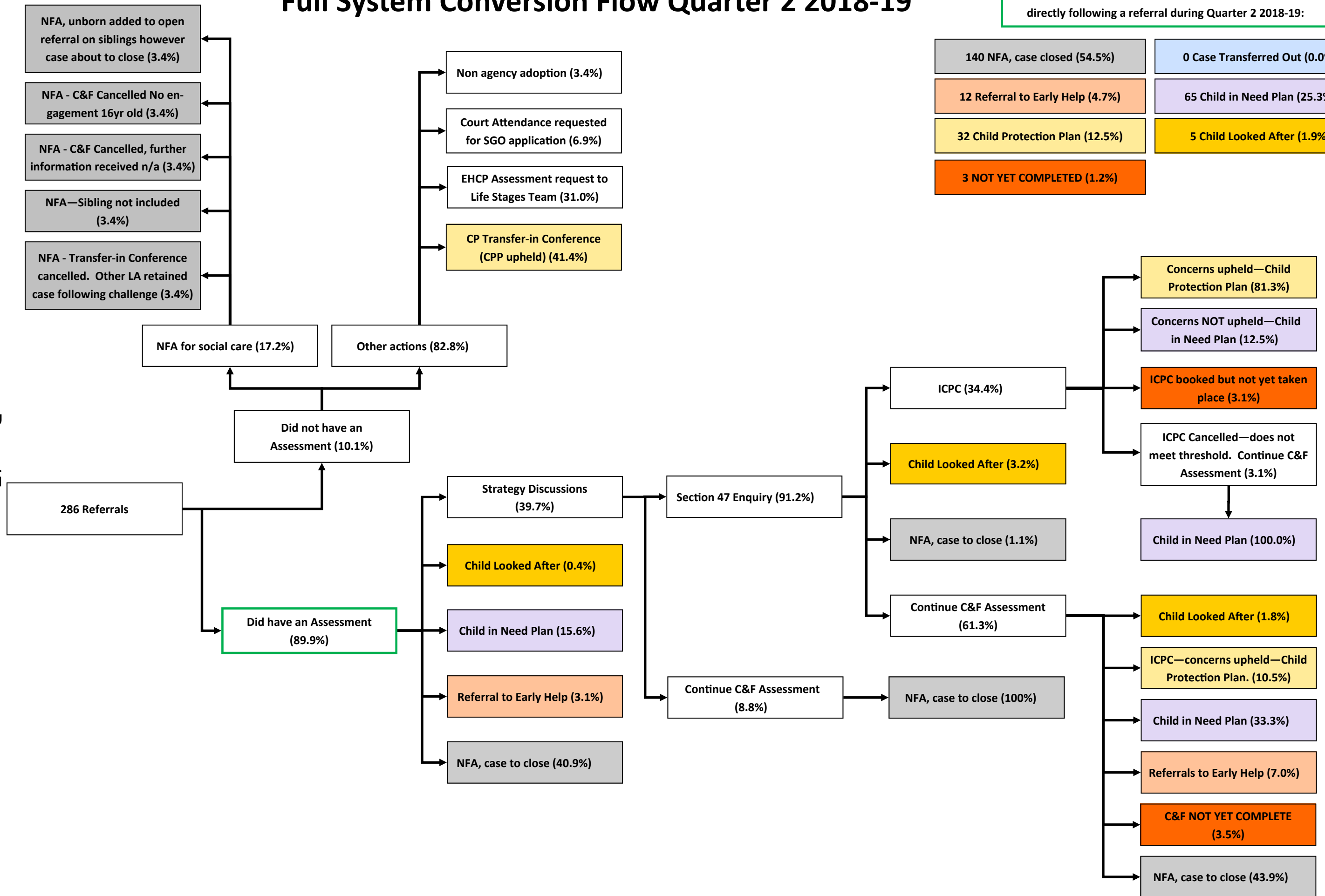


# Full System Conversion Flow Quarter 2 2018-19

Outcomes for the 262 children who had an assessment directly following a referral during Quarter 2 2018-19:

140 NFA, case closed (54.5%)	0 Case Transferred Out (0.0%)
12 Referral to Early Help (4.7%)	65 Child in Need Plan (25.3%)
32 Child Protection Plan (12.5%)	5 Child Looked After (1.9%)
3 NOT YET COMPLETED (1.2%)	

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## Quarter 1 Flows

**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 no less than 3 months prior to the reporting month**

### Quarter 1 Flows

Of the 282 referrals received in the quarter, 259 (91.2%) 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 92% for April and June, and 89.7% for May.

The total rate of assessed cases resulting in no further action for social care in the quarter was 45.2%, or 117 of the 259 referrals which led to an assessment. This includes 13 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 and May are consistently below the 2017-18 average at 43.2% and 43.8% respectively, with a higher figure in June of 64.6%.

The proportion of assessed cases closed with no further action *where only a C&F assessment was carried out* was 30.9% (80/259), again lower than the published 2017-18 figure which was 37.4%. These 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, and the analysis concluded that the true NFA figure for Quarter 1 is 20.5% (53/259 - further breakdown detailed below). Benchmarking shows statistical neighbours at 17.2% in 2017/18, nationally 28.5% and in the North East 21.1%.

44.4% 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%), and the newly available 2018-19 Q2 data of 91.2%, the higher figures appear to be more in line with the wider context, so Q2 and Q3 2017-18 were a slight dip for reasons which will need further analysis. This will be possible when 2018-19 Q3 data becomes available. 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).

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

From contacts in Quarter 1 there were 282 referrals. 259 of these (91.2%) resulted in either a C&F assessment and / or Strategy discussion.

**With regard to the 23 referrals (8.2%) that did not result in an assessment, a review has identified that:**

- 11 referrals were for Transfer in Conferences (all subsequently upheld)
- Were for requested involvement in private court proceedings.
- Request from Education Services for Life Stages Team input towards EHCP assessment
- Referred for Special Guardian support
- Request for support regarding a non-agency adoption
- Referred to the occupational therapist
- 5 received Information and advice only

**The outcomes for the 259 assessments that were completed in Quarter 1 are as follows:**

- 0.4% became Looked After during the assessment process
- 30.9% case closed following assessment\*
- 2.3% referred to Early Help
- 20.8% Children in Need Plan
- 1.2% Case Transferred Out to another Local Authority before further social care involvement
- **44.4% had a Strategy Discussion *Note that some of these took place during a C&F Assessment.***
  - Strategy discussions concluded with NFA for social care, C&F assessment not completed
  - Directed to complete the ongoing C&F assessment resulting in
    - Child in Need Plan
    - Were concluded with NFA, case to 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
    - Child in Need Plan
    - children became Looked After
    - NFA case closed (child safeguarded)
    - **65.1% were directed to complete the ongoing C&F Assessment and subsequently**
      - children became Looked After
      - Child Protection plan
      - Child in Need Plan
      - Early Help
      - Concluded with NFA, case to close\*\*

**\* Further analysis of the 80 assessments which were closed as NFA where only a C&F Assessment was carried out shows that 27 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actual take place, as detailed below:**

- Referred to Life Stages (*recorded as other actions*)
- Referred to Early Help
- Referred to another agency
- Transferred to another local authority
- Stepped down to Universal Services

**Of the remaining 53 which were true NFA's, the reasons for these is as below.**

- Moved out of the area, not transferred as open case
- Consent not obtained, below threshold for statutory services.
- No Further Action, case to close
- Sibling found to be not relevant for assessment

**This leaves 35 assessed cases that were also subject to either a Strategy or a Section 47 which were closed as NFA**

**27 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actually take place, as detailed below:**

- Referred to Early Help
- Stepped down to Universal Services

**18 of the remaining were actual NFA, the reasons are detailed below**

- Consent for further involvement not obtained, and below threshold for statutory services.
- No Further Action, case to close

On reviewing the full data in Quarter 1 the true NFA's figure for the full safeguarding workflow from assessments is 27.4%.

8 cases closed with NFA following a strategy or Section 47 which is 3% of assessed cases. A full analysis of these will be undertaken and reported in March

## Quarter 2 Flows

### Quarter 2 Flows

Of the 286 referrals received in the quarter, 257 (89.9%) resulted in an assessment, which remains a little below the published Darlington figure for 2017-18 (93.1%), with the Q1&Q2 combined average at 90.8% in line with the National average of 90.6% (*Characteristics of children in need: 2017 to 2018*). Looking at individual months in Quarter 2, the rate of referrals leading to an assessment was higher for July at 95% in contrast to than 87% for August and September.

The total rate of assessed cases resulting in no further action for social care in the quarter was 58.8%, or 140 of the 257 referrals which led to an assessment. This includes 12 cases which were referred to Early Help. This is higher than Q1, with the average for Q1 and Q2 totalling 54.4%, or 280 cases. Looking in detail, August has the highest rate of closures following assessment at 69.4% and further analysis of the source and presenting issues of these referrals will provide further understanding of why this month was significantly higher for “NFA” outcomes.

The proportion of assessed cases closed with no further action *where only a C&F assessment was carried out* was 40.9% (105/257) without any other statutory process, 10% higher than the Q1 figure. These assessments have been further analysed and this work has concluded that the true NFA figure for Quarter 2 is 24.1% (62/257 - further breakdown detailed below). Benchmarking shows statistical neighbours at 17.2% in 2017/18, nationally 28.5% and in the North East 21.1%. The combined Q1 and Q2 average for this is 22.3%.

39.7% of cases had a strategy discussion either during or as a result of a C&F assessment, with 91.2% of these leading to a section 47 enquiry. These conversion rates, although slightly below Q1 outturn, remain higher than the average for 2017-18, and as explained under the Q1 analysis appear to be more in line with the wider context with further comparison to take place when 2018-19 Q3 data becomes available.

### **Full System Conversion Flow: Referrals in Quarter 2 2018-19**

From contacts in Quarter 2 there were 286 referrals. 257 of these (89.9%) resulted in either a C&F assessment and / or Strategy discussion.

### **With regard to the 29 referrals (10.1%) that did not result in an assessment, a review has identified that:**

- Referrals were for Transfer in Conferences (all subsequently upheld)
- Were for requested involvement in private court proceedings.
- Were a request from Education Services for Life Stages Team input towards EHCP assessment
- Support regarding a non-agency adoption

- received Information and advice only

**The outcomes for the 257 assessments that were completed in Quarter 2 are as follows:**

- 0.4% became Looked After during the assessment process
- 40.9% case closed following assessment\*
- 3.1% referred to Early Help
- 16.0% Children in Need Plan
- **39.7% had a Strategy Discussion *Note that some of these took place during a C&F Assessment.***
  - 9 were directed to complete the ongoing C&F assessment, all resulting in case closures\*\*
  - **91.2%) progressed to a Section 47 enquiry and subsequently**
    - 28% resulting in a CPP
    - Child in Need Plan
    - Children became Looked After,
    - NFA case closed (child safeguarded)
    - **61.3% were directed to complete the ongoing C&F Assessment and subsequently**
      - Children became Looked After
      - Resulting in a CPP
      - Became the subject of a Child in Need Plan
      - Referred to Early Help
      - Were concluded with NFA, case to close\*\*

**\* Further analysis of the 105 assessments which were closed as NFA where only a C&F Assessment was carried out shows that 43 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actual take place, as detailed below:**

- Referred to Early Help
- Referred to another agency
- Referred for a Family Group Conference
- School to undertake Early Help Assessment
- Stepped down to Universal Services

**Of the remaining 62 which were true NFA's, the reasons for these is as below. Which equates to 24.1% of Assessment only cases.**

- Moved out of the area, not transferred as open case
- Consent not obtained, below threshold for statutory services.
- No Further Action, case to close
- Case to close for teenage mother but referral made for the unborn baby



**This leaves 35 assessed cases that were also subject to either a Strategy or a Section 47 which were closed as NFA**

**17 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actually take place, as detailed below:**

- Stepped down to Universal Services

**18 of the remaining were actual NFA, the reasons are detailed below**

- Consent for further involvement not obtained, and below threshold for statutory services.
- Concluded to be a malicious referral, no role for social care
- Moved out of the area, not transferred as open case
- 17yr old refused to engage with assessment
- No Further Action, case to close

On reviewing the full data in Quarter 2 the true NFA's figure for the full safeguarding workflow from assessments is 31.1%.

14 cases closed with NFA following a strategy or Section 47 which is 5.5% of assessed cases. A full analysis of these will be undertaken and reported in March.

## Contacts and Referrals

### Quarter 3 Performance Summary

#### **Numbers:**

In Quarter 3 the total number of Contacts into the department were 1,551. This is an increase of 5.9% compared with Quarter 2 and a 12.5% increase on the same period last year.

#### **Source:**

Police and Education continue to submit the most Contacts, Police at 35.3% (2017/18 32.2%) and Education at 25.8% (2017/18 26.6%), this is comparable with the same period as last year. All other agencies are comparable month on month.

#### **Outcomes:**

Analysis of Q3 data shows that 54% of the Contacts from the police were outcomed as advice given, 6% regarding operation encompass, and 12% regarding information and signposting. Although there are other sources with 100% of Contacts being given advice and information these are from sources expected to be so (i.e. anonymous, hospitals), however the overall numbers of Contacts from these sources are considerably lower. The referrals into social care for the Quarter are comparable to same period last year however that is 4.2% lower than the previous quarter.

Work is underway to understand Contacts from the Police, due to the higher numbers. This will inform any work with the Constabulary going forward. This work will be concluded in Quarter 4.

#### **Age Ranges:**

There has been a 9% decrease in the number of Contacts on unborns and 1-4 years olds to the department whilst there has been no comparable change in the other age ranges for this quarter.

#### **Timeliness:**

The timeliness of decision making of contacts has remained within target although December performance (94.1%) correlates with a decrease in staffing due to pressures in other parts of the service. It is expected that this will remain in target for the end of year.

**Re-Referrals:**

The re-referral rate at the end of Quarter 3 is 15.9% (YTD 16.4%), better than the target of 18%. This remains below statistical numbers, national and north east benchmarks. The reasons for re-referral continue to relate to Mental Health, Domestic Abuse and Neglect. Further training and the embedding of the Graded 2 Profile is ongoing and this will be monitored through the next quarter.

In Quarter 3 43 re-referrals (in 21 families) related to 11 families with more than one sibling (33 children) and 10 single children families. Out of the 43 children 29 (67.4%) in 16 families (76.1%) were re-referred with the same presenting issues as the original referral.

**CONTACTS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	<p>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.</p>
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>1,551 contacts were received during Quarter 3 2018/19 which is a 12.5% increase from Quarter 3 2017/18 where there were 1,379 contacts. These contacts related to 2,085 individual children in Quarter 3 2018/19; a 9.3% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 with 1,907 individual children. Year to date there has been 4,501 contacts received which is a 21.3% increase with the same point in 2017/18 which had 3,708 contacts received.</p>
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	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)

<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Apr-18	420	701	544
	May-18	450	779	657
	Jun-18	616	971	761
	Jul-18	612	1014	794
	Aug-18	314	551	443
	Sep-18	538	860	685
	Oct-18	597	966	753
	Nov-18	563	950	780
	Dec-18	391	658	552
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			

<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2015/16			
	2016/17			
	2017/18			
	2018/19 YTD	4501	7450	5969

**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.

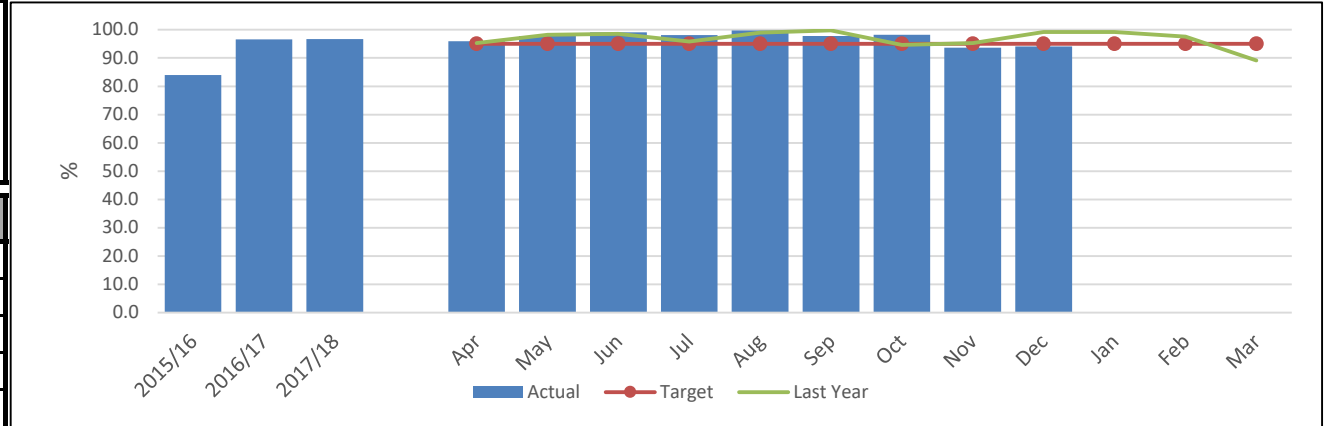
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

95.3% (1,482 out of 1,555) of contacts were completed within 1 working day in Quarter 3 compared to 98.2% (1439 out of 1464) in Quarter 2. This is a slight reduction in the percentage completed within 24 hours however it is still in line with our target of 95%.

72 contacts in Quarter 3 were completed within 24 - 72hrs (24 in Quarter 2). Quarter 3 has seen a sufficient increase in contacts into CAP. Some of these contacts were more complex and it was agreed by the Head of Service that in order to risk manage them the service would wait longer to gain the information from external agencies before out-coming the contact.

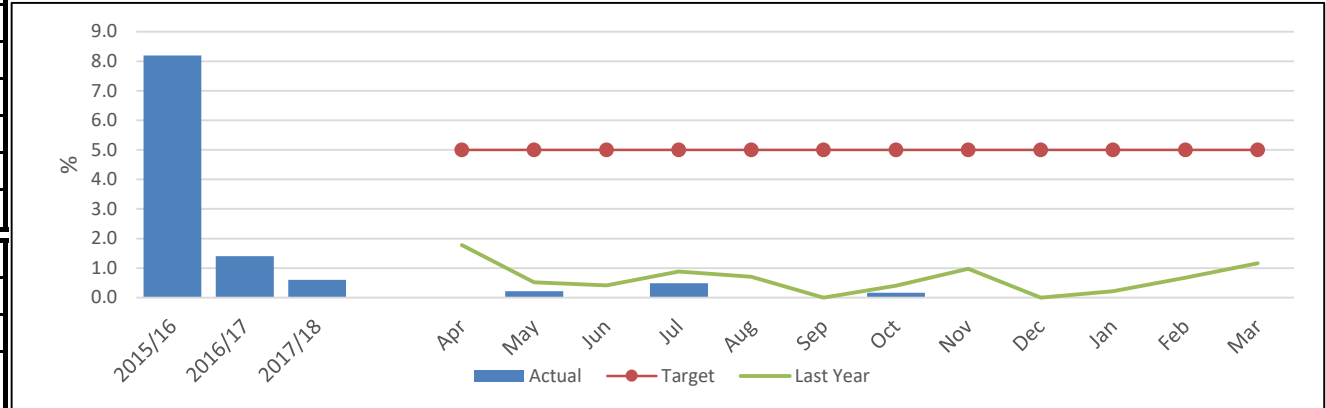
CSC 006	CSC 009
% of contacts completed within 1 working day within the month	% of contacts completed over 3 working days within the month

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



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Target	95	5
	Apr-18	96.0	0.0
	May-18	97.8	0.2
	Jun-18	99.0	0.0
	Jul-18	98.0	0.5
	Aug-18	99.7	0.0
	Sep-18	97.8	0.0
	Oct-18	98.2	0.2
	Nov-18	93.6	0.0
	Dec-18	94.1	0.0
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
Mar-19			

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



<b>Annual Trend</b>	2015/16	84.0	8.2
	2016/17	96.6	1.4
	2017/18	96.7	0.6
	2018/19 YTD average	98.1	0.1

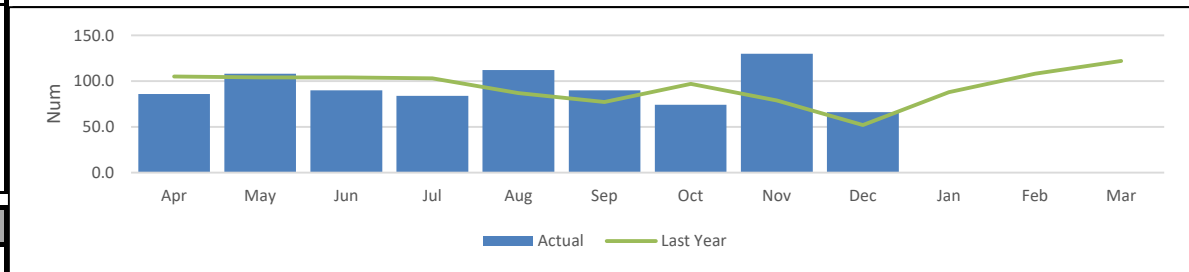
**REFERRALS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	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.
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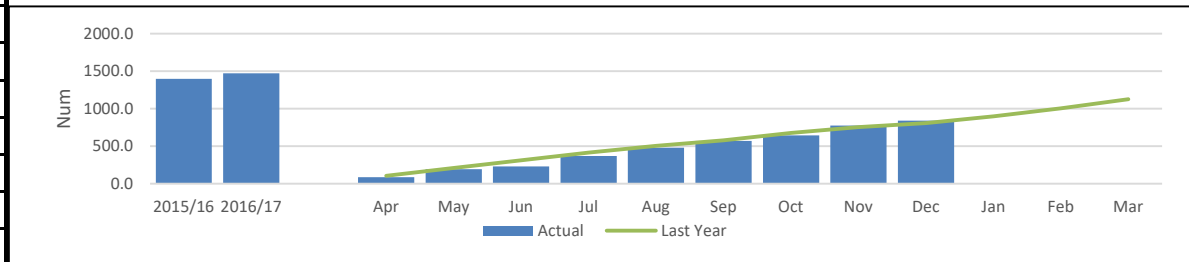
<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>270 referrals to Children Social Care commenced during Quarter 3 2018/19, which is an 18.43% increase from Quarter 3 2017/18 (228). However the year to date figure of 840 is only a 4% increase on the year to date figure at Quarter 3 2017/18 (808).</p> <p>In terms of the rate of referrals, as of Quarter 3 there had been 373 referrals per 10,000 population. If this rate was maintained for the remainder of 2018/19, it would give a year end rate of 497.36 referrals per 10,000. This is lower than national (552.5 per 10,000) and regional (601.7 per 10,000) benchmarks, but similar to our statistical neighbours (505.54 per 10,000) in 2017/18. Regional Benchmarking (ADCS) in Quarter 2 of this year is showing an increasing trend (638 per 10,000).</p> <p>Of the 840 children year to date referred to Children's Services in 2018/19, 3.6% (30) have previously had a Child Protection Plan (CPP).</p>
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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.

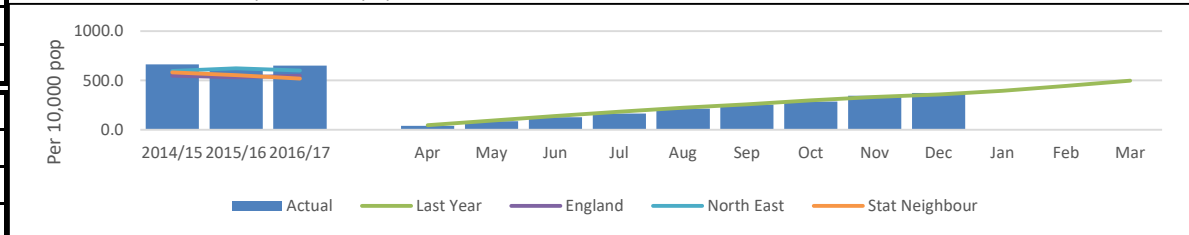
CSC 013: Monthly number of children referrals were started



CSC 012: Number of children's referrals STARTED year to date.



CSC 014: Rate of referrals per 10,000 population.



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Target</b>			
	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	74	644	286.0
	Nov-18	130	774	343.7
	Dec-18	66	840	373.0
Jan-19				
Feb-19				
Mar-19				
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2015/16	1398	1398	615.9
	2016/17	1472	1472	650.6
	2017/18	1126	1126	497.6
	2018/19 YTD	840	840	373.0

**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.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 99.6% (269 out of 270) of all referrals were completed within 24 hours during Quarter 3 2018/19.

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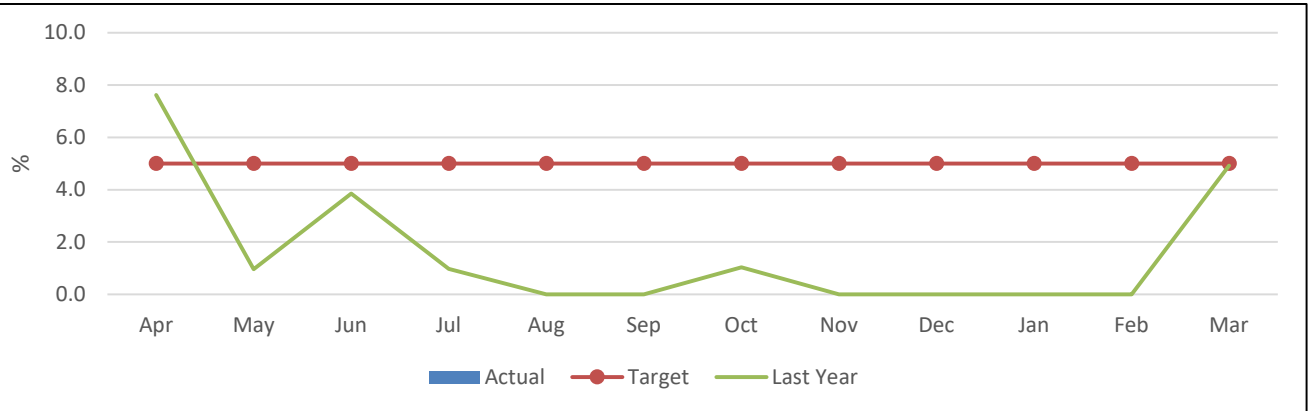
CSC 022	CSC 026
Monthly % of referrals completed within 24 hours.	Monthly % of referrals completed in over 72 hours.

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



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>5</b>
	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	98.7	0.0
	Nov-18	99.2	0.0
	Dec-18	100.0	0.0
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
Mar-19			

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



<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2015/16	85.2	
	2016/17	88.0	4.8
	2017/18	96.0	1.8
	2018/19 YTD average	99.6	0.0

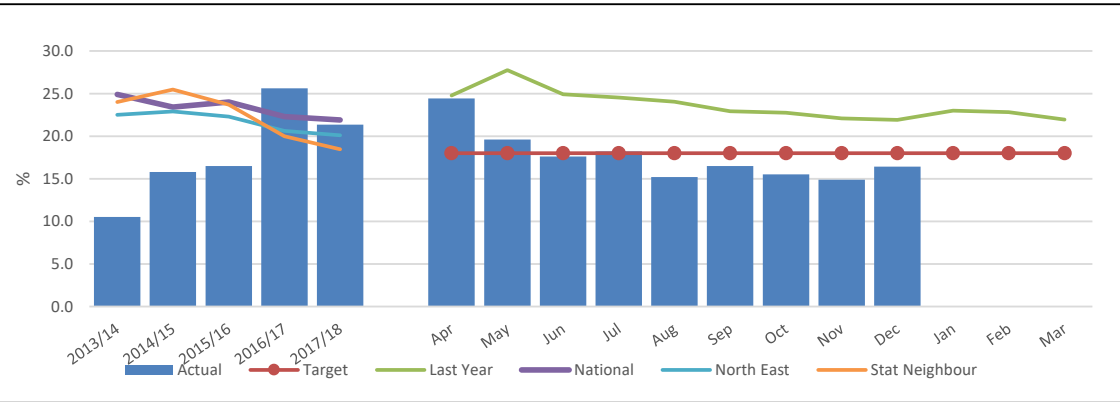
**REFERRALS - RE-REFERRALS**

**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.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 43 children were re-referred to Children's Social Care during Quarter 3 2018/19 when their last referral had ended less than 12 months ago. This is comparable to the number in Quarter 3 2017/18 which saw 44 referrals. Re-referral rates at the end of Quarter 3 is 15.9% which is below the target of 18% and the year to date rate is currently 16.4%.

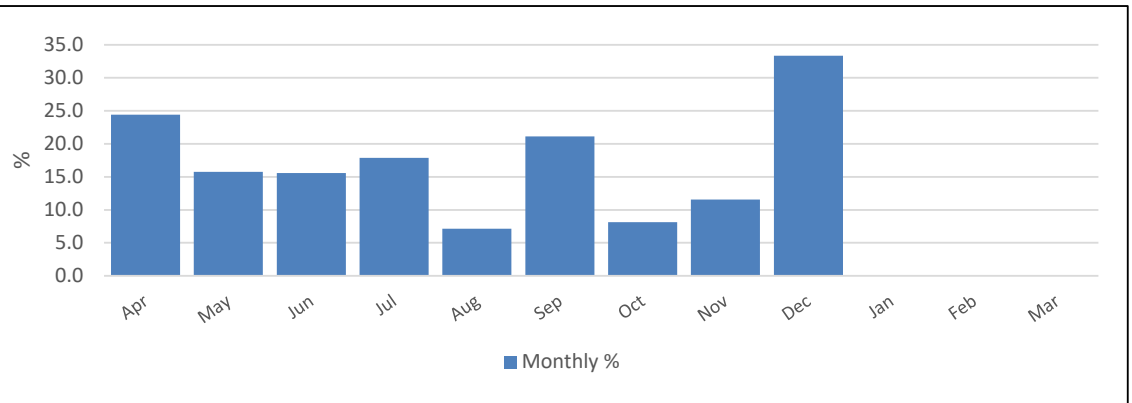
CSC 034	CSC 032	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (monthly)
Monthly number of re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative)	

CSC 032: % re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative)



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target		18	
	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	6	15.5	8.1
	Nov-18	15	14.9	11.5
	Dec-18	22	16.4	33.3
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
Mar-19				

% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (monthly)



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		16.5	
	2015/16	353	25.6	
	2016/17	314	21.4	
	2017/18	247	21.9	
	2018/19 YTD	137	16.4	



## Early Help

### Quarter 3 Performance Summary

#### **Early Help:**

The number of Early Help Assessments being completed by external agencies within this quarter continues to increase, currently at 46.5%. External assessments will be subject to increased audit activity during Quarter 4 to inform any future training programme for the year 2019/2020 and this will be reported on later in the year.

Despite the positive increase, Health Services continue to be a low completer. Champions have now been identified in the health visitor/school nursing service and it is anticipated this will have an impact in the next quarter.

The use of the success criteria is now reportable for a full quarter and shows 14.5% of the cases open to Early Help stepped up to Social Care during this period, however, there is no comparable data from the previous year and only one month could be reported on in the previous quarter. This will continue to be monitored and targets set for the year 2019/2020.

#### **Troubled Families**

The Darlington target of 930 families to be identified has been achieved this quarter.

The percentage of families for which the target has been met has since the commencement of the programme is currently 41% this continues to increase month on month and the prediction for the end of the programme remains 75%.

#### **Keeping Families Together (Edge of Care):**

This programme commenced within timescale, in mid-January and is currently working with the three families identified for the quarter, activity and analysis will be available Quarter 4.

Family Group Conference has been re modelled during the last quarter and will be rolled out to all teams at the end of February. New data sets have been prepared and will be reported on in Quarter 4 and throughout 2019/2020.

#### **Children Centres:**

During Quarter 3, 64% of the families attending our children centres were from within 30% areas of deprivation with an average of 60.8% year to date. This exceeds our target of 50%.

**Missing:**

The number of young people who have been reported missing has increased from 48 during Quarter 2 to 53 during Quarter 3, however the amount of episodes they have had has reduced, from 99 episodes during Quarter 2 to 94 episodes during Quarter 3.

There is no significant difference in the number of females and males who are reported missing but males go missing more often.

All cases where children have regular missing episodes are discussed at the missing and Exploited Group (MEG) and measures explored to reduce missing episodes.

**CSE:**

Numbers of young people accessing the service has dropped slightly throughout Quarter 3 from 14 - 11. The numbers at high risk has increased slightly from 5 to 6. 8/11 of cases were CiN and 3/11 were LAC.

Referrals for males are still significantly lower than females.

There were 6 new referrals within this quarter and 6 cases closed to CSE support due to risk reducing to low.

All young people at high or medium risk of Child Sexual Exploitation are supported by Barnardo's and offered a Programme to raise their awareness. The Programme covers 6 core areas including reducing risk/harm, improving mental health and wellbeing, identifying abusive/exploitative behaviour, recognising exploitative behaviour on internet, increasing knowledge of sexual health strategies and reducing missing from home episodes.

Partnership working has developed with the monthly Missing Exploited Group working with agencies making decisions from a multi- agency prospective. The group includes the ERASE team, Police, Probation, Youth Offending Service, housing, Barnardo's and social care to put plans in place to support young people at risk of CSE, to disrupt perpetrators, explore hotspots and explore the links between missing/CSE.

Barnardo's contribute to our Local Safeguarding Children's Board training, offer and provide bespoke training when necessary including Children's residential staff, Police Specials, children leaving care and school.

**YOS:**

First Time Entrants being referred to YOS as at December 2018 was 23 young people, higher than the 19 at the same point in 2017/18.

Over half entered the youth justice system as a result of violence and or threatening behaviour, other offences included Non Domestic Burglary, Motoring Offences, Theft, Fraud and Forgery Offence and Criminal Damage.

57% entered via out of court disposal and 43% were escalated straight to court due to not admitting the offence.

The YOS had 38 young people referred to the service for diversionary disposals i.e. Pre Caution Disposals (22) and Restorative Disposals (16). There has been a 95% success rate in terms of young people not reoffending.

6 out of 34 young people (17.6%) in the YOS cohort have reoffended, committing a further 21 offences in total.

In relation to the use of custody, overall the YOS have been successful in their sentencing and bail assessments and proposals to the court whereby 95% of young people appearing before the court have received a community sentence or granted bail.

The number of LAC young people who are currently open to YOS at December 2018 is less than 5.

**Actions:**

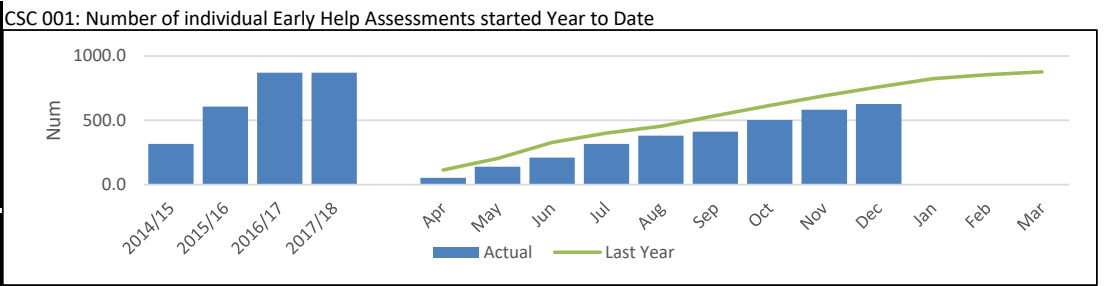
- Work closely with the Social Care Teams and Barnardo's to ensure Darlington continue to commission a service to support young people at risk of CSE who live out of the area.
- Deliver training/CSE awareness to health professionals/school based lead professionals in the Early Help Team to raise awareness
- Ensure more robust reporting mechanisms in place for monitoring and recording support for low level CSE cases

**EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS - STARTED**

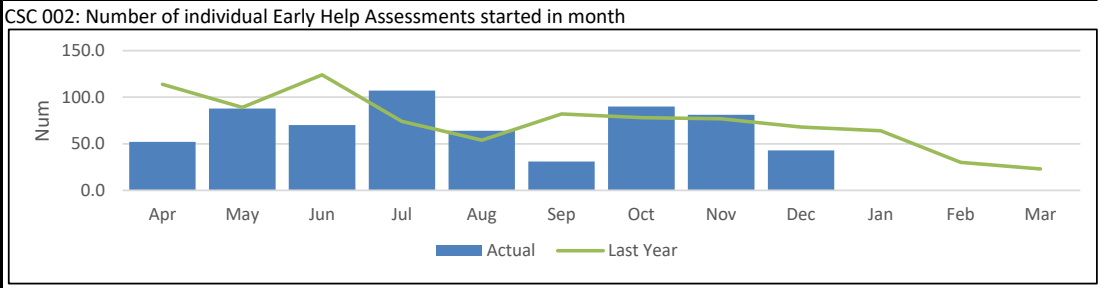
<b>DEFINITION</b>	Number of individual Early Help Assessments recorded in month and year to date and those of which were initiated by external agencies.
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	626 Early Help Assessments have been started year to date with 208 (33.7%) year to date being done by external agencies, which is above our target of 30%. The number of Early Help Assessments have seen a 17.6% drop when compared to the same point in 2017/18 which had 760 assessments started by December 2017.
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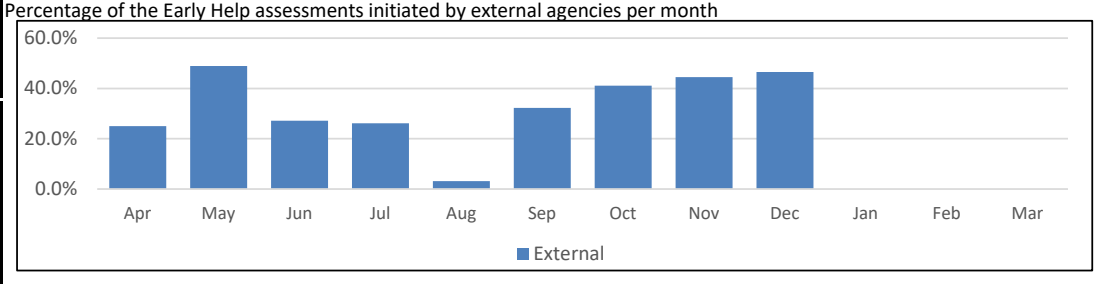
CSC 001	CSC 002	
Number of individual Early Help Assessments started Year to Date	Number of individual Early Help Assessments started in month	Percentage of the Early Help assessments initiated by external agencies per month



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Target</b>				<b>30%</b>
	Apr-18	52	52	13	25.0%
	May-18	140	88	43	48.9%
	Jun-18	210	70	19	27.1%
	Jul-18	317	107	28	26.2%
	Aug-18	381	64	2	3.1%
	Sep-18	412	31	10	32.3%
	Oct-18	502	90	37	41.1%
	Nov-18	583	81	36	44.4%
	Dec-18	626	43	20	46.5%
	Jan-19				
	Feb-19				
	Mar-19				



<b>Annual Trend</b>	2014/15	317	317		
	2015/16	608	608		
	2016/17	871	871		
	2017/18	877	877	178	20.3%
	2018/19 YTD	626	626	208	33.2%



**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.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

53 individual children have been reported missing with a total of 94 episodes during Quarter 3 2018/19 which is similar to that in Quarter 2 which saw 48 individual children missing for a total of 99 episodes.

Missing from home interviews have been offered within 72 hours in 91.3% of the cases but the young person has only engaged in 75.4% of them. Where the coordinator cannot engage, the young person she explores 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 two reasons; not receiving the report from the police in a timely manner and the young person and their parents avoiding any contact with the MFHW.

		CSC 215	CSC 246					CSC 216		
		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
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	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)	<5	92.7%	100%
	Jul-18	41 (19)	26 (9)	20 (4)	<5	<5	<5	<5	94.6%	100%
	Aug-18	25 (18)	8 (5)	<5	7 (5)	<5	<5	<5	89.5%	100%
	Sep-18	33 (25)	10 (7)	<5	6 (5)	<5	10 (6)	<5	78.3%	100%
	Oct-18	43 (26)	18 (10)	<5	<5	<5	12 (7)	<5	90.3%	100%
	Nov-18	28 (21)	<5	0 (0)	<5	<5	11 (9)	<5	82.4%	100%
	Dec-18	23 (17)	12 (7)	0 (0)	<5	<5	<5	<5	100%	100%
	Jan-19									
Feb-19										
Mar-19										
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2016/17									
	2017/18									
	2018/19 YTD (Child counted once)	330 (121)	155 (32)	51 (11)	54 (23)	23 (16)	65 (28)	33 (31)	91.3%	100%

## Assessments

### Quarter 3 Performance Summary

#### Referral to Assessment:

- During Quarter 3, a higher number, 196 referrals out of 270 led to a single (children and family) assessment being undertaken.
- 207 assessments were completed across all Social Work teams apart from the Looked after through Care team. This is in line with the same period in 2017/18 at 220. Cumulatively year to date 761 assessments were completed, slightly lower than same period in 2017/18 at 798.
- The assessments were completed by:
  - Children's First Response team – 160
  - Assessment and Safeguarding teams – 41
  - Life Stages team – 6

#### Timeliness:

- At the end of Quarter 3, the cumulative figure for the completion of assessments within 45 working days year to date was 87.1%, slightly below target and a slight reduction from the 2017/18 Quarter 3 performance of 94.5%.
- Reasons for this slight deterioration in performance are well known by the department. Robust management oversight continues to be in place and strategies to address this dipping further have been implemented.
- 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:
  - Other more urgent priorities such as urgent Court proceedings and Court reports requiring writing
  - One sibling group's assessments had been created in error as this had been a private law matter. Learning that has been taken from this is to cancel the created assessments and re-open them at the appropriate time rather than allow this to remain open at the outset of the request being received
  - There were a small number of miscalculated dates by the Social Workers involved resulting in timescales being exceeded, which has since been addressed

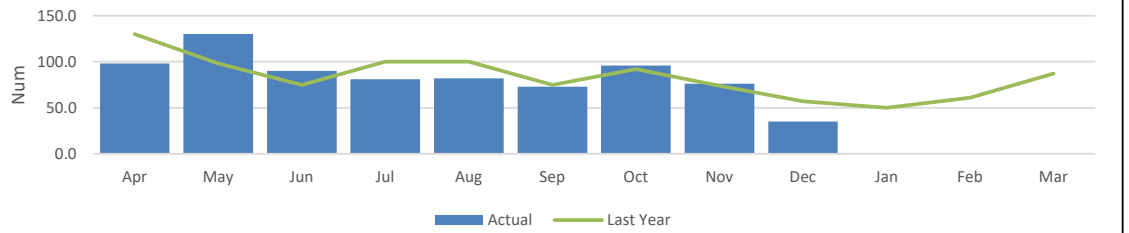
**ASSESSMENTS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	Monthly and cumulative number of assessments completed.
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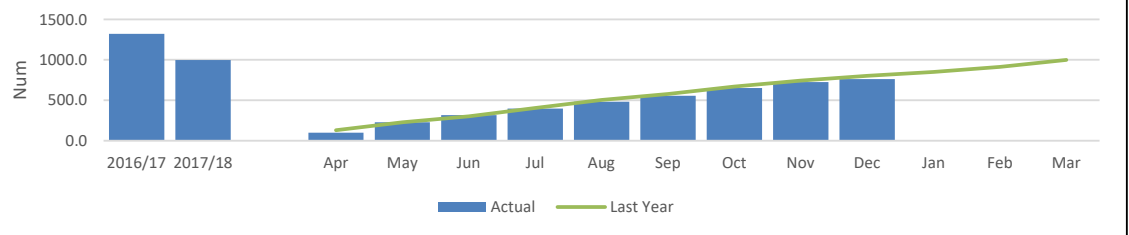
<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>207 Children &amp; Families (C&amp;F) assessments were completed during Quarter 3 2018/19, across all Social Work teams. This is a 7.7% reduction on Quarter 3 2017/18 which completed 223 C&amp;F assessments.</p> <p>Quarter 3 has seen the lowest amount of C&amp;F assessments completed compared to Quarter 1 and 2 2018/19, however this appears to be a downward trend which also occurred in 2017/18 and continued into Quarter 4 2017/18.</p> <p>761 assessments have been undertaken year to date. Compared to 801 by the end of December 2017.</p>
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<b>CSC 037</b>	<b>CSC 036</b>	<b>CSC 035</b>
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.

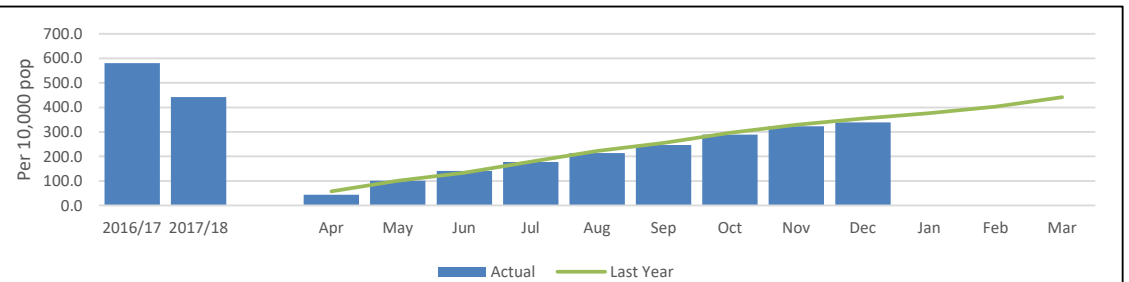
CSC 037: Monthly number of children & families assessments completed



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.



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Target</b>	(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	82	481	213.6
	Sep-18	73	554	246.0
	Oct-18	96	650	288.7
	Nov-18	76	726	322.4
	Dec-18	35	761	338.4
Jan-19				
Feb-19				
Mar-19				

<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15		
	2015/16	1284	565.6
	2016/17	1321	579.8
	2017/18	999	441.5
	2018/19 YTD	761	338.4

**ASSESSMENTS - TIMELINESS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	<p>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. The end date is the first working day on or after the recorded date the Team Manager closes the single assessment.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>87.4% (181/207) of assessments were completed within 45 working days in Quarter 3 2018/19, which is in line with Quarter 2 2018/19. Our monthly percentage completed is in line with our statistical neighbour (87.3%) and above Regional (81.9%) and National (82.7%) average. North East Benchmarking Data (ADCS) as at Quarter 2 2018/19 shows an average of 80.80%.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the yearly 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 assessment by team on following page.</p>
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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

<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	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	85.5	96.3	36.6	20.7	14.6
	Sep-18	87.0	97.3	38.4	15.1	2.7
	Oct-18	87.7	91.7	33.3	20.8	15.6
	Nov-18	87.7	89.5	23.7	10.5	2.6
	Dec-18	87.1	71.4	40.0	14.3	2.9
Jan-19						
Feb-19						
Mar-19						

<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	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	87.1	87.1	40.0	14.3	2.9



## Child Protection

### Quarter 3 Performance Summary

#### Strategy Discussions:

In Quarter 3, 172 strategy discussions were held. The cumulative figure year to date is 492 compared to 355 for this same period in 2017/18, which represents a significant increase.

Cumulatively year to date:

- Children's First Response team held 58.9% of strategy discussions
- Assessment and Safeguarding teams held 38.2% of strategy discussions
- Looked After Through Care team held 2.0% of strategy discussions
- Life Stages team held 0.8% of strategy discussions

#### Section 47 Enquiries:

The number of Section 47 enquiries started in Quarter 3 was 117. This is higher than this same period in 2017/18 at 81. Cumulatively the number of Section 47 enquiries started year to date was 415, compared to 255 in the same period in 2017/18.

The outcome of Section 47 enquiries that have been started in this year is summarised as follows:

- Proceed to single assessment (61.7%)
- Proceed to Initial Child Protection Conference (35.2%)
- Became Looked After (3.1%)

#### Child Protection Conferences:

At the end of Quarter 3, the cumulative figure for Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) being held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/ Section 47 being initiated was 97.3%. The rationale for missed timescales is analysed each month. In the quarter, one conference was held outside of timescale due to late notification of the need for a meeting.

Performance remains higher than benchmarks; NE (82.9%), Statistical Neighbour (85.9%), England (76.9%).

Throughout Quarter 3, 53 children were discussed at ICPC, and year to date 171 children have been considered. This is higher than this period in 2017/18 (112).

### Child Protection Plans:

At the end of Quarter 3, 101 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan, slightly higher than the end of Q3 2017/18 at 89. This equates to a rate of 44.9 per 10,000 of the 0 – 17 population, which is lower than statistical neighbour (64.7), Regional average (87.7) and the National average (58). ADCS North East Benchmarking average for Quarter 2 2018/19 was 66 per 10,000.

All CP cases were allocated to a qualified Social Worker throughout Quarter 3. All CP Plans were reviewed within timescales throughout Quarter 3.

Of those children who are subject to a Child Protection plan:

- 41% have been subject to a CP plan for under 3 months
- 21% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 3 months but less than 6 months
- 34% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 6 months but less than 1 year
- 5% 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 5 children who have been subject to a CP plan for more than 1 year but less than 2 years, all have been subject to a CP Plan for under 18 months. 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%).

To date, 153 children ceased to be subject to a CP Plan, a rate of 67.9 per 10,000 which is similar to Statistical Neighbours (70.9), but lower than Regional average (82.1).

At the end of Quarter 3, 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 5.0%. All children in this category have their cases analysed by a Head of Service. A number of these are where care proceedings have been issued.

### Statutory Visits

At the end of Quarter 3, the cumulative percentage of CP statutory visits that were completed across all quarters, within 15 working days was 94.2%. The percentage within the internally set 10 working days was 78.7%. This quarter has seen a drop in the timeliness of achieving all CP visits within this timescale (79.8%), however 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, 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 the Early Help teams when they are working with a family.

### Care Proceedings:

At the end of Quarter 3:

- There were 9 live Public Law Outline (PLO) cases
- 19 sets of care proceedings had been issued. These refer to public law proceedings and not discharges of Care Orders, Placement Orders or adoption. This is a slight reduction from the previous Quarter
- There were 44 sets of live care proceedings ongoing
- 8 cases were being prepared for care proceedings to be issued. These refer to public law proceedings and not discharges of Care Orders, Placement Orders or adoption
- There were no live discharge of Care Order cases before the Court
- There was no live adoption cases before the Court
- There were less than 5 cases that were being prepared for care proceedings to be issued to discharge Care Orders
- There were less than 5 cases that were being prepared for care proceedings to be issued to revoke Placement Orders
- There was less than 5 cases that were being prepared to issue care proceedings regarding inherent jurisdiction

Please note a case refers to a family group, therefore, not for individual children.

The number of live care proceedings in this period has increased. Despite this, at the end of Quarter 3, the average length of public law proceedings was 25.2 weeks, which is within the 26 week timescale for care proceedings to conclude.

**STRATEGY**

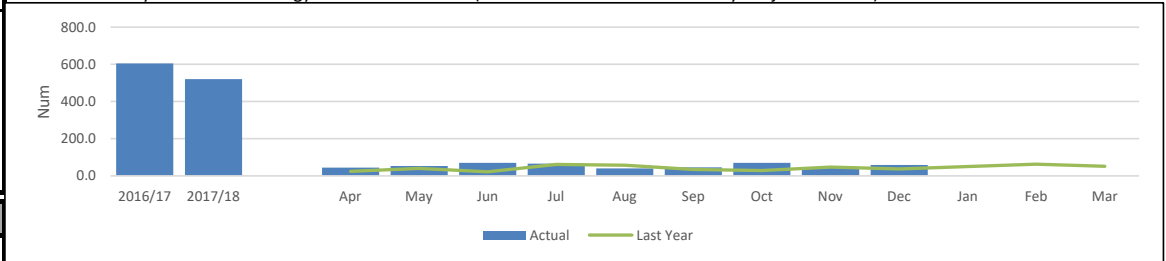
**DEFINITION** The number of strategy discussions started within the month and cumulatively throughout the year.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 172 strategy discussions were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 49.6% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 which had 115 strategy discussions started. This gives a year to date total of 492 strategy discussions 38.6% increase at the same point in 2017 with a total of 355 strategies. The number of referrals remain consistent, due to the increase, work has been completed by Head of Service though out the quarter, reviewing the discussions to confirm that they are appropriate.

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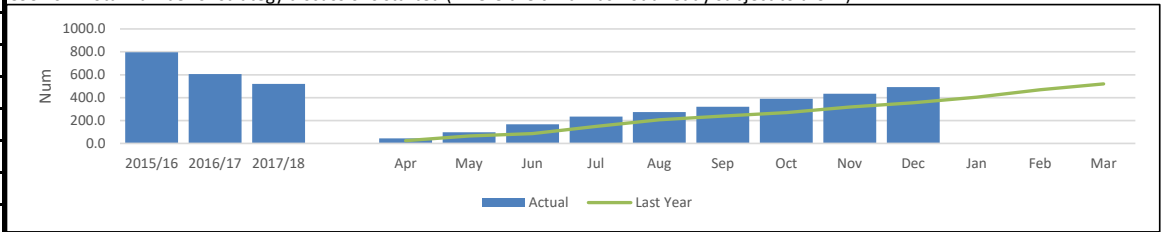
CSC 163	CSC 162	CSC 161
Monthly number of strategy discussions started (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)	Total number of strategy discussions started (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)	Rate of strategy discussions per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (where the child was not already subject to a CPP)

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



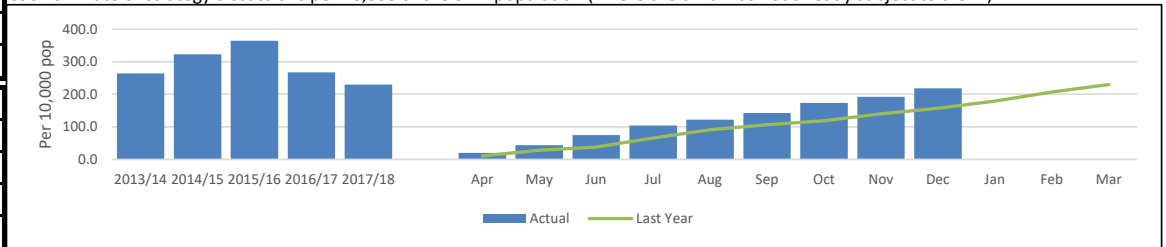
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target			
	Apr-18	45	45	20.0
	May-18	53	98	43.5
	Jun-18	70	168	74.6
	Jul-18	66	234	103.9
	Aug-18	40	274	121.7
	Sep-18	46	320	142.1
	Oct-18	70	390	173.2
	Nov-18	43	433	192.3
	Dec-18	59	492	218.5
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			

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



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15			
	2015/16	796	796	363.9
	2016/17	605	605	267.4
	2017/18	520	520	229.8
	2018/19 YTD	492	492	218.5

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



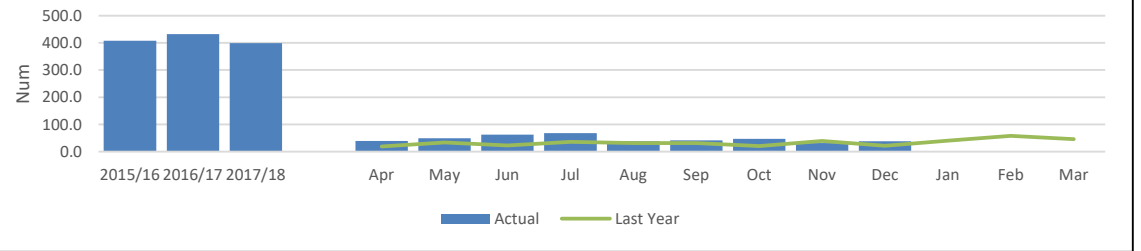
**SECTION 47**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	Number of Section 47 enquiries started monthly and year to date.
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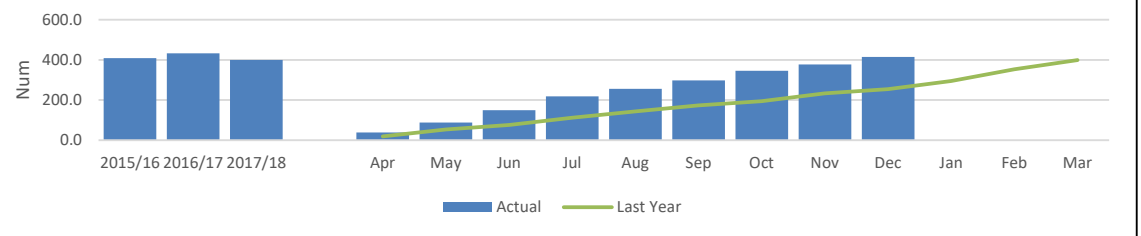
<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>117 Section 47 enquires were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 44.4% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 which had 81 enquiries. This gives a year to date total of 415 which is a 62.7% increase on the year to date figure at December 2017 of 255. The increase in Strategy and Section 47, is not connected to referral numbers as these have remained consistent. Further analysis is planned to understand the increase.</p> <p>Currently our rate of Section 47 enquires per 10,000 is 185.2 which is above our statistical neighbour (168.5) and National average (166.9) but below the Regional average (224.5) (LAIT 2018).</p>
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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)

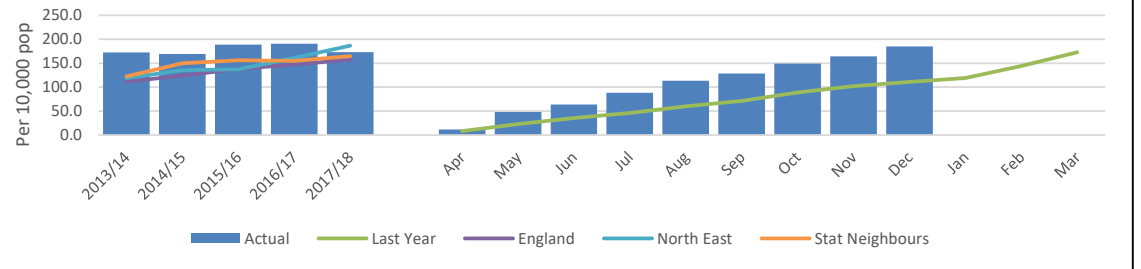
CSC 166: Monthly number of section 47 enquires started (CPP)



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)



**IN MONTH PERFORMANCE**

Target	CSC 166	CSC 165	CSC 164
Apr-18	39	39	12.0
May-18	49	88	48.4
Jun-18	62	150	64.0
Jul-18	68	218	88.4
Aug-18	38	256	113.2
Sep-18	42	298	128.3
Oct-18	47	345	149.2
Nov-18	32	377	164.3
Dec-18	38	415	185.2
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			

**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	415	415	185.2

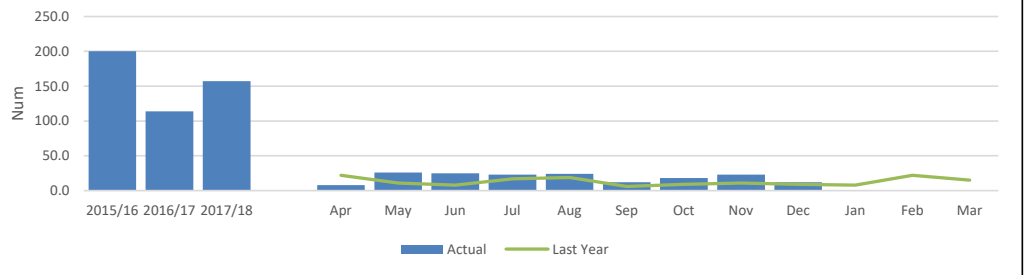
**INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - CHILDREN**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	Number of children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference monthly and year to date (including transfer in conferences).
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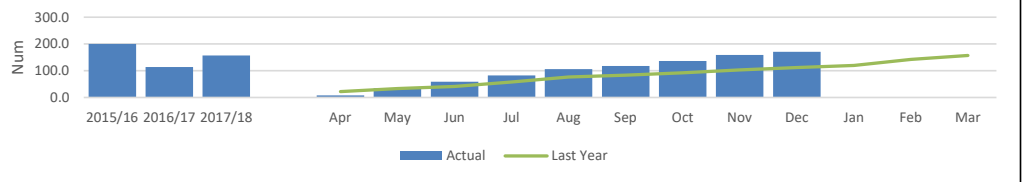
<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>During Quarter 3 2018/19 there were 53 children subject of 31 Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) compared to 29 children over 20 ICPC's during Quarter 3 2017/18, which is an 82.6% increase on the number of children involved.</p> <p>Year to date, 171 children have had an Initial Child Protection Conference's (ICPC) held for them, a 52.7% increase from year to date at December 2018 which held ICPC's regarding 112 children.</p>
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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 (exc. Transfer in)

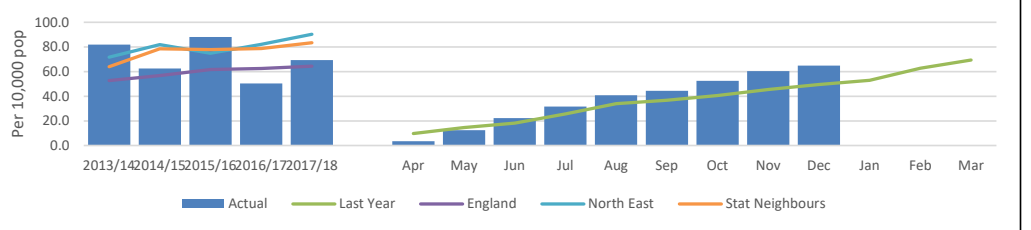
CSC 172: Monthly number of children subject of Initial child protection (CPP) conferences (inc. Transfer in Conferences)



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 (exc. Transfer in)



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target			
	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	18	136	52.4
	Nov-18	23	159	60.4
	Dec-18	12	171	64.8
	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	171	171	64.8

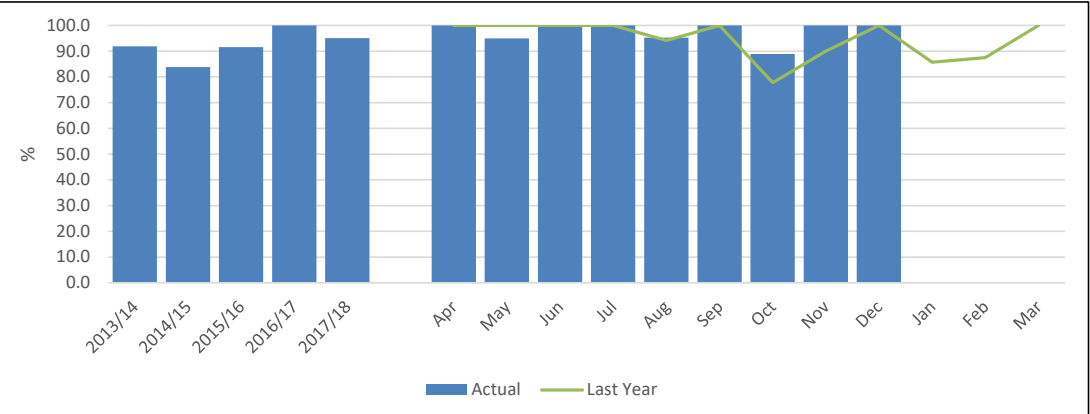
**INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - TIMELINESS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	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.
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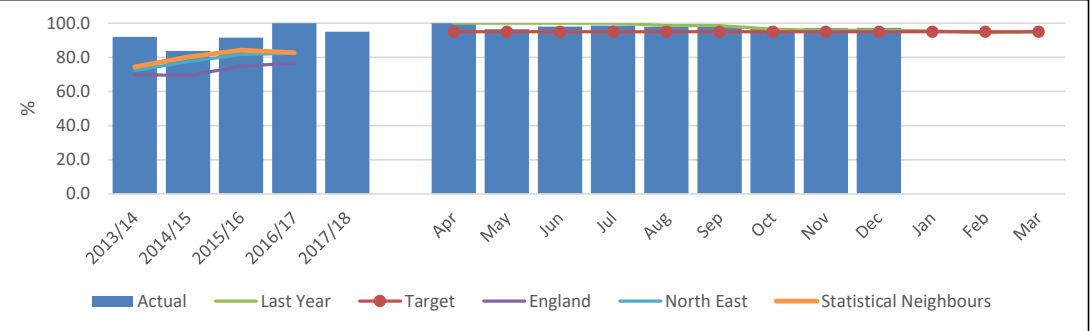
<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	97.3% of the Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were within timescale by the end of Quarter 3 2018/19. At the end of December 2018, the cumulative figure for Initial Child Protection Conferences being held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/section 47 being initiated was 97.3%, this figure is comparable to that in December 2017. Performance remains higher in 2018 than our statistical neighbour (85.9%), Regional (82.9%) and National (76.9%) average. North East Benchmarking (ADCS) in Quarter 2, 2018/19 showed an average of 72.4%.
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<b>CSC 178</b>	<b>CSC 176</b>
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.



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



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>
	Apr-18	100.0	100.0
	May-18	95.0	96.4
	Jun-18	100.0	98.0
	Jul-18	100.0	98.6
	Aug-18	95.2	97.8
	Sep-18	100.0	98.0
	Oct-18	88.9	96.6
	Nov-18	100.0	97.1
	Dec-18	100.0	97.3
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	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	97.3	97.3

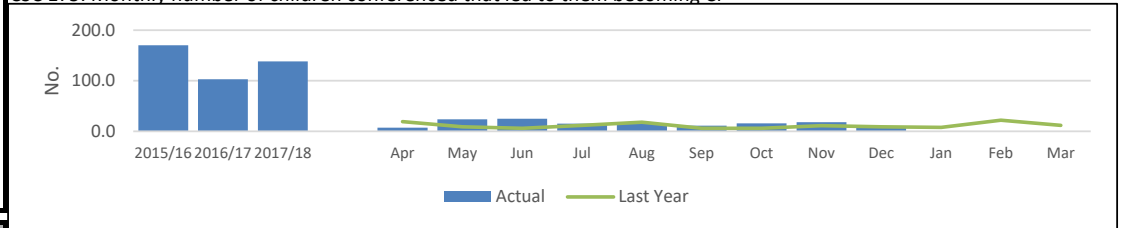
**INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - CONVERSION TO CHILD PROTECTION PLAN**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	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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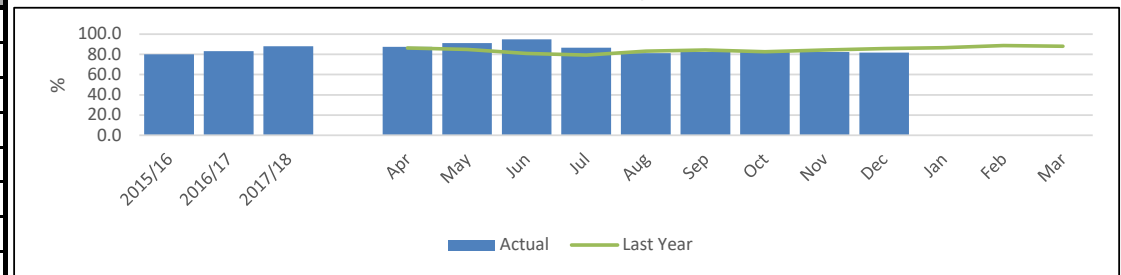
<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>43 of the 53 (81.1%) children who had an Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) during Quarter 3 2018/19 became subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP). Of the 10 children (over 7 families) whose ICPC did not lead to a CPP, all were supported by provisions of services under a CiN plan. This is slightly lower conversion percentage than quarter 3 2017/19 which saw 26 out of 29 (89.7%) children becoming subject to a CPP following an ICPC. Year to date 2018/19 has seen an increase in the number of children becoming subject to a CPP as an outcome of their ICPC, with 140 children compared to 96 children at the same point in 2017/18. However the outcome of the ICPC rate for CPP is slightly lower with 81.9% of children (140/171) in 2018/19 compared to 85.7% (96/112) in 2017/18. This will be monitored to ensure that conversion rate remains at the expected level.</p>
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<b>CSC 175</b>	<b>CSC 177</b>	<b>Monthly percentage of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP</b>
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

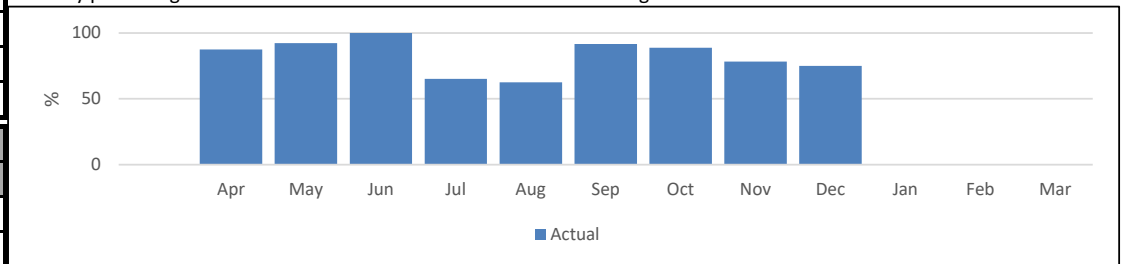
CSC 175: Monthly number of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP



CSC 177: Cumulative % children conferenced that led to them becoming CP



Monthly percentage of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Target</b>			
	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	16	83.1	88.9
	Nov-18	18	82.4	78.3
	Dec-18	9	81.9	75.0
	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	140	81.9	75.0

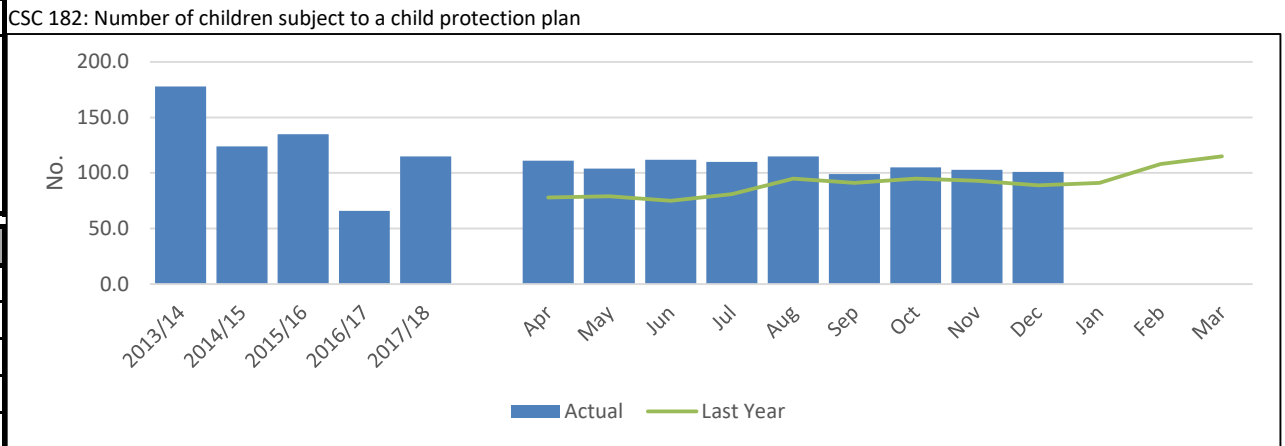


**CHILD PROTECTION**

**DEFINITION** Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of the month.

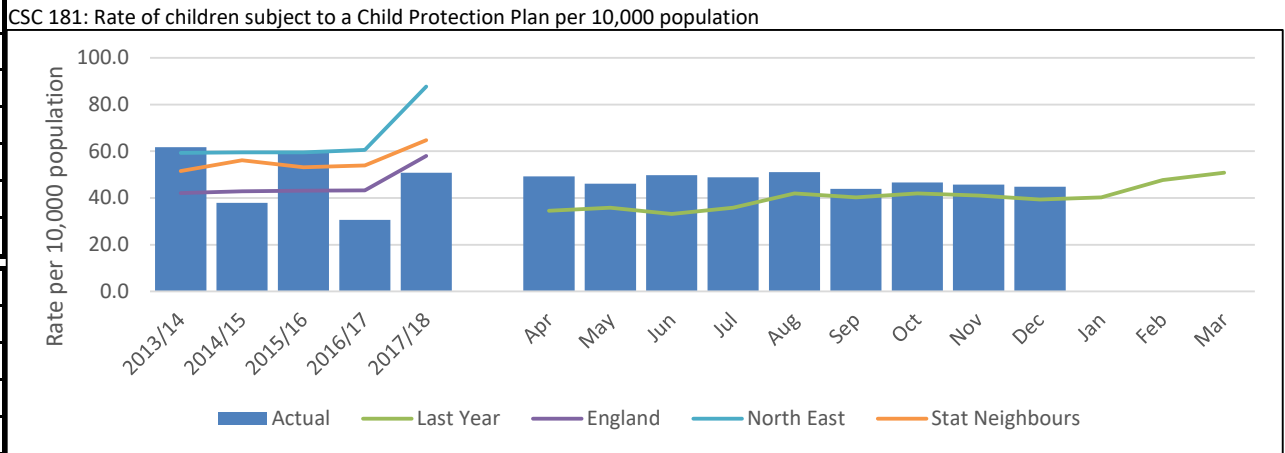
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 101 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) in December 2018 which is consistent when comparing previous months but a 13.5% increase when compared to December 2017 (89).  
 Darlington currently has a 44.9 rate per 10,000 for children subject to a CPP which is lower than our statistical neighbour (64.7), Regional average (87.7) and the National average (58). ADCS North East Benchmarking average for Quarter 2 2018/19 was 66 per 10,000.

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



**IN MONTH PERFORMANCE**

Month	Target	CSC 182	CSC 181
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		105	46.6
Nov-18		103	45.7
Dec-18		101	44.9
Jan-19			
Feb-19			
Mar-19			



**ANNUAL TREND**

Year	CSC 182	CSC 181
2014/15	124	37.9
2015/16	135	59.5
2016/17	66	29.2
2017/18	115	50.8
2018/19 YTD	101	44.9

**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.

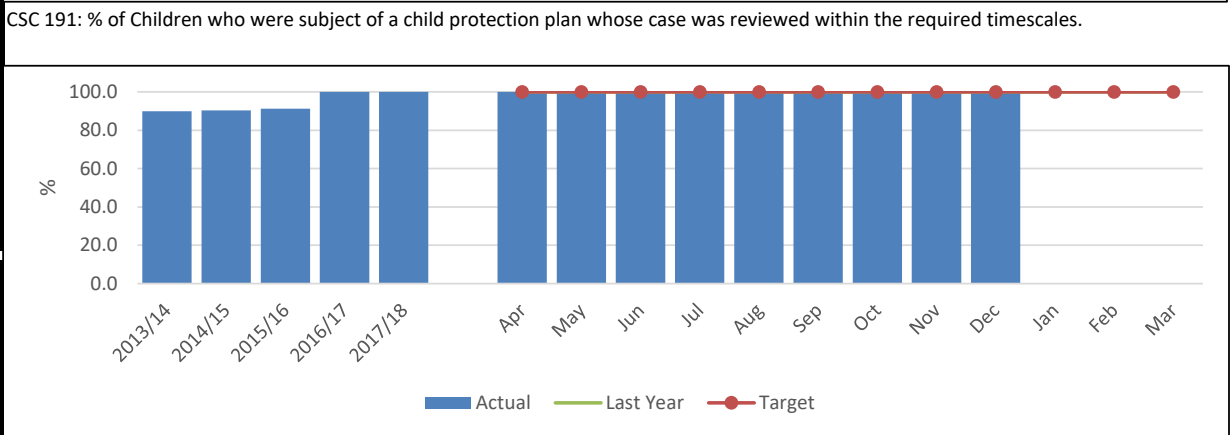
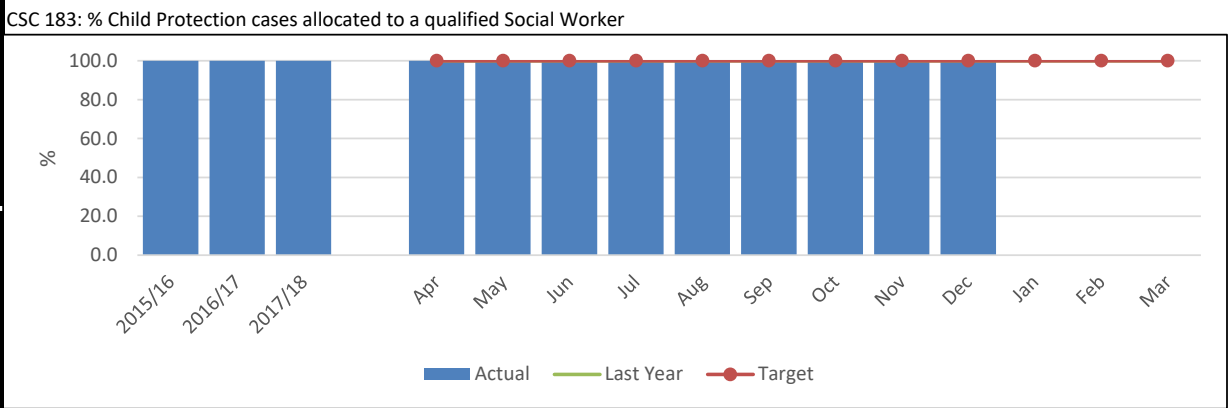
Reviews are a key element in delivering Child Protection Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions. This indicator is a proxy for the measurement of effectiveness of the interventions provided to children subject to a Child Protection Plan. "Working Together 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%).

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		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.
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Target	100	100
	Apr-18	100	100
	May-18	100	100
	Jun-18	100	100
	Jul-18	100	100
	Aug-18	100	100
	Sep-18	100	100
	Oct-18	100	100
	Nov-18	100	100
	Dec-18	100	100
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15		90.3
	2015/16	100	91.2
	2016/17	100	100
	2017/18	100	100
	2018/19 YTD	100	100

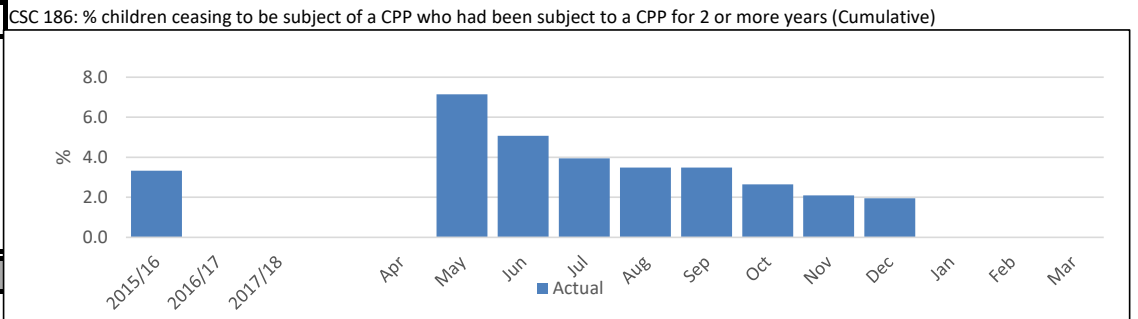


**CHILD PROTECTION - TIME PERIODS**

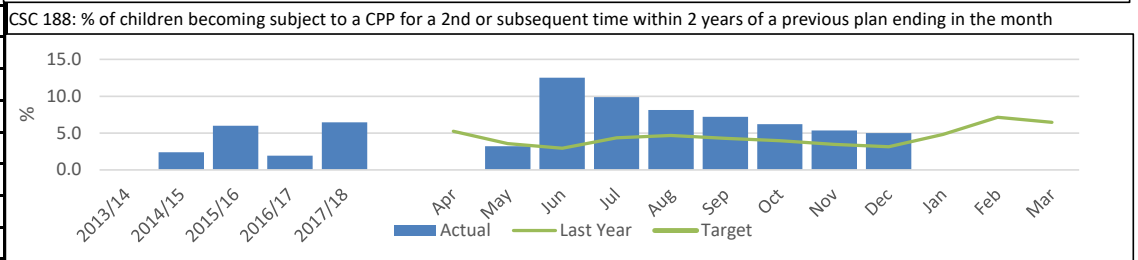
<b>DEFINITION</b>	<p>Percentage of children ceasing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan who had been subject to a Plan for 2 or more years and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for the 2nd or subsequent time.</p> <p>These indicators reflect the underlying principle 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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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>At the end of Quarter 3 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 5.0%. (This relates to 7 children in Quarter 1 that had previously been subject to a CP plan).</p>
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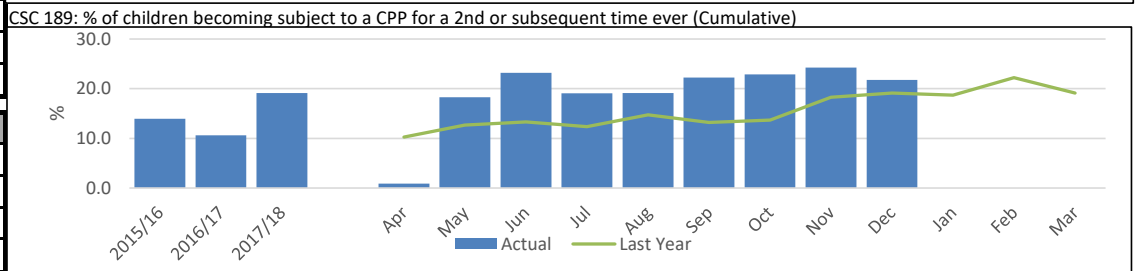
CSC 186	CSC 188	CSC 189
% children ceasing to be subject of a CPP who had been subject to a CPP for 2 or more years (Cumulative)	% of children becoming subject to a CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time within 2 years of a previous plan ending in the month (Cumulative)	% of children becoming subject to a CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time ever (Cumulative)



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	5%	6%		
	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	2.7	6.2	22.9	
	Nov-18	2.1	5.3	24.3	
	Dec-18	2.0	5.0	21.8	
	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	2.0	5.0	21.8



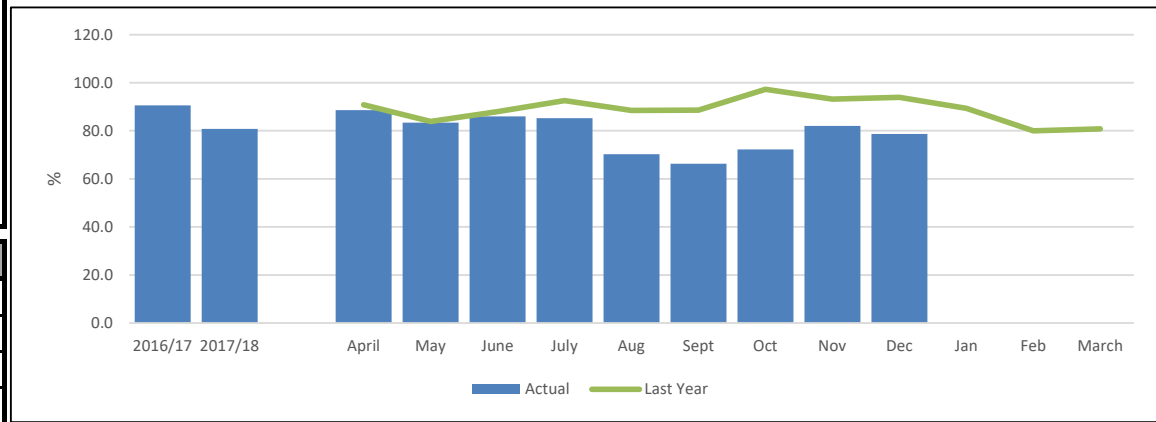
**CHILD PROTECTION - STATUTORY VISITS**

**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** 77.8% (588/756) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days during Quarter 3. This is an improvement on Quarter 2 which had 74.8% (534/714) visits completed in timescale.  
94.2% (712/756) of the visits were completed within 15 working days during Quarter 3.

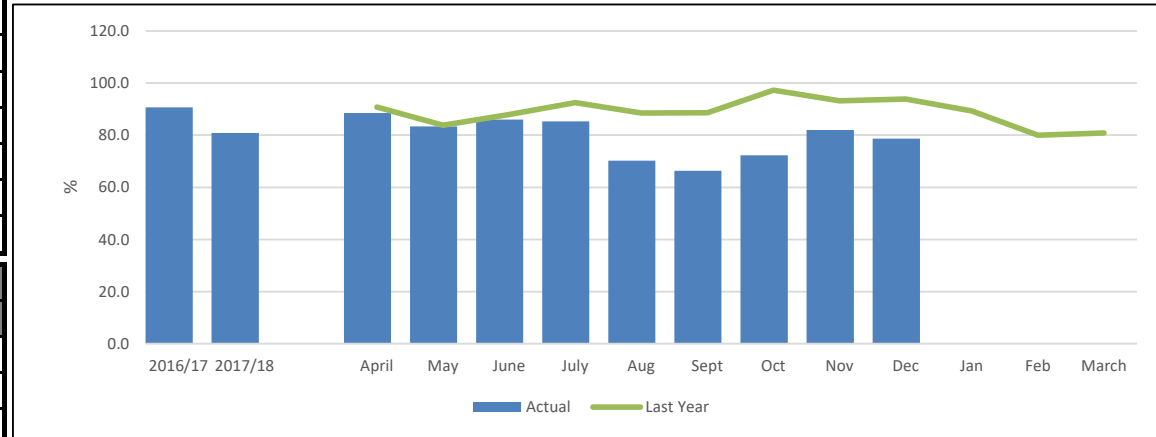
CSC 252a	CSC 252b
% Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale within the month	% Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale year to date (cumulative)

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



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90	90
	Apr-18	88.6	88.6
	May-18	83.4	86.1
	Jun-18	86.0	86.1
	Jul-18	85.3	85.5
	Aug-18	70.2	83.2
	Sep-18	66.4	80.8
	Oct-18	72.3	79.6
	Nov-18	82.0	79.9
	Dec-18	78.7	79.8
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
Mar-19			

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



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		
	2015/16		
	2016/17	85.6	85.6
	2017/18	80.8	88.9
	2018/19 YTD	79.8	79.8

## Looked After Children

### Quarter 3 Performance Summary

At the end of Quarter 3, the number of Children in Care had reduced slightly to 249, higher than the figure of 222 at this same period in 2017/18.

#### **Becoming Looked After:**

A total of 20 children became looked after during Quarter 3, a decrease compared to Quarter 2 (55).

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 determine threshold for removal of children from their parents was met. All decisions to accommodate the children and young people were appropriate. However, in less than 5 cases, interim Care Orders were imposed on the Local Authority despite these not being requested. The reasons leading to children being brought into care for Quarter 3 follow:

- Parents' level of learning disabilities
- Risk of sexual abuse
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Parents' substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health status
- Significant neglect
- Being remanded to Local Authority care
- Police Protection being exercised

#### **Ceased to be looked after:**

25 children and young people ceased to be looked after in Quarter3, with a year to date a total of 68. This is a higher than this Quarter in 2017/18 (62). Of the children who ceased to be looked after:

- 12% left care as they had reached age 18
- 36% of children had been subject to a Care Order but this had been discharged in favour of a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order
- 16% of children were adopted
- 20% of children and young people left care following a successful rehabilitation plan to parents or family
- 8% of young people ceased to be looked after as they had been on a period of remand which had ended
- 8% of young people who had been accommodated via section 20 became former relevant care leavers at their request

Not all children who are currently looked after and progressing through care proceedings will remain looked after at the conclusion of their proceedings. A number will change to Special Guardianship Orders, Adoption Orders, Child Arrangement Orders or Supervision Orders may be granted.

**Allocated Social Workers, timeliness of reviews and permanence plans:**

- 100% of Children in Care had an allocated Social Worker
- At the end of Quarter 3, 99.2% 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 2 sets of proceedings to revoke Placement Orders that are in the process of being issued

**Children's participation in their reviews:**

In Quarter 3, children's participation in their Looked After Review follows:

- 43 reviews were held for children aged under 4
- 69 reviews had a child who attended and spoke for themselves
- 0 reviews had a child attended but alongside their advocate who spoke on their behalf
- 0 reviews were attended by a child who gave their views non-verbally
- Less than 5 reviews were attended by a child who did not contribute
- Less than 5 reviews were not attended by a child but an advocate attended who spoke on their behalf
- 68 reviews were held where the child did not attend but their views had been sent
- 17 reviews were held where the child did not attend and did not send their views

**Timeliness of visits:**

At the end of Quarter 3, 89.6% of statutory visits to Children in Care had been completed in timescale year to date. The following represent the reasons why visits were not completed in timescale:

- There were a small number of young people who have been avoidant and not at home when the Social Worker arranged to visit
- There were competing priorities in respect of Court work and Court reports resulting in visits occasionally being delayed
- There were a small number of visits missed due to Social Workers' capacity

Head of Service oversight and assurance is provided as previously highlighted within other summaries. Children and young people are being seen routinely although 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 Quarter 3:

The percentage of children with 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months increased slightly to 10.4%, but is still within target of 10%, and remains in line with the same period in 17/18.

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 is 73.0%, better than target of 68%, and a significant improvement from the 2017/18 Quarter 3 figure of 57.8%.

The percentage of children placed 20 miles or more away from home was 9.4%, the same as the same reporting period last year. However, for this Quarter 3, the percentage has seen a positive reduction from the previous months and is currently at its lowest for 2018/19.

**Placement type:**

The following compares Quarter 3 this year and Quarter 3 in 2017/18 in respect of placement types for children in care. It is noticeable that there has been a decrease in the percentage of children placed with in-house foster-carers, an increase in the number of children placed with connected carers, and a slight reduction in the number of children placed in residential accommodation:

- 22.9% of children were in in-house foster placements compared to 42.8% last year
- 2.0% of children were in adoptive placements compared to 3.6% last year
- 2.4% of children were in semi-independent/independent living compared to 3.2% last year
- 32.1% of children were in agency foster placements compared to 26.6% last year
- 6.4% of children were placed with parents compared to 8.1% last year
- 13.7% of children were in residential accommodation compared to 15.3% last year
- 27.1% of children in connected care placements compared to 22.1% last year

**Health and dental:**

72.5% of the children during Quarter 2 were seen for an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) within 20 working days of coming into care (Quarter 3 data is not yet available). This has decreased from 86% in Quarter 1 however due to more children coming into care.

At the end of Quarter 3, of those due a Review Health Assessment, 93.8% were in timescale. This is a significant improvement when compared to this period in 2017/18 (59.6%)

At the end of Quarter 3, of those due a Dental Health Check, 72.7% were in timescale. Again this is a significant improvement when compared to this period in 2017/18 (51%)

It is acknowledged that neither the Review Health Assessment nor dental performance will reach 100% as there continues to be a small number of young people (7) who refuse to engage in health and dental appointments. This is an area that is currently being discussed within the quarterly LAC Health meetings at the instigation of Children's Services, and all present remain committed to finding solutions to address this.

**Virtual School:**

The period September to December 2018 represented autumn term of 2018-19 academic year.

178 looked after children of compulsory school-age attended 63 different schools.

Attendance for the period was good at 94%, although there were 24 children with persistent absentees and with attendance below 90%.

The percentage of young people attending good and outstanding schools is 75%, below target of 85%, this represents a 10% improvement on Q2 as two significant providers had Ofsted grade improvements following inspection.

A number of children becoming looked after in July 2018 resulted in some pupils who did not have identified provision in September, though the Virtual School quickly engaged the young people with appropriate provision and they are now accessing Education.

The Virtual School had to intervene with three young people to avert permanent exclusions in the period and secured new provision for each.

There was an increase in fixed term exclusions in November related to young people undergoing EHCP assessments. Appropriate provision has now been secured and exclusions have reduced.



**LOOKED AFTER**

**DEFINITION**

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

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

249 children are currently looked after as at December 2018 which is higher than the 222 children as at December 2017. The rate of Looked after Children per 10,000 population is currently at 110.6 which is higher than our statistical neighbours (91.6) and regional average (95).

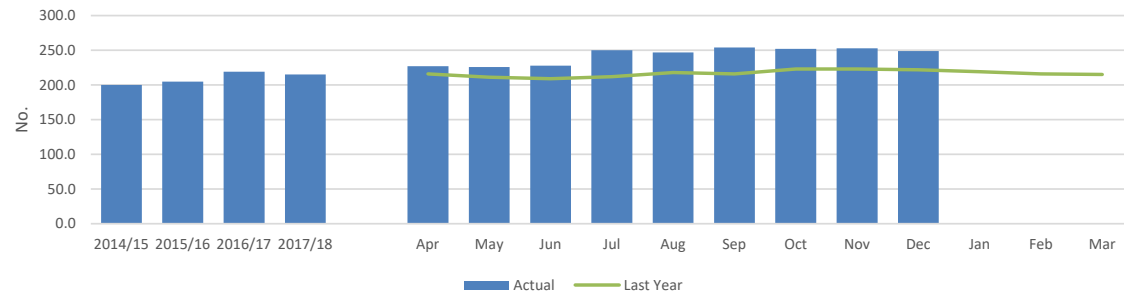
More recent North East benchmarking data is available but please note this is from regionally compiled data and not nationally published data. This data, compares 2017/18 year end to 2018/19 Quarter 2 (September 2018) and shows that:

There has been a 5% increase in the rate of looked after children since March 2018. 10 of the 12 local authorities have seen an increase. Two authorities have seen a 3% reduction, namely South Tyneside and Northumberland.

Darlington has seen the largest percentage increase, at 18.96%, in the number of children looked after per 10,000 population in this period.

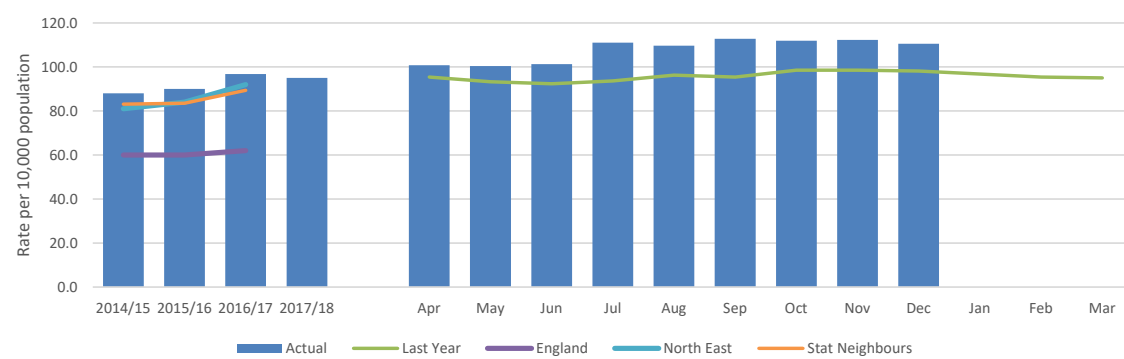
CSC 201	CSC 200
Total number of Looked After Children	Rate of Looked After Children Per 10,000 population

CSC 201: Total number of Looked After Children



Target	95
Apr-18	100.8
May-18	100.4
Jun-18	101.3
Jul-18	111.0
Aug-18	109.7
Sep-18	112.8
Oct-18	111.9
Nov-18	112.4
Dec-18	110.6
Jan-19	-
Feb-19	-
Mar-19	-

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



2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 YTD
200	205	219	215	249
88.0	90.0	96.8	95.0	110.6

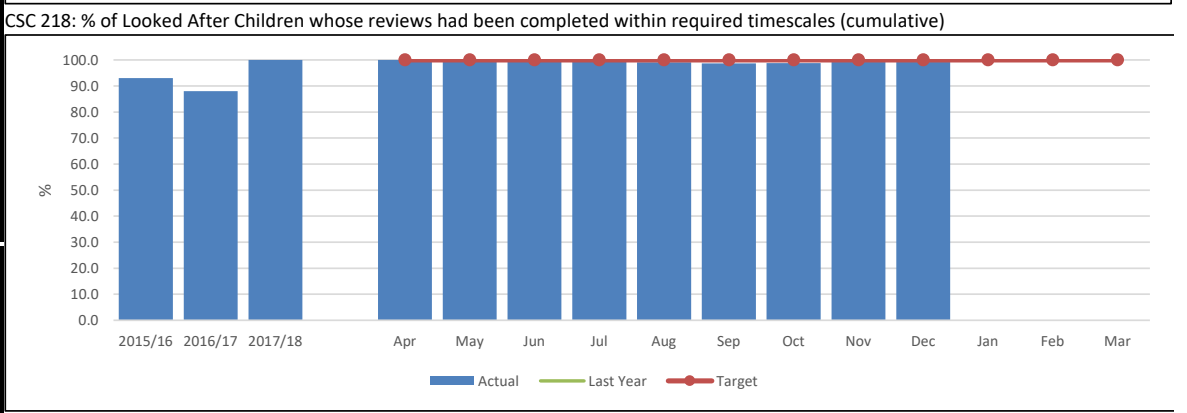
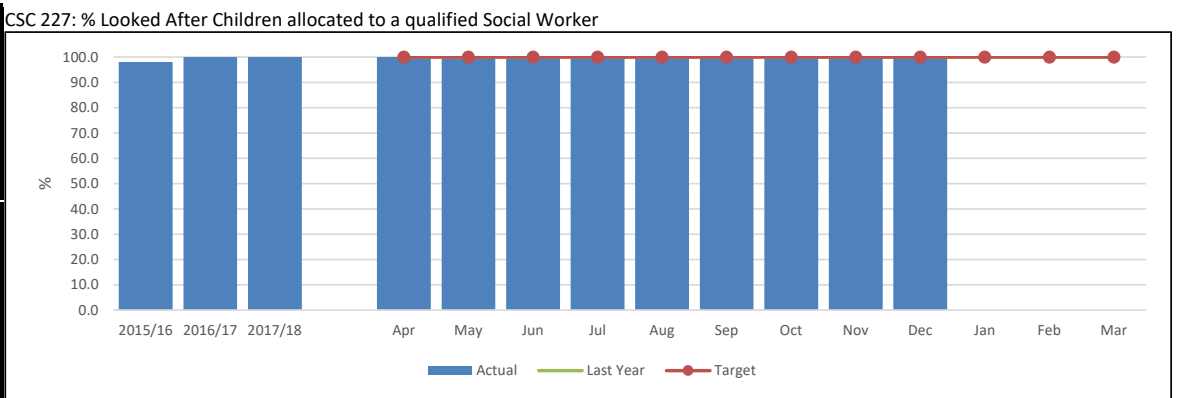
**LOOKED AFTER - ALLOCATION & REVIEWS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>100% of Looked After Children (LAC) are allocated to a qualified Social Worker.</p> <p>99.2% of all Looked After reviews had been completed within required timescales which is 483 out of 485.</p>
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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 (cumulative)
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Target	100	100
	Apr-18	100	100
	May-18	100	100
	Jun-18	100	100
	Jul-18	100	100
	Aug-18	100	99.1
	Sep-18	100	98.7
	Oct-18	100	98.8
	Nov-18	100	99.2
	Dec-18	100	99.2
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15		92.3
	2015/16	98.1	93.1
	2016/17	100	88.0
	2017/18	100	100
	2018/19 YTD	100	99.5



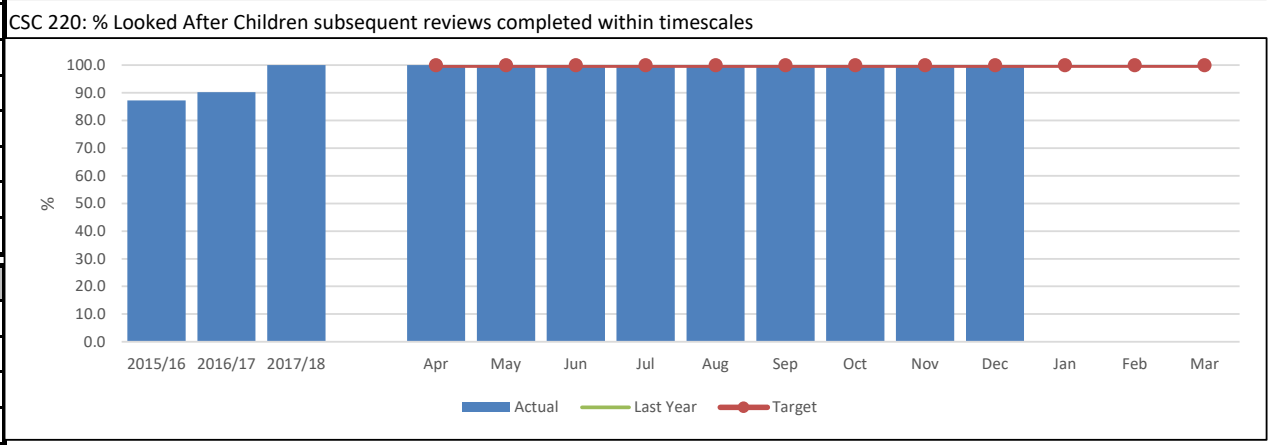
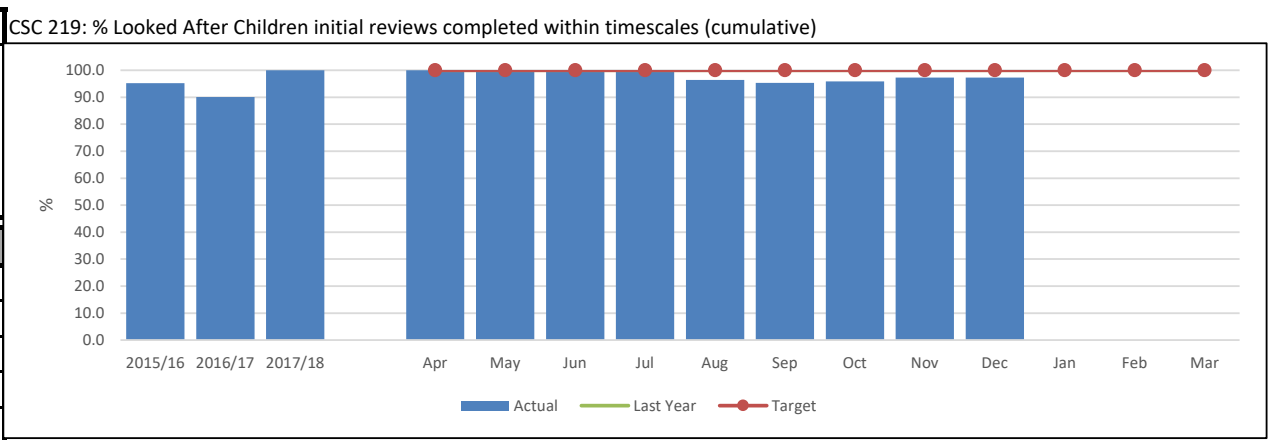
**LOOKED AFTER - REVIEWS**

**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** 73 of 75 initial Looked After reviews (97.3%) had been completed within required timescales year to date and a 100% of subsequent reviews have been completed in timescale.

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		CSC 219	CSC 220
		% Looked After Children initial reviews completed within timescales (cumulative)	% Looked After Children subsequent reviews completed within timescales
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Target	100	100
	Apr-18	100	100
	May-18	100	100
	Jun-18	100	100
	Jul-18	100	100
	Aug-18	96.4	100
	Sep-18	95.4	100
	Oct-18	95.9	100
	Nov-18	97.3	100
	Dec-18	97.3	100
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15		
	2015/16	95.2	87.3
	2016/17	90.1	90.2
	2017/18	100	100
	2018/19 YTD	97.3	100



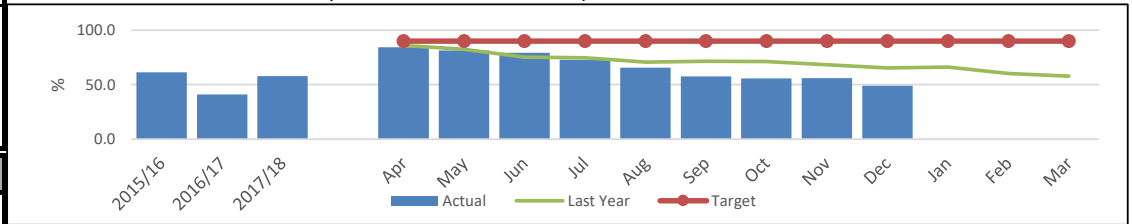
**LOOKED AFTER - STATUTORY VISITS**

**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.

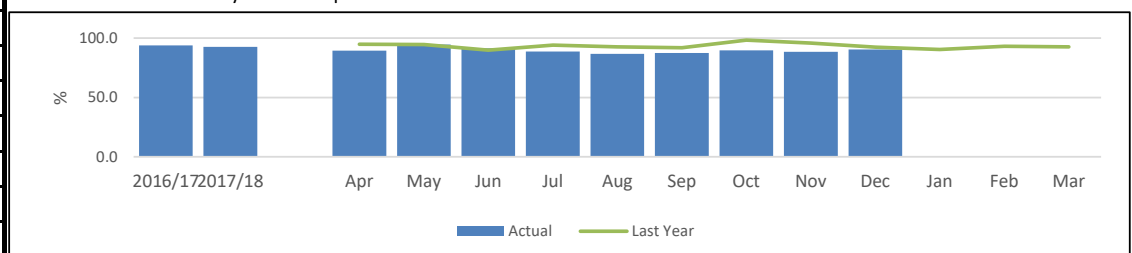
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 89.5% (638 out of 713) of Looked After Children's (LAC) statutory visits due in Quarter 3 were completed within timescale. This is an improvement on Quarter 2 which saw 87.7% of visits completed in timescale.  
89.6% (1,956 out of 2,182) of Looked After Children's (LAC) statutory visits have been completed in timescale year to date.

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

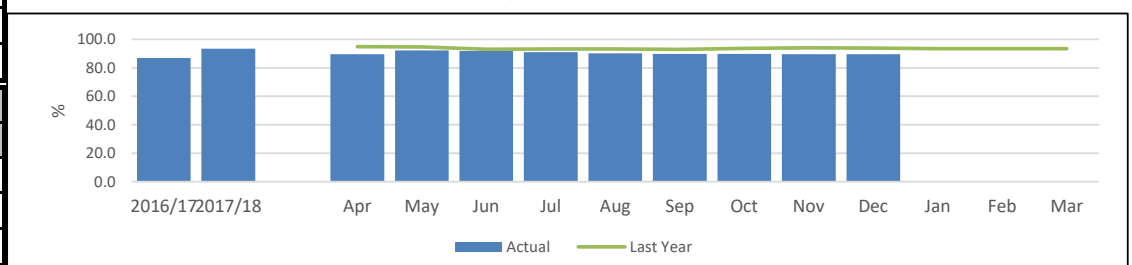
CSC 260: % LAC who had all statutory visits carried out within required timescales



CSC 260a: % LAC statutory visits completed in timescale within the month



CSC 260b: % LAC statutory visits completed in timescale year to date



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IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	CSC 260	CSC 260a	CSC 260b
	90	90	90	90
Apr-18		84.2	89.5	89.5
May-18		81.3	94.7	92.2
Jun-18		79.4	91.3	91.9
Jul-18		72.8	88.7	91.0
Aug-18		65.6	86.8	90.1
Sep-18		57.7	87.5	89.7
Oct-18		55.7	89.7	89.7
Nov-18		56.1	88.5	89.6
Dec-18		49.1	90.3	89.6
Jan-19				
Feb-19				
Mar-19				

ANNUAL TREND	Year/Period	CSC 260	CSC 260a	CSC 260b
	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	49.1	89.6	89.6

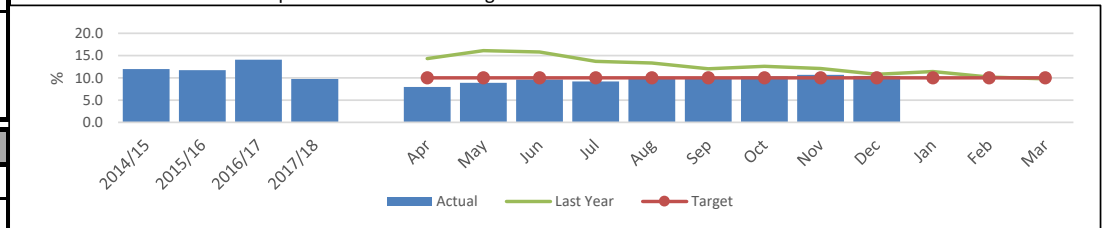
**LOOKED AFTER - PLACEMENTS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	<p>Of those Looked After Children at the point in time (excluding series of short-term placements), the percentage that had 3 or more separate placements 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.</p> <p>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 placements 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.</p>
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>10.4% (26) of children in care as at December 2018 have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is comparable to December 2017 which saw 10.8% of the children in care having had 3 or more placement moves.</p> <p>As at December 2018, 73% (46 out of 63) of Looked After Children aged under 16 (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 a positive increase when compared to December 2017 which saw 57.8% of Looked After Children having been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years.</p> <p>9.4% of children have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at December 2018 which is the same as that in December 2017.</p>
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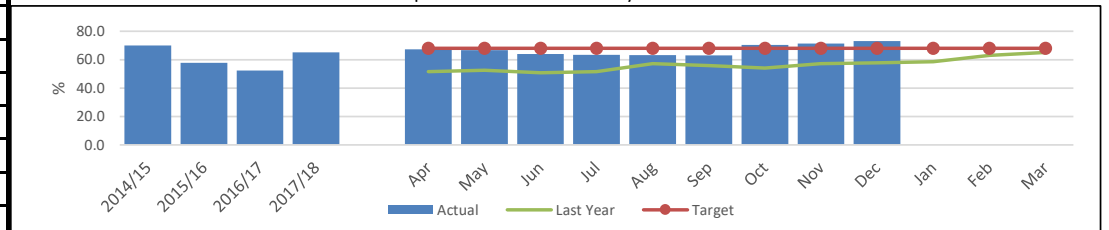
CSC 228	CSC 229	CSC 230
% LAC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months	% LAC who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years	% LAC placed 20 miles or more away from home

CSC 228: % LAC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months



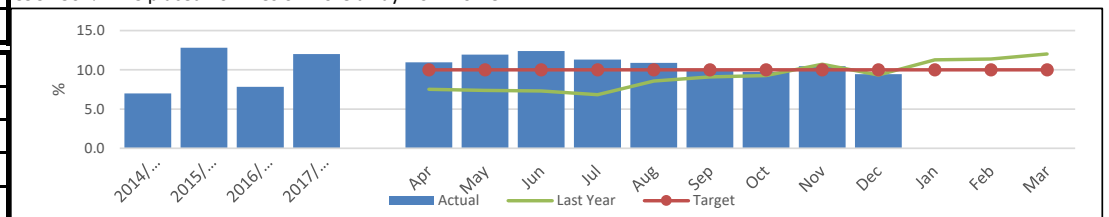
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	10	68	10
	Apr-18	7.9	67.2	11.0
	May-18	8.9	66.7	11.9
	Jun-18	9.7	64.1	12.4
	Jul-18	9.2	63.5	11.3
	Aug-18	9.7	63.2	10.9
	Sep-18	9.8	63.1	10.1
	Oct-18	10.3	70.3	9.7
	Nov-18	10.7	71.4	10.5
	Dec-18	10.4	73.0	9.4
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			

CSC 229: % LAC who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years



ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	12.0	70.0	7.0
	2015/16	11.7	57.8	12.8
	2016/17	14.1	52.4	7.8
	2017/18	9.8	65.1	12.0
	2018/19 YTD	10.4	73.0	9.4

CSC 230: % LAC placed 20 miles or more away from home



**LOOKED AFTER - INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**

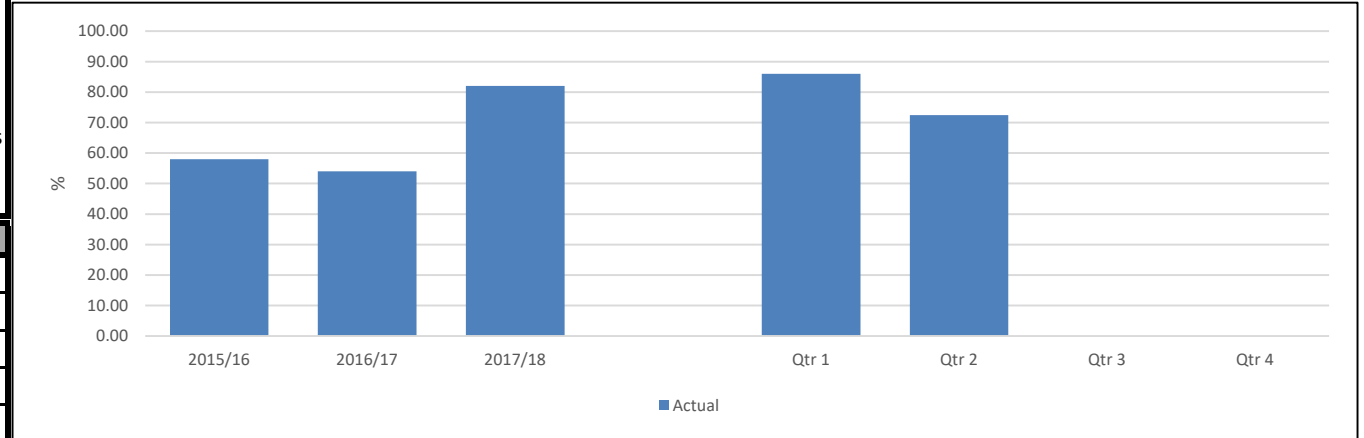
**DEFINITION** Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child becoming Looked After year to date, and percentage of IHA forms returned to Health within 7 working days.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 90.9% IHA assessments were returned within 7 days during Quarter 3.

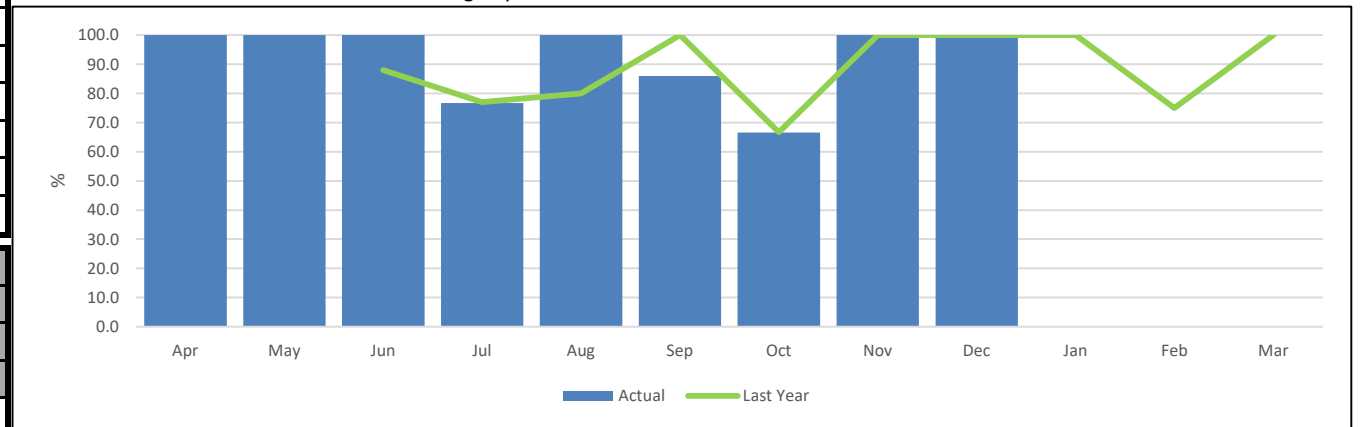
Page 60

	CSC 247	
	% newly LAC with a completed Initial Health Assessment within 20 working days	% IHA forms returned to Health within 7 working days
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>95</b>
	Apr-18	100
	May-18	100
	Jun-18	86
	Jul-18	76.7
	Aug-18	100
	Sep-18	72.5
	Oct-18	66.6
	Nov-18	100.00
	Dec-18	100.00
	Jan-19	
	Feb-19	
	Mar-19	
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15	
	2015/16	58
	2016/17	54
	2017/18	82
	2018/19 YTD	72.5
		92.1

CSC 247: % newly LAC with a completed Initial Health Assessment within 20 working days



% IHA forms returned to Health within 7 working days



**LOOKED AFTER - HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**

**DEFINITION**

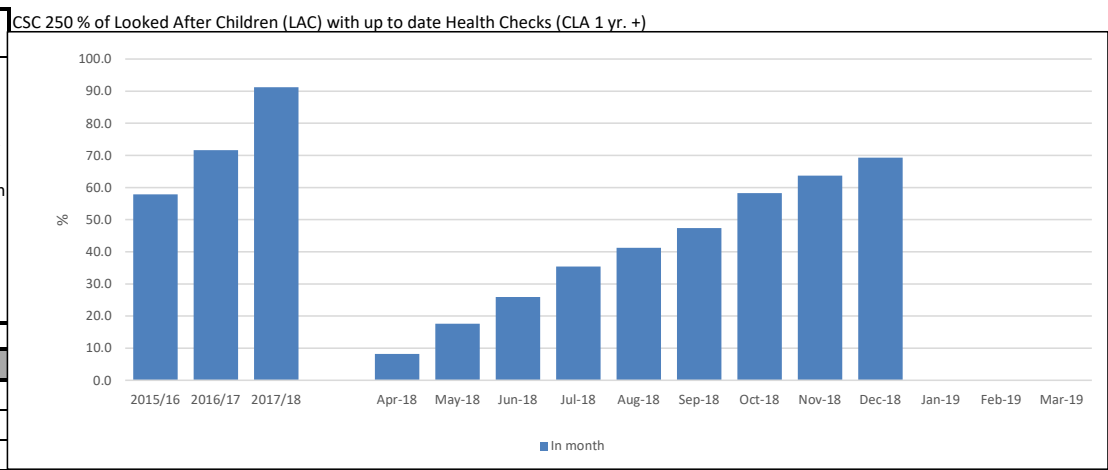
Of the children in care at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed and the percentage who have an up to date Health Check.

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**

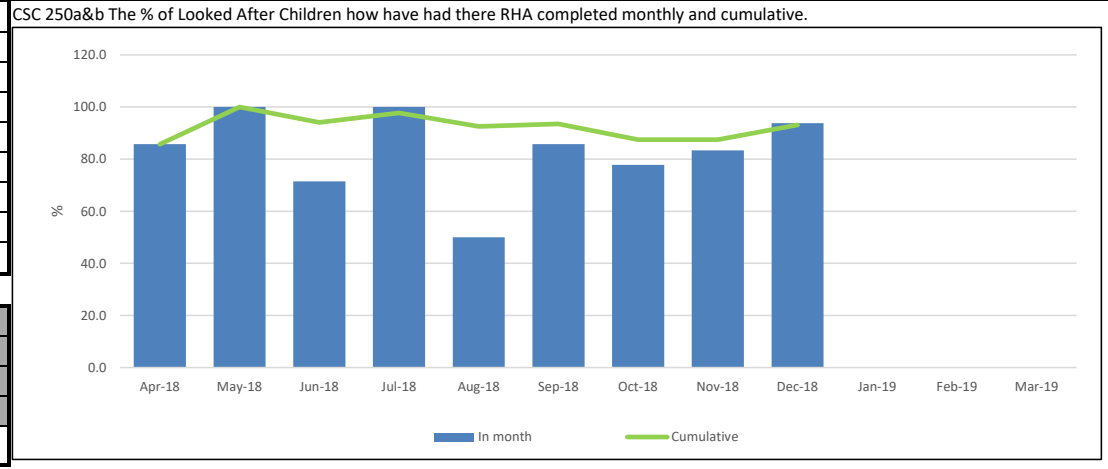
At the end of December 2018, 69.3% (115 out of 166 required) of Looked After Children have an up to date health check, this is an improvement on December 2017 which had 59.6% with an up to date health check.  
Of those children that are due a Review Health Assessment, 93.2% have been carried out within timescale year to date.

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)



**IN MONTH PERFORMANCE**

Target	90	90
Apr-18	8.2	85.7
May-18	17.6	100.0
Jun-18	26.0	71.4
Jul-18	35.4	100.0
Aug-18	41.3	50.0
Sep-18	47.4	85.7
Oct-18	58.2	77.8
Nov-18	63.7	83.3
Dec-18	69.3	93.8
Jan-19		
Feb-19		
Mar-19		



**ANNUAL TREND**

2014/15	92.6		
2015/16	57.9		
2016/17	71.6		
2017/18	91.3		
2018/19 YTD	69.3	93.8	93.2

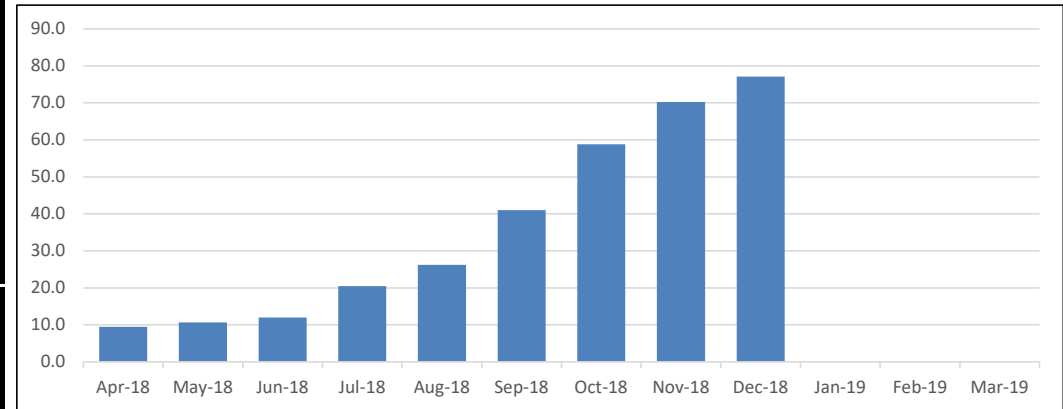
**LOOKED AFTER - DENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**

**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 December 2018, 77.1% (128 out of 166 required) of Looked After Children have an up to date dental check, this is an improvement on December 2017 which had 51% with an up to date dental check.  
 Of those children that are due a dental check, 91.4% have been carried out within timescale year to date.

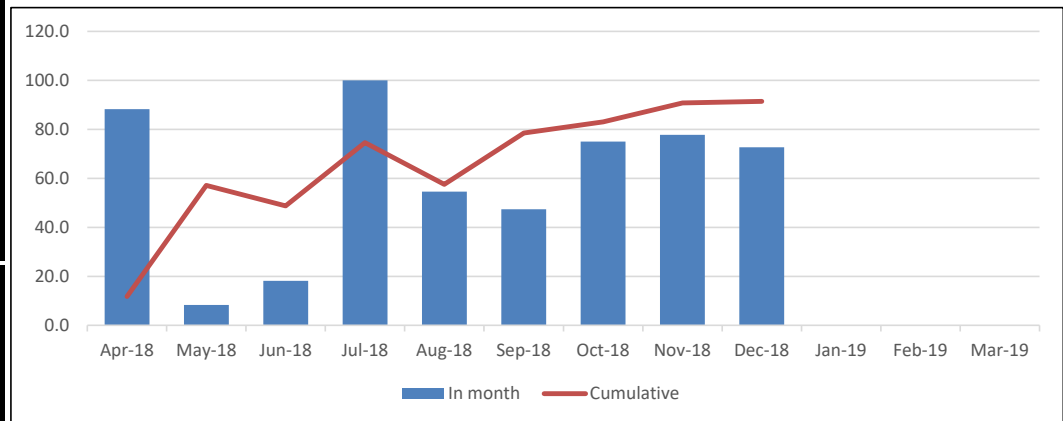
CSC 251	CSC 251c	CSC 251d
The % of Looked After Children (LAC) with up to date Dental Checks (LAC 1yr+) during reporting year.	The % of Looked After Children (LAC for 1yr+) who were due a Dental Check in the month and have had one by month end.	The % of Looked After Children (LAC for 1yr+) were due a 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	90		
	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		41.0	47.4	78.5
Oct-18		58.8	75.0	83.1
Nov-18		70.2	77.8	90.8
Dec-18		77.1	72.7	91.4
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	77.1	72.7	91.4



## Care Leavers

### Quarter 3 Performance Summary

#### **Accommodation:**

We continue to be in touch with all Care Leavers. At the end of Quarter 3, 94.7% of Care Leavers were in suitable accommodation. The 5.3% in unsuitable accommodation equates to less than 5 young people who are currently serving a custodial sentence. This percentage is a slight decrease on Quarter 2 (96.2%), but slightly below target of 100%, and represents one more Care Leaver serving a custodial sentence.

#### **Not in education, employment or training (NEET):**

19.3% of Care Leavers were NEET (11 Care Leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 out of 57). This is significantly better than target of 33% and is a reduction of 5.7% of Quarter 2 figure (25%).

Of the 11 Care Leavers who are not in education, employment or training:

- 45.6% were NEET because of illness or disability
- 27.2% were NEET because of other circumstances
- 27.2% were 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), delivered in partnership 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 80.7% (46 out of 57) of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment or Training:

- 6 were engaged in full-time studies in higher education (i.e. Studies beyond A level)
- 15 were engaged in full-time training or employment
- 25 were engaged in part-time training or education

At the end of Quarter 3, there were 131 eligible, former relevant and relevant Care Leavers who were entitled to a service. Of these 131 Care Leavers, there are:

- 24 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.

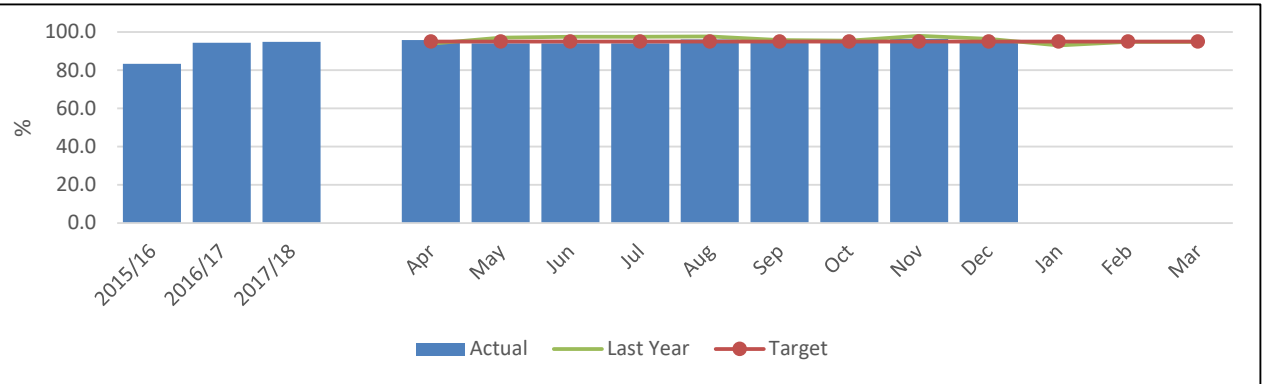
**CARE LEAVERS**

**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.

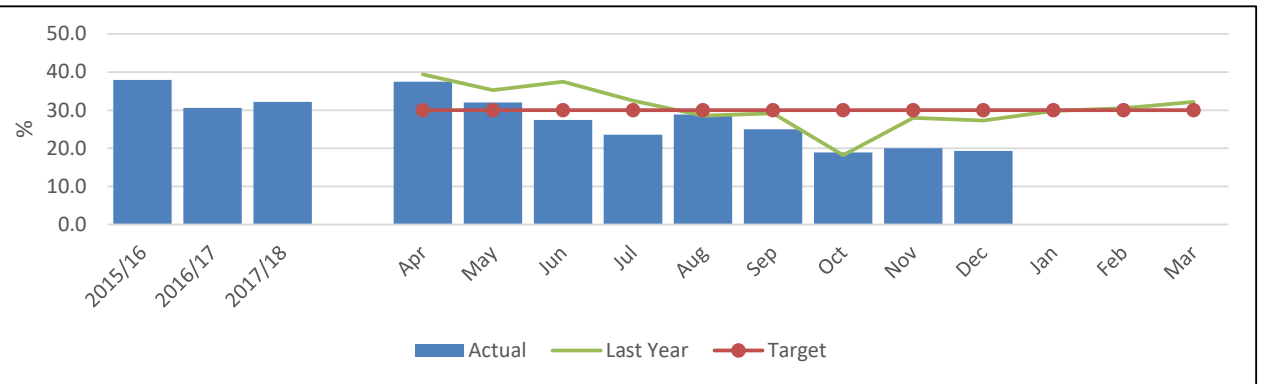
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 94.7% (54 out of 57) of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of December. The 3 young people not in suitable accommodation was due to them currently being in custody. There were 11 young people (aged 19-21) in December who were not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).  
 • 5 NEET because of illness or disability

CSC 286	CSC 294
% Care Leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care Leavers NEET

CSC 286: % Care Leavers in suitable accommodation



CSC 294: % Care Leavers NEET



<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Target	95	30
	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	96.2	18.9
	Nov-18	96.4	20.0
	Dec-18	94.7	19.3
	Jan-19		
	Feb-19		
	Mar-19		

<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15		
	2015/16	100.0	37.9
	2016/17	96.4	30.6
	2017/19	94.9	32.2
	2018/19 YTD	94.7	19.3

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY 11 MARCH 2019

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### Update regarding “Staying Put” arrangements for young people previously in foster carer placements

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#### SUMMARY REPORT

##### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide updated information regarding the cost of funding to age 21 for young people in previous foster care placements.

##### Summary

2. The report details the legal framework that requires Local Authorities to provide Staying Put arrangements and the number of current Staying Put arrangements. The report also includes the cost from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, together with projected expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

##### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

##### Reasons

4. To give Scrutiny Members oversight and knowledge of the Staying Put arrangements in Darlington.

**Suzanne Joyner**  
**Director of Children and Adult’s Services**

Bronwen Smith  
Extn 6796

##### Background Reports:

Good Practice Guide 2014  
Children and Families Act 2014  
Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers Regulations and Guidance 2010  
HM Government “Staying Put” DfE, DWP and HMRC Guidance 2013

S17 Crime and Disorder	Provision of Staying Put placements gives support to care leavers until such time as they are able to live independently.
Health and Well Being	Provision of Staying Put placements gives support to care leavers until such time as they are able to live independently.
Carbon Impact	Not applicable
Diversity	Staying Put arrangements provide placements for young people with a diverse range of needs.
Wards Affected	All depending upon location of Staying Put provider.
Groups Affected	Young people and carers.
Budget and Policy Framework	Provision of Staying Put services is within a Regulatory Framework and resources provided by grants, housing benefits and some social care contribution.
Key Decision	Provision of Staying Put services are within a Regulatory Framework.
Urgent Decision	Not applicable.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Care Leavers provision across the DBC area and within Local Authorities outside of the Borough depending upon the location of the foster carer.
Efficiency	Not applicable
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Provides the opportunity for young people who reside in foster placements to “stay put” and receive ongoing support and encouragement to reach their potential in life. The impact of Staying Put is positive, enabling young people to receive similar opportunities to their peers.

## MAIN REPORT

### Legal Requirements

5. The duty on Local Authorities in England regarding Staying Put came into force on 13 May 2014, in Part 5 Welfare of Children (98) of the Children and Families Act 2014.
6. The duty requires Local Authorities to facilitate, monitor and support Staying Put arrangements for fostered young people until they reach the age of 21, where this is what they and their foster carers want, unless the authority considers that the Staying Put arrangement is not consistent with the welfare of the young person.
7. The Department for Education (DfE) provides statutory guidance and a Good Practice Guide to support Local Authorities in the implementation of Staying Put arrangements. In Darlington a policy and procedure is available in order to clarify Staying Put arrangements, in accordance with legislation and DfE guidance.

## **Implementing Staying Put arrangements in Darlington**

8. A Staying Put arrangement is not the same as a foster placement. The young person Staying Put must be a former relevant child, and is no longer a looked after child but a young adult and a care leaver. The young person is entitled to support as a care leaver and has an allocated Personal Advisor from the Looked After and Through Care Team.
9. The key aims of “Staying Put” are to:
  - Enable young people to build on and nurture their attachments to their carers so that they can move to independence at their own pace and be supported to make the transition to adulthood in a more gradual way, just like the other young people who can rely on their families for this support
  - Provide the stability and support necessary for young people to achieve in education, training and employment
  - Give weight to young people’s views about the timing of moves to greater independence from their final care placement
10. Implementing Staying Put arrangements requires that foster carers caring for young people are aware of the expectations and will continue to provide placements beyond the young person reaching the age of 18.
11. All prospective foster carers are provided with training regarding Staying Put arrangements as part of their initial Skills to Foster Training Programme. Further advice is available from the Fostering Supervising Social Worker and the Supported Lodgings/Staying Put Co-ordinator. The staying put provider can access any relevant training which the service provides.
12. Darlington Borough Council is part of the Tees Valley Commissioning Framework which is used to identify suitable foster placements from Independent Fostering Agencies when in house fostering provision cannot meet need. The Commissioning Specification contains the requirement that foster carers are trained and understand the need to continue to offer placements beyond a young person’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Planning for Staying Put arrangements**

13. Discussions when the young person reaches the age of 16 take place with the young person and foster carer regarding the option of a Staying Put arrangement. The discussion includes what support will be available within the Staying Put arrangements. These early discussions ensure that the young person and foster carer have time to consider the option and determine what is in the best interests of the young person. The timing of the discussion centres on the individual needs of the young person and foster carer.
14. Support and encouragement is given to the young person to progress in their education or employment, but not being in either should not preclude a young person from benefiting from a Staying Put arrangement.
15. In Darlington, we provide a framework to allow care leavers at university to return to their former foster carers during vacation time, and young people who commence

basic training with the armed services, to return to their carers during breaks. This reflects the ongoing support that is available to young people living in supportive families.

16. The Staying Put arrangements are supported by the Staying Put/Supported Lodgings Co-ordinator, who is based within the Fostering and Supported Lodgings Team. Supervision sessions take place between the Staying Put carer/s and the co-ordinator and the frequency and format of the sessions are mutually agreed. There is flexibility within this to increase supervision sessions when needed. In addition, support meetings are held with the foster carer, social worker/personal advisor, young person and the co-ordinator, during which the young person's plan is the focus and the plan is changed to ensure that it remains appropriate and relevant.
17. The young person is expected to make a financial contribution towards the arrangement and to begin to use their living allowance for hobbies/toiletries and clothing. This is part of their preparation to independence and the contribution by the young person is dependent upon their income.
18. Staying Put in Darlington reflects the Government's commitment to improve the experiences of children in care, to challenge the poor outcomes historically experienced by young people in care, and to reduce the gap between the quality of life of young people in the care of the local authority and those raised in supportive families.

#### **Darlington Staying Put arrangements data and cost to the Local Authority**

19. As of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019, there are 10 Staying Put arrangements. Of these, 8 young people remained with their Darlington Borough Council approved foster carers and 2 young people with their previous IFA foster carers.
20. Cost of Internal Darlington Borough Council Provision ranges from £160.00 - £350.00 per week dependent upon age and individual circumstances. The most expensive placement is £350 per week, this arrangement includes the basic staying put fee, plus an additional payment which was made to the carer because of the additional needs of the young person, which was agreed prior to the staying put arrangement coming into force.
21. The cost of Independent Fostering Agency provision agreed as part of the Tees Valley Framework is £340 per week. The individual fostering agencies pay a proportion of this fee to the staying put carer. This varies depending on the individual agency.
22. Between 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019, 4 young people have moved on from their Staying Put placements into a variety of alternative provision.
  - (a) 50% remained with the former foster carer post 21 years
  - (b) 25% moved onto independent living via a "taster flat"
  - (c) 25% moved into independence, securing a tenancy with their long term partner

23. From 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 up until 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 of the 10 young people currently placed with DBC and IFA foster carers there are 9 young people who may remain in Staying Put arrangements with their current staying put carers
24. During the time frame 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 there are 8 young people who will reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and will be eligible to become Staying Put. One young person will not be staying put, however it is likely that 7 young people in the cohort will remain with their foster carer in a staying put arrangement. Adding the current cohort to the future cohort, during the identified time period, there could be up to 16 young people in Staying Put arrangements
25. To support Local Authorities in the implementation of Staying Put arrangements a grant has been provided based upon numbers of looked after children within the authority. The grant paid to Darlington Borough Council for the period 2018-2019 is £49,680. This is paid in four quarterly instalments and is held within the Leaving Care budget. The grant is expected to be made available for 2019-20.
26. Actual costs for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017-31 March 2018 for Staying Put arrangements including both DBC and IFA placements together with the salary and mileage costs for the Staying Put Co-ordinator is £103,709.58.
27. The cost of Staying Put arrangements for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was £56,454.08 for in house carers, and £14,377.14 for IFA carers, a total of £70,831.22
28. The projected cost for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 for Staying Put, including in house and IFA arrangements, together with the salary and mileage costs for the Staying Put Co-ordinator is £151,525.47. This is an increase of 46.10% which reflects the increase in the number of young people who are in staying put arrangements, and the additional cost of paying a professional fee to those foster carers who were no longer offering a foster placement, but were offering staying put only.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

29. Prior to a young person reaching the age of 18 years their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) will oversee the Pathway Plan and will be involved in ensuring where appropriate, that Staying Put arrangements are considered. Following the young person reaching the age of 18 years and the Staying Put arrangement having commenced, monitoring of the Staying Put arrangement will be via regular support meetings as detailed in 17 above
30. The support meeting which includes the young person, Staying Put carers, personal advisor and the carer's supporting worker monitors how the arrangement is progressing; what independent living skills the young person is achieving and identifies areas where the young person needs extra support to help them prepare for independence. A planned move with ongoing support from the former foster carer replicates the gradual move for the young person leaving home when the time is right for them.

## **Benefits of “Staying Put” for young people and for the Service**

31. Staying Put is giving young people consistency and continuity of care and support at a key time in their lives. Of the 10 young people currently subject to Staying Put:

- 2 young people are at University
- 2 young people are in full time apprenticeships
- 6 young people are in full time college placements

All of the young people are achieving to their full potential, and the ongoing support they receive from the professional team and their Staying Put carers contributes to their achievements.

32. In 2014-15 it was anticipated that the Staying Put scheme could result in a net loss of available foster carers and foster placements. Evidence since that time indicates that foster carers offering Staying Put placements have continued to be registered as foster carers, and we have not experienced foster carers de-registering as a result of offering Staying Put placements. There is a reduction in the number of foster placements the carer can offer when they are providing Staying Put, however at the end of the Staying Put arrangement, they are once again available to provide foster placements. In the time period 2016-18 there are two staying put carers who have been de-registered, they were connected foster carers providing a placement to a named child only. One carer transferred to an IFA agency.

33. Darlington Borough Council took the decision at the inception of the Staying Put scheme to continue to pay a professional fee to foster carers who were offering Staying Put. The evidence indicates that this has had positive results, because we have not lost foster carers, and we have been able to offer the best possible level of support to our looked after young people

34. There is a Marketing and Recruitment Strategy 2017-20 which focuses on how we can market the fostering service to achieve increased recruitment of foster carers who are able to offer a range of foster placements to Looked after Children in Darlington. If we are able to recruit additional in house foster carers, over time more children should be able to benefit from Staying Put with DBC carers. The cost of such placements is lower than using external Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA) placements. An increase in the number of in house foster placements will also provide increased resilience if the number of young people Staying Put increases in the future.

35. There is no evidence that Staying Put has reduced the availability of IFA foster placements. Staying Put placements are discussed as part of the ongoing monitoring of the Tees Valley Commissioning Framework and operational managers and representatives from the Independent Fostering Agencies monitor and highlight trends in placement needs as part of their quarterly meetings.

## **Priorities for Staying Put 2019-2020**

- a. We need to continue to give a clear message to all Darlington Borough Council foster carers about the importance of Staying Put, and our expectation that foster carers will provide Staying Put placements to young people when they reach the age of 18.



- b. Following an improved offer to foster carers, work is underway to review the offer to Staying Put carers, to ensure it is competitive and accurately reflects the work that is done to support young people in reaching their potential. Scoping work undertaken to date evidences that most Local Authorities pay a “staying put fee”. At the present time, Darlington Borough Council pay a staying put allowance and a professional fee when applicable. In order to have a more equitable and streamlined approach, it is likely we will be recommending one “staying put fee” regardless of the foster carers circumstances. This fee will be competitive with the fee paid by neighbouring authorities, and will assist in the strengthening of our offer to foster carers.
- c. We need to continue to liaise with Independent Fostering Agencies to ensure that they promote the importance of Staying Put.

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Bi Annual Summary Report  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018



Vicky Davidson Boyd  
Service Manager

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## **Executive Summary**

Adoption Tees Valley began operating as a Regional Adoption Agency, as defined in the Education and Adoption Act (2016) on the 01.05.2018.

It brings together the former Local Authority adoption services of Darlington; Hartlepool; Middlesbrough; Redcar and Cleveland; and Stockton.

The contribution of the Elected Lead Members for Children's Services across the five Local Authorities and the five Children's Services Directors is recognised and valued within this first report of Adoption across the region. Without the courage, leadership and determination to ensure that the Tees Valley achieved a collaborative and well planned Regional Adoption Agency, through committing resources and support, this agency could not have enjoyed the successful start it has.

This report is a review of adoption activity, as defined by the Adoption Leadership Scorecard (ALB) measures for the first five months of operation of ATV and represents the bi annual reporting period of 01.05.2018-30.09.2018. In subsequent years the full half year report will be covered.

Adoption Tees Valley has enjoyed a successful start with a number of children achieving placements who had waited some time for adopters. Additionally, a significant number of adopters who were waiting at the time of transfer have now been matched with children, and in many cases the children have moved in.

### ***A key aim of the RAA programme is to impact on timeliness of children waiting for adoption.***

This report will show that it is early days to review and evaluate the impact of the move to the RAA on the Adoption Scorecard timeliness (A1, A2 and A3) measures as there is a time lag in adoption work, and scorecard measures reflect adoption matches and placements that are for children who are now adopted, but for whom the adoption journey started some time ago.

However, early indicators which are available are that timeliness is improving for children, and that with a greater "pool" of adopters more children, including "hard to place" children have achieved their permanent families through adoption. The time between Placement Order to match has slightly increased, and this is reflective of some of the early work that inevitably needed to take place, in managing the change process of five separate teams coming together as one.

Adoption Tees Valley has worked collaboratively with senior leaders, and social work teams across the Tees Valley, and there is now a well-developed mechanism for early referral of any child with an adoption plan. The impact of this is that ATV has been able to track and plan for these children, and

early permanence is being achieved for more children, and in many cases adopters are being identified at an early stage.

In the first six months, 24 children were placed for adoption.

The greatest need across Tees Valley is for adopters for siblings who are to be placed together.

***A further aim of the RAA programme is to impact on the time that adopters wait for a match.***

At the outset Adoption Tees Valley “received” 45 adoptive families who were approved, but not yet matched. Within the period of this report, 26 families were matched, either with children from within, or outside of the Tees Valley area.

ATV has had a significant impact on the pool of adopters waiting, and many have now have children placed with them. While the timeliness for this cohort of adopters is not as good as aimed for in the longer term, this is because many have these waited some time prior to regionalisation.

It would be fair to say that adopters have benefited from the RAA by having more children available, with whom they are well matched.

ATV has recruited a steady stream of new adopters, but within this period there were just three new approvals, with a further 20 prospective adopters in assessment at the period end. Again, the change process has impacted on getting prospective adopters to panel, however, this is an improving picture.

### ***Adoption Support***

The vision for Adoption Tees Valley is to be a centre of excellence and resource for adopted children and their families throughout the period of their childhood, and beyond where necessary. We know that there can be considerable support needs for children and families after the Adoption Order is granted, and sometimes even shortly after placement. Many adopted children have needs associated with early trauma; attachment difficulties; separation and loss; and may need some help with recovering and managing the long term impact of these issues.

Adoption Tees Valley is setting out to deliver a core offer to all adopters and children, through regular engagement events, activities, and then through training, workshops and informal support. The service is also the agency through which therapeutic support can be commissioned, funded by the Adoption Support Fund (ASF).

The first six months have been busy, active, and a time of huge development and change for staff and managers, as well as those who are in the adoption journey during the transition.

We are hugely proud of the achievements and this experienced staff team have recently agreed that this has been a positive move for adoption in Tees Valley.



The Lead Elected Council Members for Children's Services who have supported the planning, decisions and resource allocation to Adoption Tees Valley, within the five Tees Valley Councils.

Left to right: Anne McCoy, Stockton BC; Mike Carr, Middlesbrough BC; Craig Hannaway, Redcar and Cleveland BC; Cyndi Hughes, Darlington BC; Brenda Harrison, Hartlepool BC.

## Summary and Plans for the next 12 months

The first half year has been an exciting period for those involved in adoption work across the Tees Valley. There has been a huge commitment, not only from the staff who have moved across into the new Regional Adoption Agency, but also from children's services leaders within the Tees Valley region, the councils, senior staff and social workers. Also, wider stakeholders, including multi agency partners, VAA's, and adopters and foster carers.

The new agency is now set up, and effectively doing what it is there for, which is to find families for the children with an adoption plan in the Tees Valley region. We have also placed a number of children from other Local Authority areas with adopters in the Tees Valley region, and are working with the national agenda of reducing delay for children who require adoption.

Most people reflect that the RAA is a success, when considering the numbers of children who have achieved a match within this first six month period. At the end of the first six months, the numbers of adopters waiting had dramatically reduced, and this is due largely to the success of matching children with those adopters. It is early days in terms of the lag effect to really know whether the timeliness for children has improved, as children adopted within this half year were mostly matched and placed prior to the RAA.

A summary of what is working well includes:

- The physical building is a great space for ATV, and has been widely used by team and by wider LA stakeholders;
- The team is co-located in this building and has unified as new team, which enables the service to be more effective;
- Engagement events have been positive, and well attended, with many adopters feeding back that they are pleased to be involved to a greater degree in the agency. Lots of children have already started to get to know the building and team, and each other;
- Early notifications to ATV of any child who may have an adoption plan;
- Permanence Champions provide close links with LAs;
- The Adoption Panel now implemented, and well chaired by two experienced chairs, and a strong central list;
- Matching within the available pool of adopters successful;
- A successful internal matching event, well supported by LA foster carers and social workers;
- Some children who have waited for some time are matched, and are now living with their new families;
- The first six months is indicative of reduced comparative costs in interagency fees;
- Good cross agency working, with all LAs committing to involvement and development; and

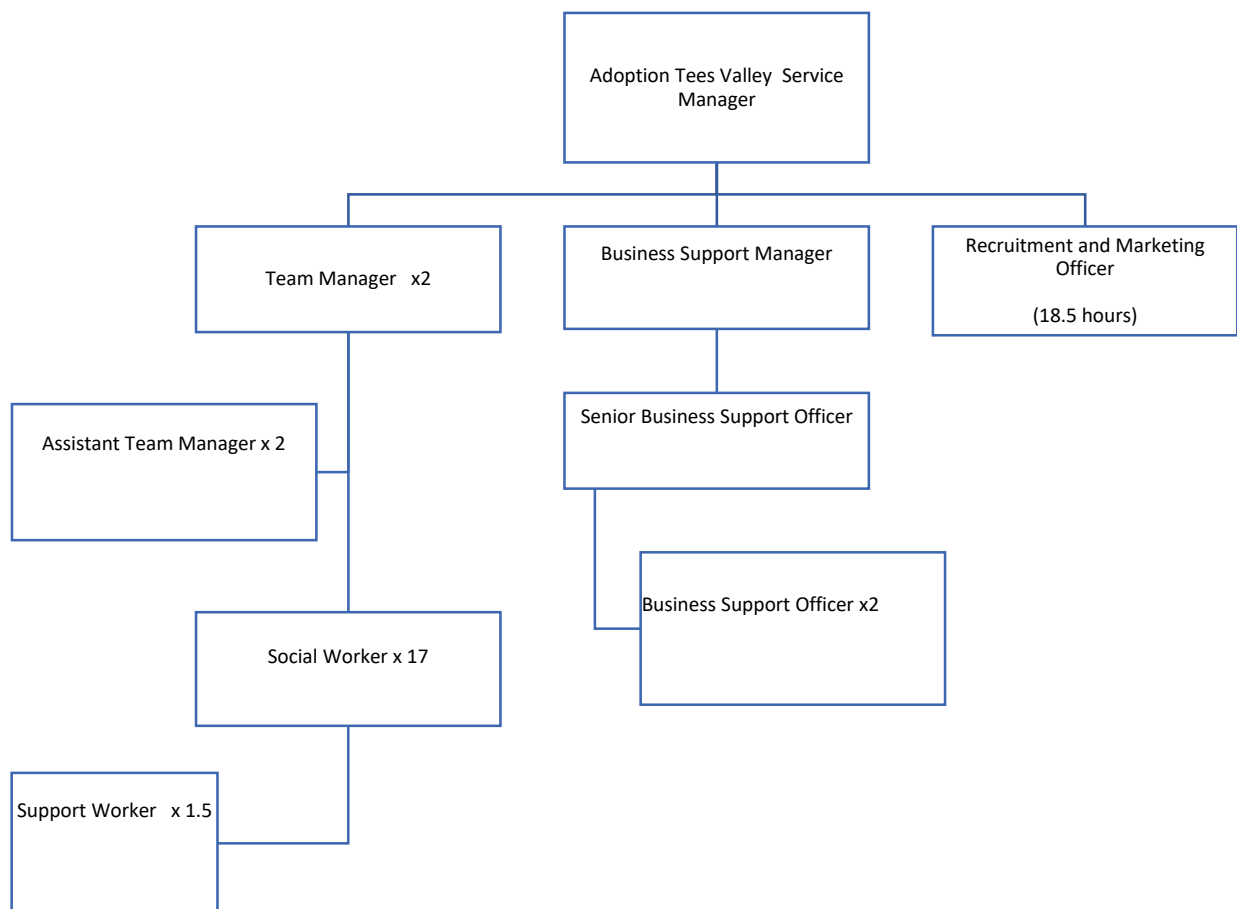


- Collaborative working with LA's tracking individual children's plans.

#### Plans for the next 12 months

- Development of Market Position Statement, and a Recruitment Strategy, to target recruitment of adopters to the needs of children waiting, and coming through the system;
- A recruitment campaign in January 2019;
- Clear targeted approach to family finding, which will include greater collaborative and strategic work within the NE region, and through the Regional Adoption Leadership Board;
- Development of Adopter Partnership Forum, to enable adopter influence in service development;
- A clear development of post adoption support services, through a tiered intervention model;
- Commissioning for therapeutic providers list, and for post adoption support services;
- Complete the transfer of post box, and contracts into Charms system;
- Collaborate with wider multi-disciplinary services within Tees Valley, for better support and outcomes to adopted children and their families;
- Start a Young People's group, to influence service design, and enable young people to access the right services; and
- Progress allocation of life story work, and a model of social worker contribution to the child's life story.

## Appendix 1- Staffing Structure



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
11 MARCH 2019**

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**WORK PROGRAMME**

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**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
<b>Performance Management and Regulation</b>	Q3 11 March 2019	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
	Q4 1 July 2019		A safe and caring community	Spend every pound wisely		
	Q1 2 September 2019		Enough support for people when needed			
	Q2 16 December 2019		More people healthy and independent			
<b>Children and Young People Public Health Overview 2019</b>	2 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

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>SCS Outcome</b>	<b>Darlington Conditions</b>	<b>Link to PMF (metrics)</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role</b>
<b>Extension of Funding to 21 for Children in Foster Care</b>	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
<b>2019/20 Childcare Sufficiency Review</b>	16 December 2019	Tony Murphy/Nicola Davies	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.
<b>Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board</b>	28 October 2019	Amanda Hugill/ Simon Hart, Independent Chair		Build strong communities	LSB Annual Report	Annual monitoring
<b>IRO Annual Report</b>	2 September 2019	Martin Graham	Children with the best start in life		CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of



Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
						the Independent Reviewing Officer for Looked After Children
<b>Local Designated Officer Annual Report</b>	2 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
<b>Children and Young People Plan 2017-22</b>	1 Jul 2019	Christine Shields	Children with the best start in life			Half yearly update to Members.
<b>Learning and Skills Service Annual Report</b>	1 Jul 2019	Paul Richardson	Enough support for people when needed			To demonstrate challenge

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<b>JOINT REVIEW WITH HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY:</b>						
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
<b>Childhood Obesity/ Oral Health/Mental Health Links</b>	November 2017 – February 2018		Children with the best start in life	Build strong communities		To investigate the high incidence of

**JOINT REVIEW WITH HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY:**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>SCS Outcome</b>	<b>Darlington Conditions</b>	<b>Link to PMF (metrics)</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role</b>
	Scoping meeting held on 27 November 2017 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 31 January 2018.  Interim Report to Cabinet on 11 September 2018 on Oral Health.		Enough support for people when needed  More People Healthy and Independent			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.

## ARCHIVED ITEMS

<b>Early Help Service</b>	Last report: 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.
<b>Youth Unemployment</b>	30 October 2017	Paul Richardson	Enough support for people when needed			To examine youth unemployment in Darlington
<b>SEND Inclusion Strategy</b>	Last report: 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
<b>Workforce Sufficiency, Skills, Recruitment and Retention</b>	Last report:	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
<b>Children and Young People's Plan 2017/22</b>	Last report: 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
<b>Sustainability and Transformation Plan (Maternity Services)</b>	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)
<b>LAC Missing from Care – Reasons and Interventions</b>	Last report: 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
<b>Educational Landscape</b>	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.
<b>Recording practices for statutory visits for Child Protection Cases</b>	Last report: 27 June 2016	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
<b>Stability of Places for Looked After Children</b>	Last report: 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
<b>Children Services Accessibility Strategy</b>	10 December 2018					To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider the Strategy prior to Cabinet.
<b>SEND High Needs Review: Strategy and Funding</b>	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. Members to carry out a T/F Review on the proposals.
<b>Home to School Transport</b>	29 October 2018		Enough support for people when needed			
<b>SEND Strategy and Funding Consultation Review Group</b>	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

<b>Services for Families with children with disabilities 0-3 years Review Group</b>	Review of the service.	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, families and stakeholders.
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