



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Adults Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00am, Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Council Chamber, 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 Notes of the Meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 21 December 2021 (Pages 3 - 6)
4. Covid Response - Verbal Update –
Assistant Director – Commissioning, Performance and Transformation
5. Performance Indicators Mid Year Report 2021-22 –
Report of the Assistant Director – Adult Services
(Pages 7 - 24)
6. Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report - 2020/2021 –
Report of the Group Director of People
(Pages 25 - 58)
7. Work Programme –
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance
(Pages 59 - 70)
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

Monday, 14 February 2022

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Holroyd, Johnson, B Jones, Layton, M Nicholson, Renton and A J Scott

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Elections Officer, Operations 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: Paul.Dalton@darlington.gov.uk or Telephone 01325 405805

ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 December 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WAS NOT A FORMALLY CONSTITUTED MEETING, AND THAT THIS IS A 'NOTE' OF THE INFORMAL MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE.

PRESENT – Councillors Donoghue (in the Chair), Mrs. Culley, Curry, Holroyd, Layton, M. Nicholson, Renton and A. J. Scott.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Johnson and B Jones.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Elizabeth Davison (Group Director of Operations), Joss Harbron (Assistant Director - Adult Social Care), Brett Nielsen (Assistant Director Resources) and Sharon Raine (Head of Performance and Transformation) and Paul Dalton (Elections Officer).

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

That Councillor Curry be appointed Vice Chair of this Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2021/22.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2021

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Adults Scrutiny Committee held on 22 October 2021, be accepted as a correct record.

COVID RESPONSE - VERBAL UPDATE

The Assistant Director – Adult Social Care provided a verbal update on the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically in relation to care providers.

Members were advised of one outbreak at Middleton Hall Care Home though it was noted that this was being managed well, and that the last positive Covid test had been recorded on 9 December 2021. It was reported that there were no staffing issues in relation to this outbreak.

Members were informed that there were no reported cases of Covid in terms of domiciliary care in relation to the Council's two main providers, though recruitment of staff was slow. It was reported that both main providers had placed an embargo on annual leave for the remainder of the year to ensure that staffing levels were maintained. It was also reported that there were no outbreaks across day care settings.

The Assistant Director – Adult Social Care advised that the visiting guidance for care homes had changed to permit only three named visitors per resident, and that care homes in Darlington were working with families directly to implement this.

Members received the latest figures in terms of vaccinations, both for residents and staff working within care settings.

Members entered into discussion on the number of staff who had left roles after choosing not to have the Covid vaccine, and whether the booster would become mandatory for care staff.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Assistant Director Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) inviting Members to give consideration to the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2022/23 to 2025/26.

In introducing the report, the Group Director of Operations referred Members to the previously delivered MTFP Briefing, and advised that this meeting presented an opportunity to ask any general questions on the MTFP, however, more specifically to ask questions relating to the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, and for the Committee to subsequently forward any views or comments specifically relating to the services and finances within the remit of this Committee to the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration on 20 January 2022, when that Committee would be formulating an overall response from Scrutiny to Cabinet.

The Group Director of Operations provided an update on the finance settlement received subsequent to the previously delivered MTFP Briefing, and the impact this had on the assumptions made within the draft MTFP.

It was reported that the Council would be receiving £1.579M from the Services Grant announced in the Autumn Statement, and £1.162M from the Social Care Grant, which was slightly higher than initially included within the draft MTFP, however Members were advised that the Services Grant was a one-off payment whilst a further review of Local Government funding was conducted. The Group Director of Operations advised that Officers would need to give further consideration as to how this was reflected within the draft MTFP, and whether any further assumptions could be drawn going forward.

Members were also advised that the New Homes Bonus had been extended for a further year, and that this would net a further £1.4M above anticipated levels. It was reported that there were also a number of deductions from initial draft figures, however overall there would be an additional £1.073M funding for 2022/23, over that which had been previously presented.

Members entered into discussion on the statutory nature of the majority of Adult Social Care services and funding allocation, and the potential for further work to examine this; sought clarification around the price inflation figure contained within the MTFP for 2025/26; enquired about the rationale behind the increase in the external purchase of care, and the reasoning for the perceived reduction in funding for long-term physical disability and long-term mental disability; encouraged the harnessing of under-utilized Council assets and building a Council managed Care Home and Sheltered Accommodation; scrutinised the margin of error in relation to National Insurance contribution and the Employee pay award; encouraged a greater focus on honing services via the Transformation Agenda to reduce

spending and produce greater efficiencies, and encourage care providers to do likewise; and enquired as to whether tackling inequalities could be undertaken at a Council wide level to reduce specific service costs.

(a) That this Committee accept the draft MTFP 2022/23 to 2025/26, as proposed, particularly in relation to those services and finances within the remit of the Committee, and undertake work throughout the forthcoming year to inform the MTFP 2023/24 to 2026/27.

(b) That the Chair, in consultation with the Lead Scrutiny Officers supporting this Scrutiny Committee, be given authority to agree the Notes of this Meeting of the Committee, to enable the Notes to be considered at a Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, scheduled to be held on 20 January 2022.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The Assistant Director – Adult Social Care submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform members on the progress in determining a revised Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF), and to provide an overview of Darlington’s performance against ASCOF over the past three years.

The submitted report informed Members that ASCOF was first published in March 2011, and is reviewed annually to update the measures to reflect outcomes for adults and carers. The submitted report advised that ASCOF measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people, and that the ASCOF is used both locally and nationally to set priorities for care and support, measure progress and strengthen transparency and accountability.

It was reported that performance against the ASCOF is published annually by NHS Digital, and that the Department of Health and Social Care also provides an annual report on the national picture. It was highlighted that Darlington continues to perform well against the ASCOF measures, and in most cases performs better than the North East average.

Members entered into discussion on the reduction of support required within the reablement packages, and it was noted that there is a high success rate of people once receiving reablement when leaving hospital not requiring ongoing care and that the low numbers requiring reablement is a positive as people return home with either their existing packages of care in place, or not requiring care; enquired about the high percentage of adults with learning disabilities in employment in Hartlepool Borough Council, and asked if the Council could learn from Hartlepool Borough Council; enquired about the low number of people requiring a reablement package when being discharged from hospital; the number of carers in receipt of direct payments and the different interpretation and approaches undertaken by other authorities to record this; and the validity and integrity of the user and carer surveys.

(a) That the content of the report be noted.

(b) That a further report be received by this Committee when the revised framework is published.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2021/22, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

That a verbal update on the Covid Response remain on the Work Programme for all meetings for the remainder of this Municipal Year.

**Adults Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 22 February 2022**

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MID YEAR REPORT 2021-22

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with performance data against key performance indicators for 2021-22.

Report

Performance summary

2. This report provides performance information in line with an indicator set and scrutiny committee distribution agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 4 June 2018, and subsequently by scrutiny committee chairs.
3. The indicators included in this report are aligned with key priorities and the majority are used to monitor the Corporate Plan. Other indicators may be referenced when appropriate in narrative provided by the relevant assistant directors, when providing the committee with performance updates.
4. Twelve indicators are reported to the committee, ten on a 6 monthly basis and two annually.
5. Performance of the ten indicators reported at the end of 2021/22:

- a) two indicators are showing performance better than at this time last year:

ASC 019	Percentage of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package.
ASC 046	(ASCOF 1E) Proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment.

- b) three indicators are showing performance is not as good as at this time last year, they are still continuing to be monitored and managed.

ASC 002	(ASCOF 2A-2) Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care per 100,000 of the 65+ population
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ASC 003	(ASCOF 2A-1) Adults aged 18 - 64 admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care homes, per 100,000 population
ASC 045	(ASCOF 1G) Proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family

c) two indicators performance are the same as this time last year.

ASC 049	(ASCOF 1C (1a)) Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support
ASC 050	(ASCOF 1C (1b)) Proportion of carers using social care who receive self-directed support

d) three indicators are not comparable, and are reviewed as a point in time.

ASC 208	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - year to date
ASC 209	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - per month
ASC 211	Number of strategy meetings undertaken i.e. concerns progressed to strategy per month

6. More information relating to some of the indicators referenced in this report can be found in **Appendix 1**.
7. The 2 indicators that are recorded annually are ASC054 (The proportion of people who use Adult Care services who find it easy to find information about services) and ASC055 (The proportion of people who are carers who find it easy to find information about services). Neither of these indicators are included as there were no annual surveys completed in 2021/22 due to the corona pandemic.
8. This Scrutiny Committee performance report is compiled by Sharon Raine. All queries regarding the format of this report should be addressed to Sharon.raine@darlington.gov.uk

9. Recommendations

10. It is recommended:

- a) that performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with appropriate assistant directors

Joss Harbron Assistant Director – Adult Services

Background papers

Background papers were not used in the preparation of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Councils 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.

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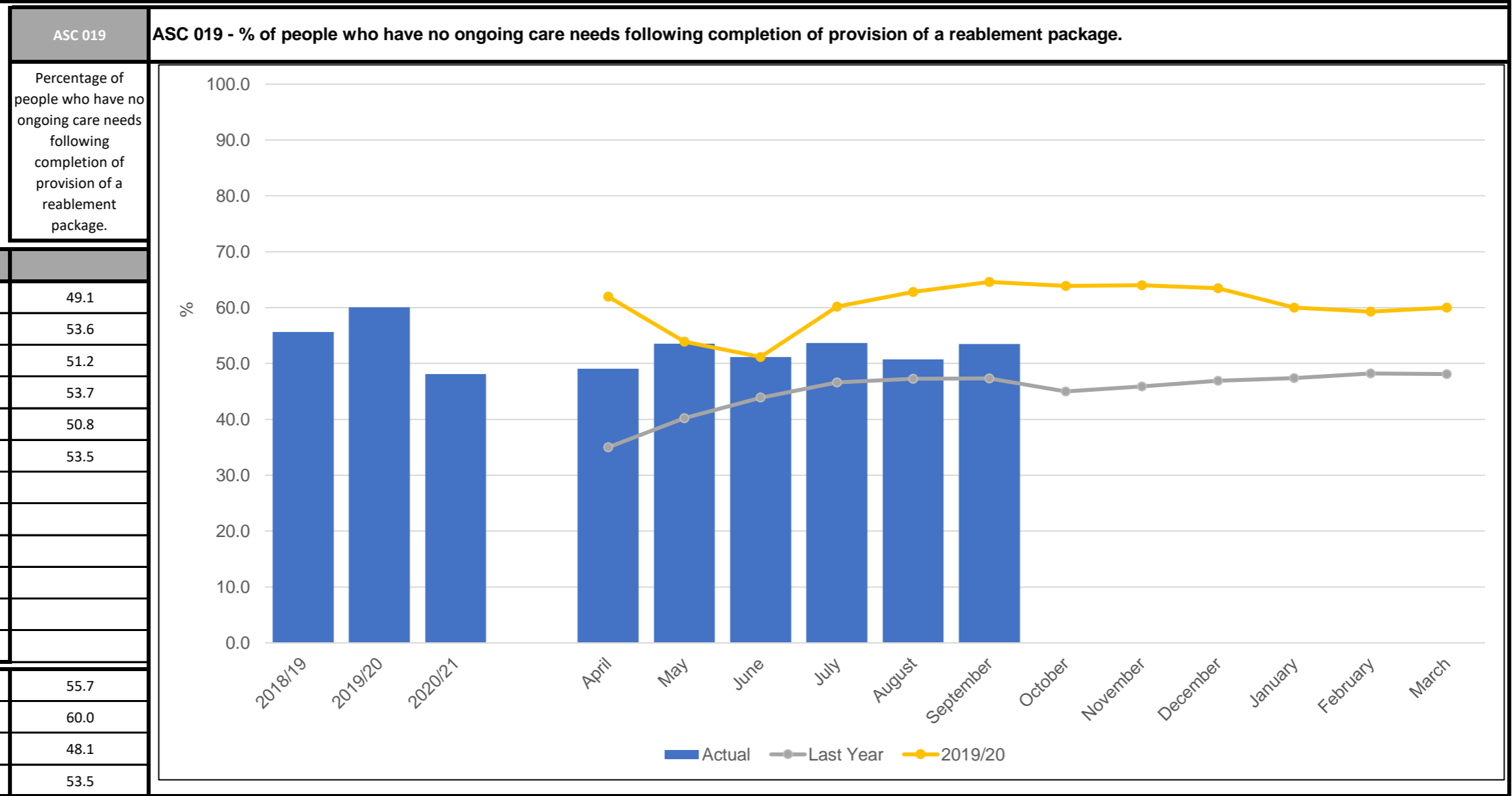


DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Adult Social Care

Mid Year Scrutiny Performance Report 2021-22

MANAGING DEMAND	
ASC 019	% of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package.
DEFINITION	<p>ASC 019 – Percentage of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package (Bigger is better)</p> <p>Numerator: Of those in the denominator, those who have had a completed reablement review with outcomes of 'No Services Provided or Identified, Long Term Support Ended, Universal Services/Signposted'</p> <p>Denominator: The total number of clients completing a reablement package during the period</p>
Performance Analysis	<p>Since April the percentage of clients who have completed a reablement package with an outcome of 'No Service Provided or Identified, Long Term Support Ended or Universal Services /Signposted is 53.5%. In terms of actual numbers out of the 197 clients who have completed a reablement package 123 had no ongoing care needs.</p> <p>The current performance of 53.5% is lower than the same period during 2019/20 (64.6%). During Quarter 2 out of 111 clients who had completed a reablement package 62 had no ongoing care needs, this equates to 55%. This is similar to the same period last year where the quarterly figure was 53%, however it is lower than the 2019-20 Quarter 2 figure of 64%.</p> <p>The implementation of the team criteria and the impact of the reablement team has started to show an improvement in the number of people leaving the service with no ongoing care. As the team has become more established with the use of small aids and adopting the strength based approach this has had an positive impact on the outcome of the service user.</p> <p>There has been an increase in clients receiving reablement packages who have a higher level of need. This has resulted in the increase of double up calls during the month. Also due to a recent fall in the availability of service provision from private providers there has also been an increase in the number of clients referred to the service whose needs are not suitable for reablement.</p> <p>We aim to improve performance in this indicator further by introducing chair based exercises. An additional indicator is looking at being introduced which would measure the percentage of the reduced number of falls following on from the completion of the chair based exercise programme. This will help to demonstrate the positive effectiveness of this new programme.</p>



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	
	Apr-21	49.1
	May-21	53.6
	Jun-21	51.2
	Jul-21	53.7
	Aug-21	50.8
	Sep-21	53.5
	Oct-21	
	Nov-21	
	Dec-21	
	Jan-22	
	Feb-22	
Mar-22		

Annual Trend	2018/19	55.7
	2019/20	60.0
	2020/21	48.1
	2021/22 (YTD)	53.5

MANAGING DEMAND

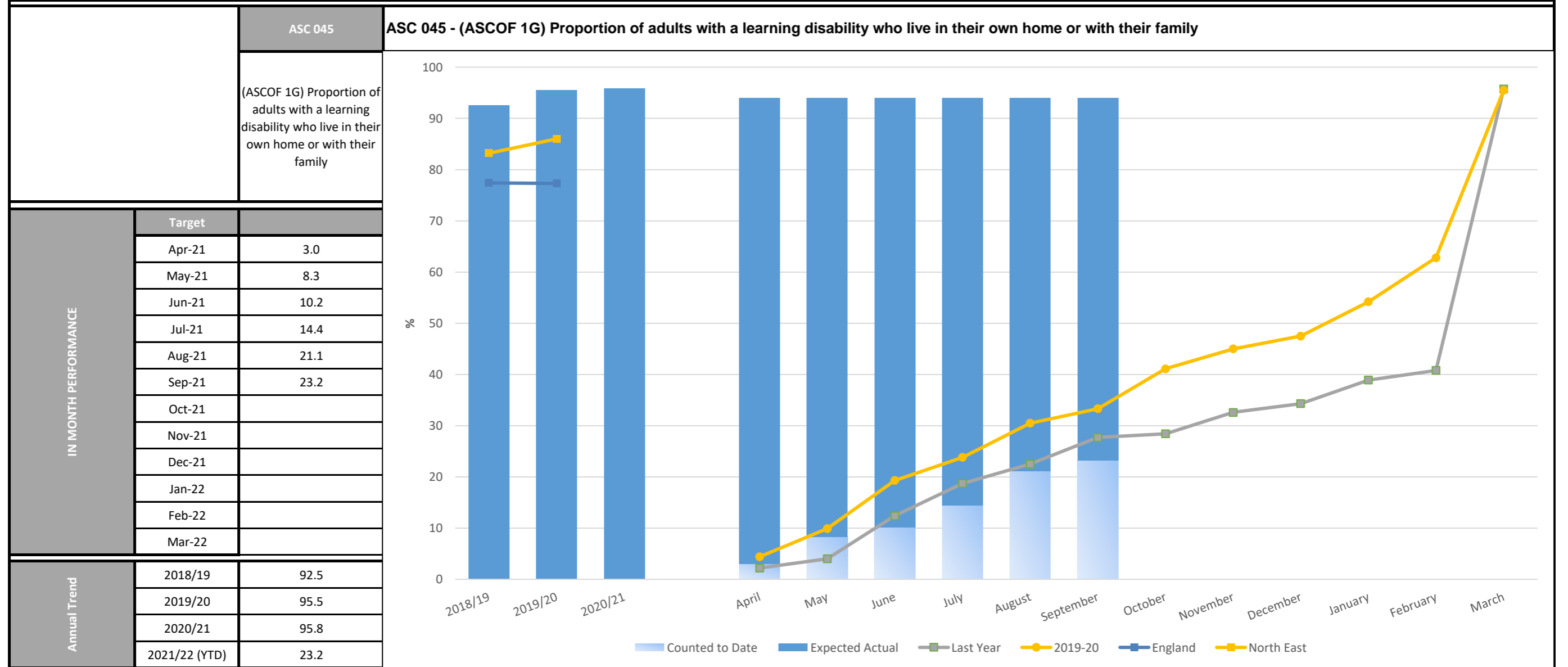
ASC 019 - Percentage of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package

DEFINITION	<p>ASC 019 – Percentage of people who have no ongoing care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package (Bigger is better)</p> <p>Numerator: Of those in the denominator, those who have had a completed reablement review with outcomes of 'No Services Provided or Identified, Long Term Support Ended, Universal Services/Signposted'</p> <p>Denominator: The total number of clients completing a reablement package during the period</p>
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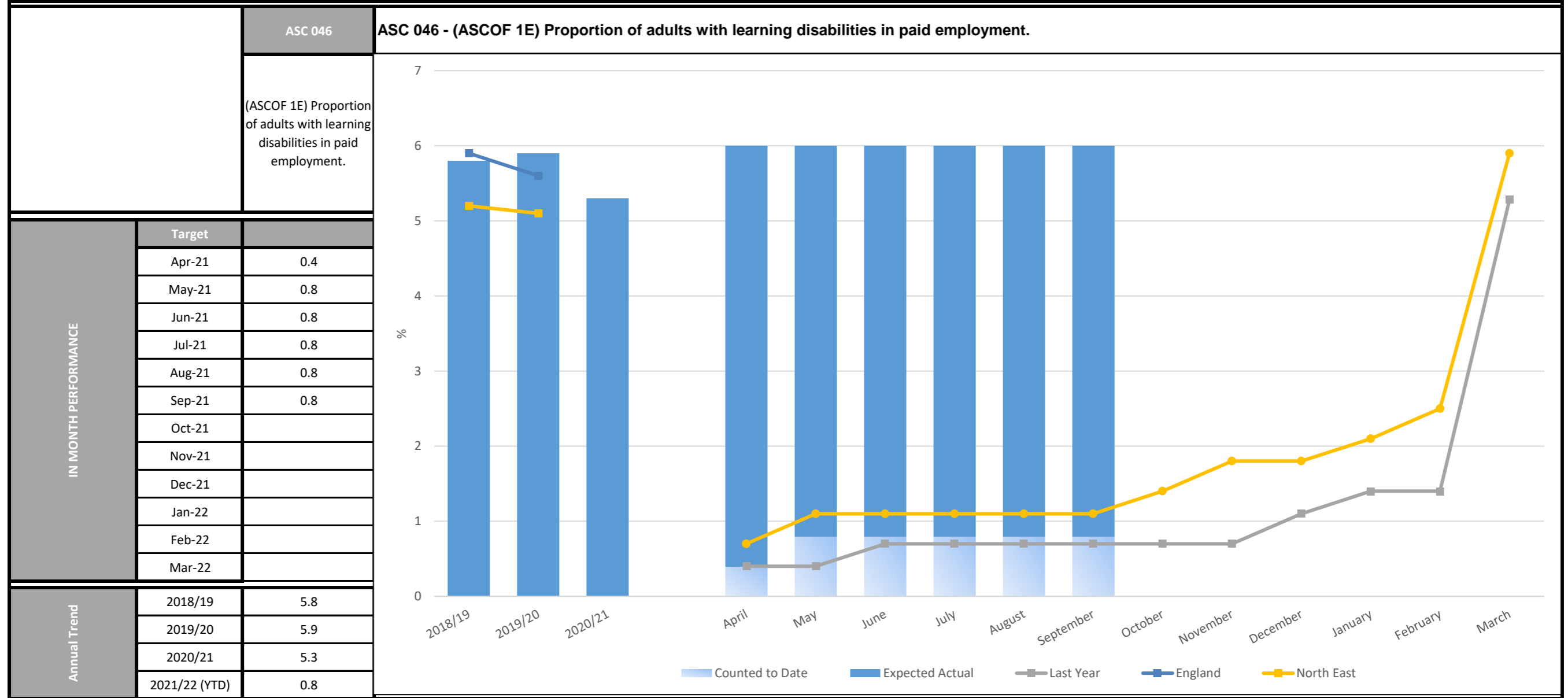
Monthly breakdown of figures 21-22			
	Total no of clients completing reablement	No of clients with no ongoing care needs	Percentage of clients completing packages and outcomed with no ongoing care needs
April	55	26	47%
May	31	18	58%
June	46	21	46%
July	36	22	61%
August	38	17	45%
September	36	21	58%
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			

Monthly breakdown of figures 20-21			
	Total no of clients completing reablement	No of clients with no ongoing care needs	Percentage of clients completing packages and outcomed with no ongoing care needs
April	57	20	35%
May	33	14	42%
June	36	18	50%
July	40	23	58%
August	37	19	51%
September	28	14	50%
October	47	15	32%
November	43	17	40%
December	33	16	48%
January	58	21	36%
February	42	23	55%
March	61	27	44%

SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT	
ASC 045	(ASCOF 1G) Proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family
DEFINITION	<p>QUALITY OF LIFE: ASC 045 (ASCOF 1G) – Proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family (Bigger is better)</p> <p>Numerator: All people within the denominator who are “living on their own or with their family.” Source: SALT</p> <p>Denominator: Number of working-age learning-disabled clients known to CASSRs during the period. This includes clients who received long term support during the year and with a primary support reason of learning disability support. All support settings should be included (i.e. residential, nursing and community settings)</p>
Performance Analysis	<p>This captures individuals who are of working age with a primary need of learning disability. This is only 266 of adults, not the work of the whole Life Stages Service. We have some of the best regional figures for individuals in their own accommodation and a request has been made to change the reporting of this. A decision is awaited. The team would like to develop this graph to show a greater breakdown of exactly where individuals are currently living and to capture the changes each month, rather than the number of reviews as is currently shown. We would also like to show this for the remaining individuals not captured within the ASCOF.</p>



SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT	
ASC 046	(ASCOF 1E) Proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment.
DEFINITION	<p>QUALITY OF LIFE: ASC 046 (ASCOF 1E) Proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment. (Bigger is better)</p> <p>Numerator: All people within the denominator, who are in employment. Source: SALT</p> <p>Denominator: Number of working-age learning-disabled clients known to CASSRs during the period. This includes clients who received long term support during the year and with a primary support reason of learning disability support. All support settings should be included (i.e. residential, nursing and community settings)</p>
Performance Analysis	<p>This captures individuals who are of working age with a primary need of learning disability. This is only 266 of adults, not the work of the whole Life Stages Service. The team would like to develop this graph to show a greater breakdown of exactly what individuals are currently doing, for example in education or voluntary work which would better capture their journey towards paid employment, rather than just those in paid employment which is in the ASCOF. The team would also like to develop similar measures for those not in the ASCOF.</p>



SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT			
ASC 049	(ASCOF 1C (1a)) Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support		
DEFINITION	QUALITY OF LIFE: ASC 049 (ASCOF 1C (1a)) – Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support (Bigger is better) Numerator: The number of users receiving either a) Direct Payment, b) Part Direct Payment or c) CASSR managed Personal Budget at the year-end 31st March: SALT Denominator: Clients (aged 18 or over) accessing long term community support at the year end 31st March: SALT		
Performance Analysis	Since April the proportion of clients using social care who receive self-directed support is 97.3%. In terms of actual numbers this equates to 770 individuals receiving self-directed support.		
	ASC 049	ASC 049 - (ASCOF 1C (1a)) Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support	
	(ASCOF 1C (1a)) Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support		
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target		
	Apr-21		98.0
	May-21		97.9
	Jun-21		97.6
	Jul-21	97.9	
Aug-21	97.6		
Sep-21	97.3		
Oct-21			
Nov-21			
Dec-21			
Jan-22			
Feb-22			
Mar-22			
Annual Trend	2018/19	97.8	
	2019/20	98.7	
	2020/21	98.6	
	2021/22 (YTD)	97.3	

SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT

ASC 049 - Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support

DEFINITION	<p>QUALITY OF LIFE: ASC 049 (ASCOF 1C (1a)) – Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support (Bigger is better)</p> <p>Numerator: The number of users receiving either a) Direct Payment, b) Part Direct Payment or c) CASSR managed Personal Budget at the year-end 31st March: SALT</p> <p>Denominator: Clients (aged 18 or over) accessing long term community support at the year end 31st March: SALT</p>
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18-64

Type of self directed support	
Direct Payments	171
CASSR Managed Personal Budget	172
Part Direct Payments	58
Total	401

Primary Support Reason	
Learning Disability Support	245
Physical Support - Personal Care Support	100
Mental Health Support	31
Physical Support - Access and Mobility Only	13
Social Support - Support for Social isolation / other	10
Social Support - Substance misuse support	1
Sensory Support - support for dual impairment	1
Support with memory and cognition	0
Sensory Support - support for hearing impairment	0
Sensory Support - Support for Visual Impairment	0
Total	401

65+

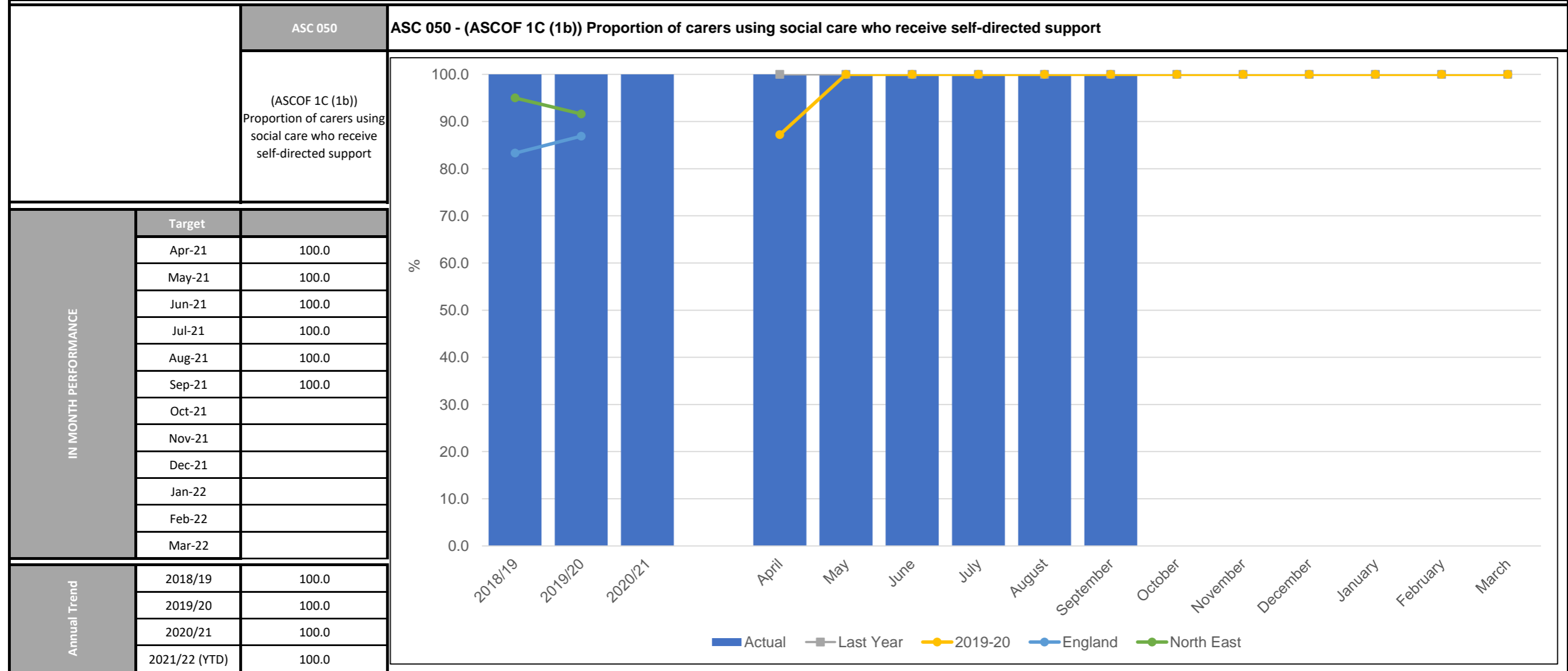
Type of self directed support	
CASSR Managed Personal Budget	316
Direct Payments	43
Part Direct Payments	10
Total	369

Primary Support Reason	
Physical Support - Personal Care Support	238
Learning Disability Support	37
Physical Support - Access and Mobility Only	27
Support with memory and cognition	29
Mental Health Support	24
Social Support - Support for Social isolation / other	9
Sensory Support - Support for Visual Impairment	3
Sensory Support - support for hearing impairment	2
Sensory Support - support for dual impairment	0
Social Support - Support misuse support	0
Total	369

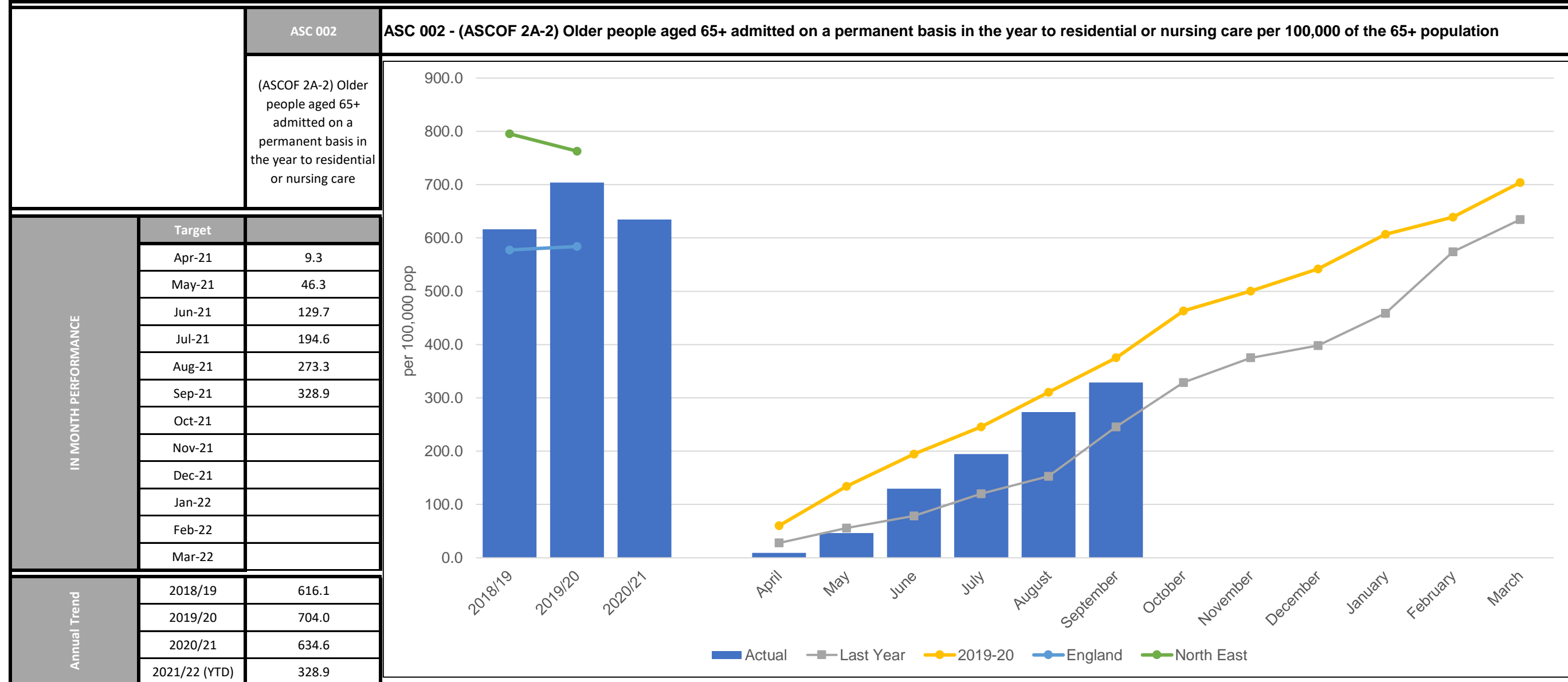
ASCOF 1c(1a) - 2020-21 Regional breakdown for proportion of people who use services who receive Self Directed Support (bigger is better)

2020/21	
South Tyneside	100.0
Middlesbrough	100.0
Redcar and Cleveland	100.0
Sunderland	99.5
Stockton-on-Tees	99.2
North Tyneside	98.7
Darlington	98.6
Gateshead	98.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	96.3
Durham	95.9
Hartlepool	94.1
Northumberland	93.9

SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT	
ASC 050	(ASCOF 1C (1b)) Proportion of carers using social care who receive self-directed support
DEFINITION	<p>QUALITY OF LIFE: ASC 050 (ASCOF 1C (1b)) – Proportion of carers using social care who receive self-directed support (Bigger is better)</p> <p>Numerator: The number of users receiving either a) Direct Payment, b) Part Direct Payment or c) CASSR managed Personal Budget at the year-end 31st March: SALT</p> <p>Denominator: Carers (caring for someone aged 18 or over) receiving carer-specific services in the year to 31st March: SALT</p>
Performance Analysis	<p>Since April the proportion of carers using social care who receive self-directed support is 100%. In terms of actual numbers this equates to 91 carers receiving self-directed support.</p> <p>All carers who are in receipt of a commissioned service are now recorded as having a personal budget, therefore this indicator should always be recorded as 100% of carers being in receipt of self-directed support.</p>



SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT											
ASC 002	(ASCOF 2A-2) Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care per 100,000 of the 65+ population										
DEFINITION	<p>REDUCE THE NEED: ASC 002 (ASCOF 2A-2) – Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care. (Smaller is better)</p> <p>Numerator: The sum of the number of council-supported permanent admissions of older people (aged 65 and over) to residential and nursing care during the year (excluding transfers between residential and nursing care): SALT</p> <p>Denominator: Size of older people population (aged 65 and over) in area (ONS mid-year population estimates).</p>										
Performance Analysis	<p>Since April the number of 65+ who have been permanently placed into residential care is 66 (305.7 per 100,000 population). When compared to the same period last year the number of permanent admissions during the same period in 2020 was 61 and 81 in 2019.</p> <p>As of the 7th September the current number of individuals who remain in a short break stay is 54.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>as at 11/10/21</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Over 65</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under 65</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carers break</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Covid</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Out of the 66 clients placed into permanent care since April 55 of these came straight from short break stays which equates to 83%, this is compared to 72% in the same period during 2020/21 and 70% during 2019/20.</p>		as at 11/10/21	Over 65	38	Under 65	7	Carers break	0	Covid	9
	as at 11/10/21										
Over 65	38										
Under 65	7										
Carers break	0										
Covid	9										

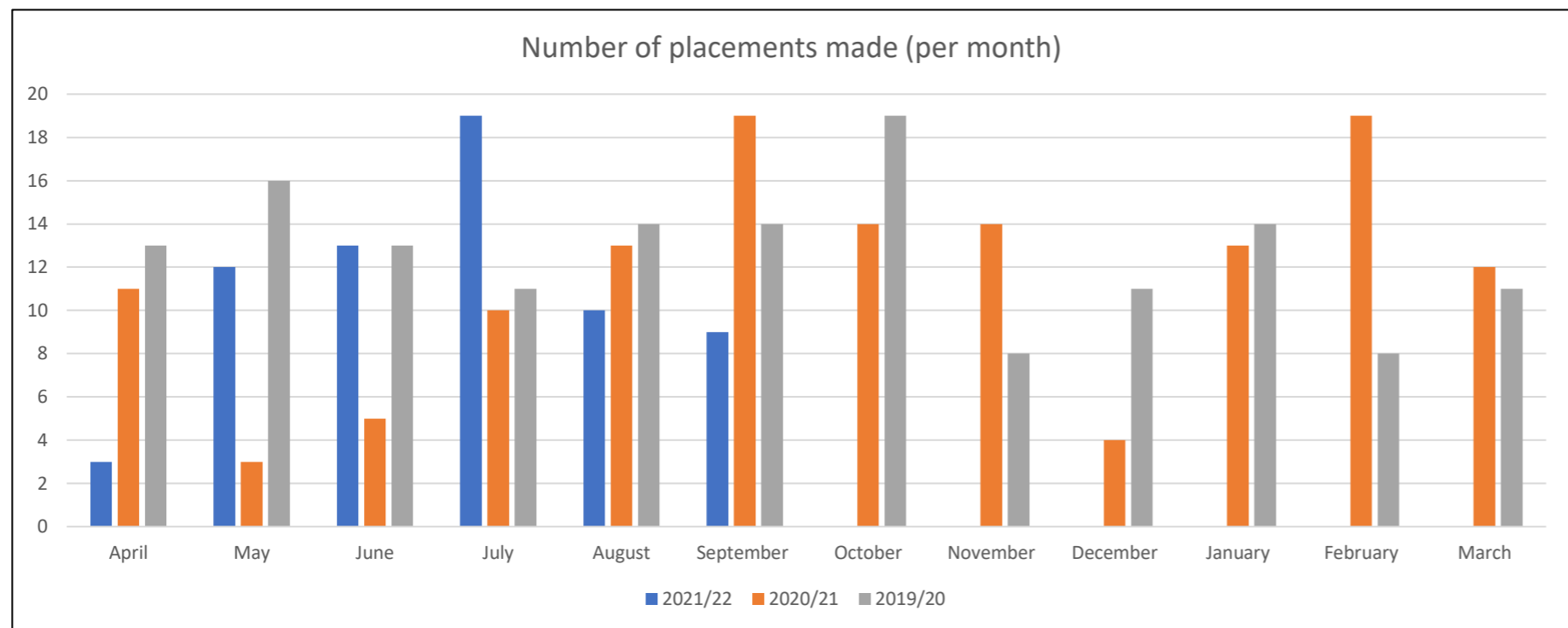


SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT
ASC 002- Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care (per 100,000 of pop)

DEFINITION **REDUCE THE NEED: ASC 002 (ASCOF 2A-2)** – Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care. (Smaller is better)
Numerator: The sum of the number of council-supported permanent admissions of older people (aged 65 and over) to residential and nursing care during the year (excluding transfers between residential and nursing care): SALT
Denominator: Size of older people population (aged 65 and over) in area (ONS mid-year population estimates).

Breakdown of placements made per month for the past 3 years

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
2021/22	3	12	13	19	10	9							66
2020/21	11	3	5	10	13	19	14	14	4	13	19	12	137
2019/20	13	16	13	11	14	14	19	8	11	14	8	11	152



ASCOF 2a(2) - 2020-21 Regional breakdown for permanent admissions 65+ (smaller is better)

2020/21	
North Tyneside	424.4
Hartlepool	582.4
Northumberland	609.6
Stockton-on-Tees	619.8
Darlington	637.1
Durham	658.7
Redcar and Cleveland	699.9
South Tyneside	701.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	713.4
Middlesbrough	844.3
Gateshead	1,060.1
Sunderland	1,170.1

SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT
ASC 002- Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care (per 100,000 of pop)

DEFINITION	<p>REDUCE THE NEED: ASC 002 (ASCOF 2A-2) – Older people aged 65+ admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care. (Smaller is better)</p> <p>Numerator: The sum of the number of council-supported permanent admissions of older people (aged 65 and over) to residential and nursing care during the year (excluding transfers between residential and nursing care): SALT</p> <p>Denominator: Size of older people population (aged 65 and over) in area (ONS mid-year population estimates).</p>
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Age Breakdown

	65-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	86-90	91-95	96-99	100+
2021/22	4	6	9	14	16	11	6	0
2020/21	5	5	10	11	11	13	5	1
2019/20	7	3	8	18	25	12	7	1

Service Type

Service Type	
Permanent Residential Care	58
Permanent Nursing Care	8

Breakdown of Service Element for each placement

Service Element	
OP Residential	34
EMI Residential	20
EMI MH Residential	4
OP Nursing	4
EMI MH Nursing	3
EMI Nursing	1

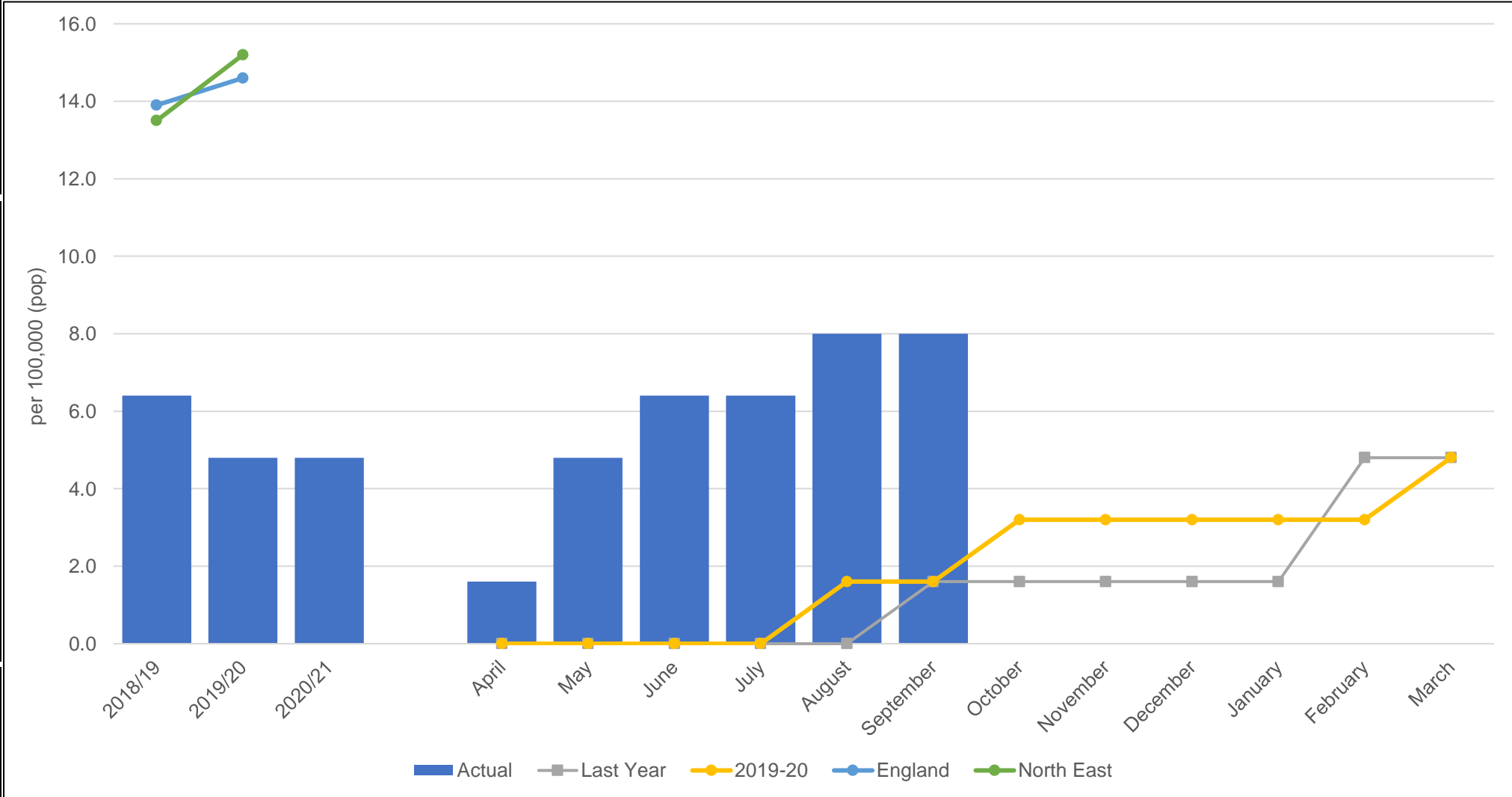
Breakdown of Long Term Support Reasons

Long Term Support Reason	
Physical Support - Personal Care Support	39
Support with Memory and Cognition	13
Mental Health Support	8
Physical Support - Access and Mobility Only	3
Sensory Support - Support for Visual Impairment	2
Learning Disability Support	1
Social Support - Support for Social Isolation / Other	0

Length of time in SBS prior to moving into permanent care

	SBS (weeks)		
	2021/22 (Apr-Sept)	2020/21 (Apr-Sept)	2019/20 (Apr-Sept)
0-6 weeks	14	9	21
6-12 weeks	15	16	18
12-18 weeks	11	5	7
18-24 weeks	4	6	6
24-30 weeks	4	2	4
30+ weeks	7	6	1

SELF DIRECTED SUPPORT		
ASC 003	(ASCOF 2A-1) Adults aged 18 - 64 admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care homes, per 100,000 population	
DEFINITION	REDUCE THE NEED: ASC 003 (ASCOF 2A-1) – Adults aged 18-64 admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care homes (Smaller is better) Numerator: The sum of the number of council-supported permanent admissions of adults (18-64) to residential and nursing care during the year (excluding transfers between residential and nursing care): SALT Denominator: Size of population (aged 18-64) in area (ONS mid-year population estimates).	
Performance Analysis	Since April there have been 5 individuals who have been placed permanently into residential care. A robust assurance by Team Managers and Validation continues to ensure that clients only enter permanent care when necessary.	
	ASC 003	ASC 003 - (ASCOF 2A-1) Adults aged 18 - 64 admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care homes, per 100,000 population
		(ASCOF 2A-1) Adults aged 18 - 64 admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care homes, per 100,000 population
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	
	Apr-21	1.6
	May-21	4.8
	Jun-21	6.4
	Jul-21	6.4
	Aug-21	8.0
	Sep-21	8.0
	Oct-21	
	Nov-21	
	Dec-21	
	Jan-22	
	Feb-22	
	Mar-22	
Annual Trend	2018/19	6.4
	2019/20	4.8
	2020/21	4.8
	2021/22	8.0
	2021/22 (YTD)	8.0



SAFEGUARDING			
ASC 208	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - year to date		
ASC 209	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - per month		
Performance Analysis	There have been 429 safeguarding initial enquiries started since April. This continues to be less than the same time during the past 2 years.		
	During 2020/21 there was an average of 77 initial enquiries started each month, the average of initial enquiries started since April is 72 which is lower than last year's average.		
	The table below shows the quarterly breakdown for the number of safeguarding concerns started during the past 3 years.		
		2021-22	2020-21
Quarter 1	197	245	251
Quarter 2	232	254	270
	ASC 208	ASC 209	
	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - year to date	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - per month	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target		
	Apr-21	59.0	59.0
	May-21	121.0	62.0
	Jun-21	201.0	80.0
	Jul-21	284.0	87.0
	Aug-21	349.0	65.0
	Sep-21	429.0	80.0
	Oct-21		
	Nov-21		
	Dec-21		
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
Mar-22			
Annual Trend	2018/19	957.0	73.0
	2019/20	1099.0	92.0
	2020/21	930.0	76.0
	2021/22 (YTD)	429.0	80.0
ASC 208 - Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - year to date			
ASC 209 - Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial enquiries) started - per month			

SAFEGUARDING																																																																		
ASC 211	Number of strategy meetings undertaken i.e. concerns progressed to strategy per month																																																																	
DEFINITION	ASC 211 - Number of strategy meetings undertaken i.e. concerns progressed to strategy per month																																																																	
Performance Analysis	105 of the 429 safeguarding initial enquiries started during the first 6 months of 2021/22 have progressed to strategy. That is a 24.8% conversion rate. The conversion rate for the same period during 2020/21 was 34.7% and during 2019/20 it was 22.4%.																																																																	
	ASC11	ASC 211 - Number of strategy meetings undertaken i.e. concerns progressed to strategy per month																																																																
	Number of strategy meetings undertaken i.e.concerns progressed to strategy per month	<table border="1"> <caption>Chart Data: Number of strategy meetings undertaken per month</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Actual</th> <th>Last Year</th> <th>2019-20</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2018/19</td><td>18.0</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20</td><td>22.0</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21</td><td>18.0</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>April</td><td>20.0</td><td>26.0</td><td>15.0</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>15.0</td><td>34.0</td><td>16.0</td></tr> <tr><td>June</td><td>14.0</td><td>28.0</td><td>23.0</td></tr> <tr><td>July</td><td>25.0</td><td>39.0</td><td>23.0</td></tr> <tr><td>August</td><td>15.0</td><td>18.0</td><td>23.0</td></tr> <tr><td>September</td><td>22.0</td><td>28.0</td><td>17.0</td></tr> <tr><td>October</td><td></td><td>25.0</td><td>35.0</td></tr> <tr><td>November</td><td></td><td>12.0</td><td>37.0</td></tr> <tr><td>December</td><td></td><td>17.0</td><td>35.0</td></tr> <tr><td>January</td><td></td><td>19.0</td><td>48.0</td></tr> <tr><td>February</td><td></td><td>20.0</td><td>20.0</td></tr> <tr><td>March</td><td></td><td>18.0</td><td>22.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Last Year	2019-20	2018/19	18.0			2019/20	22.0			2020/21	18.0			April	20.0	26.0	15.0	May	15.0	34.0	16.0	June	14.0	28.0	23.0	July	25.0	39.0	23.0	August	15.0	18.0	23.0	September	22.0	28.0	17.0	October		25.0	35.0	November		12.0	37.0	December		17.0	35.0	January		19.0	48.0	February		20.0	20.0	March		18.0	22.0
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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 FEBRUARY 2022**

DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT – 2020/2021

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Adults Scrutiny Committee to receive and comment upon the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2020/21.

Summary

2. Local Safeguarding Partnerships are required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnerships achievements over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area.
3. The Annual Report outlines what the Partnership has done over the period 2020/21, drawing upon a range of data and information to outline the progress made and illustrates the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements. As is to be expected, the Covid-19 Pandemic and the challenges posed to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults were safeguarded was the main focus throughout the year.
4. It is recommended that:
 - (a) The Adults Scrutiny note and comment on the DSP Annual Report for 2020/21 which will be published on the DSP website.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) Adults Scrutiny have an understanding of the Partnership's work to date.
 - (b) To challenge and scrutinise the work of the DSP and raise any challenges as appropriate with the Independent Chair.
 - (c) To have assurance that the Safeguarding Partnership is effectively coordinating multi-agency safeguarding practice in Darlington and promoting the welfare of children and adults with needs for care and support.

James Stroyan

Group Director of People

Background Papers

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report – 2020/2021



Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

Protecting Children and Adults

Annual Report

2020-2021



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1. Introduction

Foreword by Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Welcome to the second annual report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership, it covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The report outlines the progress the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has made throughout the year, illustrating the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements across Darlington.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected everyone nationally and locally, rising to this challenge has been a priority for Darlington Safeguarding Partnership throughout the past twelve months. All agencies working with children and adults have been required to adapt the way they deliver their services, working out how to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. We thank the dedicated professionals across all agencies who continued to work so positively, keeping our children and adults safe and protected through such a very challenging year.

The Partnership recognised the need to have stronger collective oversight of all safeguarding arrangements to ensure the discharge of our statutory obligations. We worked flexibly to have open and transparent conversations and proactively engage with wider partner agencies. This helped to understand the challenges and pressures, but also gave assurance that safeguarding activity continued to be effective, maintaining service delivery without putting children, adults or their families and practitioners at risk.

The vision of Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is to ensure ‘Darlington is a place where children and adults can live their lives safely’. The COVID -19 Pandemic has emphasised the fact that anyone can be at risk of harm and has reminded us that the risk of abuse and neglect is increased by a range of factors including mental health, poverty, domestic abuse as well as loneliness and isolation.

Working together across organisations will always be a challenge, however we are confident that the Partnership is functioning well. We recognise there is always room for improvement and we strive to ensure that agencies continue to work together to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe in Darlington.

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair/Scrutineer

Adrian Green, Detective Chief Superintendent, Durham Constabulary

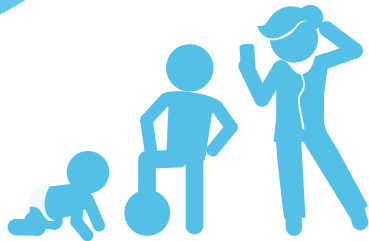
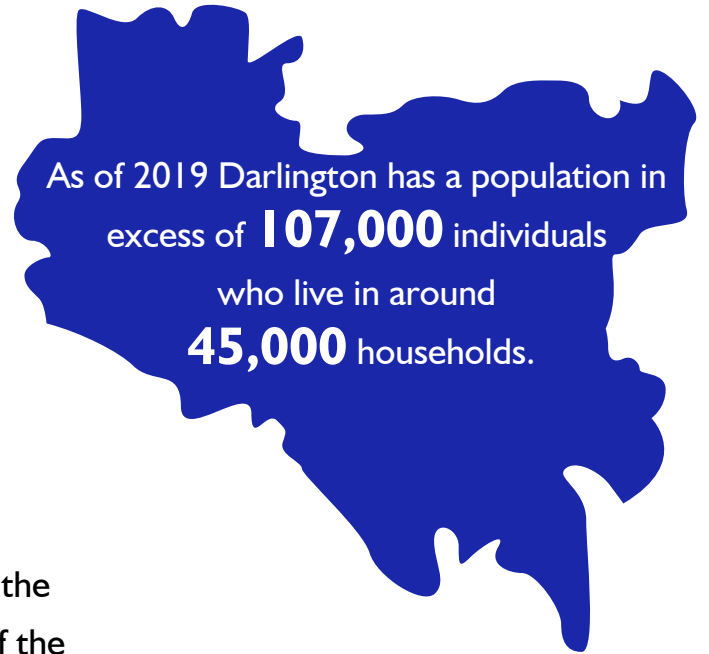
James Stroyan, Director of Children and Adult Services, Darlington Borough Council

David Gallagher/Jean Golightly, Chief Officer/Director of Nursing and Quality, Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group



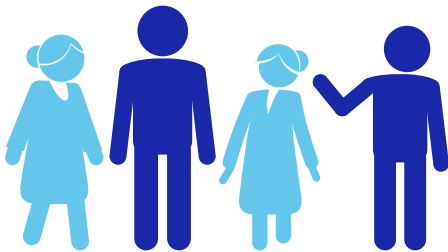
2. Local Picture

Darlington Borough Council is a Unitary Authority in the North East of England which covers 76.3 square miles. Darlington is part of the Tees Valley city region.



Children and young people under the age of 25 years make up **28%** of the population, with 22% (23,599) aged 0-18.

The Health of People in Darlington is varied compared with the England average and **20%** of children live in low income families.

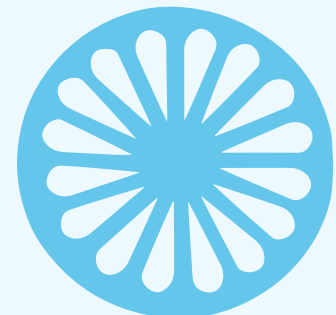


In terms of ethnicity, the 2011 Census reported 96.2% of Darlington's population as White and **3.8%** from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups.



The number of people aged over 65 years old in Darlington is estimated at **21,700**

In County Durham and Darlington the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community form the largest single ethnic minority group, the proportion of Darlington residents who identify themselves as GRT (2011 census) is **0.3%** which is three times higher than the national average.



3. Responding to Coronavirus and the impact on Safeguarding

As is to be expected, the COVID-19 Pandemic and the challenges posed to ensure children, young people and vulnerable adults were safeguarded was the main focus throughout the year.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) worked with partner agencies to understand the impact COVID-19 had on services and to gain assurance about how children and young people and vulnerable adults were being supported as well as how services were adapting to meet their statutory safeguarding duties and responsibilities.

The usual sub-group arrangements were temporarily suspended at the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic and reporting arrangements adapted. In response to the Governments emergency procedures a Critical Safeguarding Partnership Group was established, initially to identify the most vulnerable children in Darlington. This group evolved into a broader multi-agency group which included designated safeguarding leads from key partner agencies. The group had responsibility for the weekly management and oversight of vulnerable children ensuring they had been visited or contacted by relevant agencies in line with agreed frequency or continuing care clinical need requirements.

As partners saw the benefit of having the Critical Safeguarding Partnership group for children, they implemented a similar Group for adults to oversee adult safeguarding arrangements and ensure there was multi-agency 'line of sight' on those adults identified as most at risk. It was acknowledged that it is a very different scenario as many vulnerable adults are hidden behind closed doors, either in their own home or care setting without much scrutiny and advocacy and is not yet possible to understand the extent of the impact of being in isolation has had on the most vulnerable.

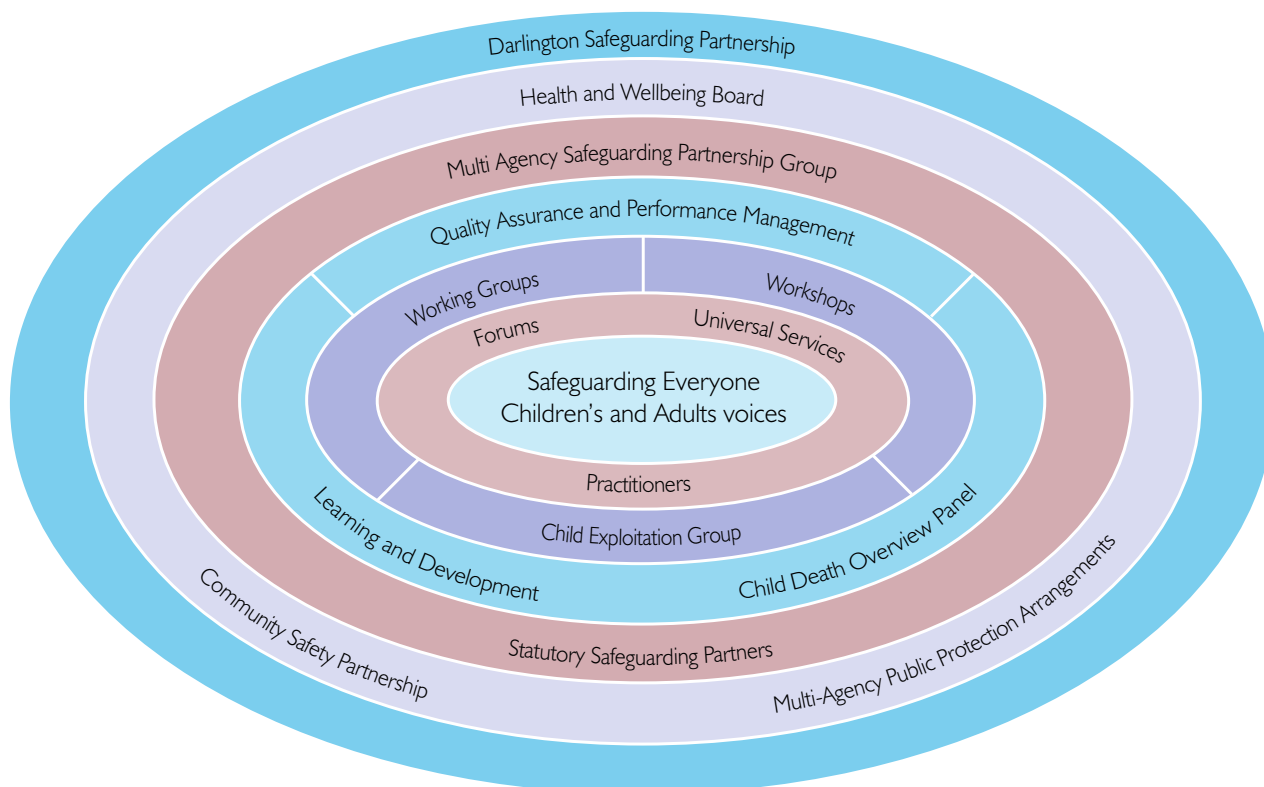
Partners were assured that organisations were able to maintain service delivery without putting children, adults, families or practitioners at risk, and everyone was working closely and appropriately, adapting ways of working to ensure the most vulnerable were supported and safeguarded.

The introduction of virtual technology enabled essential multi-agency meetings to take place ensuring child and adult strategy meetings, Child Protection and Looked After processes were able to continue. The use of virtual technology enabled those children identified as highest risk to have additional oversight from organisations through the adoption of different and innovative ways of working which will continue in the future.

Professionals reported greater involvement in multi-agency meetings held virtually as practitioners have not been required to travel. However, the impact of home working in an intensive but potentially isolated way has been recognised and agencies are considering how to achieve a balance.



4. Governance and Structure



• Statutory Safeguarding Partners

Underpinned by The Care Act 2014 and Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Statutory Safeguarding Partners set the strategic direction of the Partnership aligning the work of Adult and Child Safeguarding. Members are the most senior leaders from the three statutory partners.

The Partners have a strong collective oversight of all safeguarding arrangements to ensure fulfilment of their statutory obligations. They engaged with wider partners by inviting key leads along to meetings on a rotational basis to obtain an understanding of current issues and safeguarding challenges organisations were facing.

• Quality Assurance and Performance sub-group (QAPM)

The role of the QAPM group is to scrutinise, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding work across partner agencies and commissioned organisations. It continues to gather and monitor quarterly performance data and is taking steps to implement quality assurance processes to understand the strengths and weaknesses of safeguarding arrangements and to understand how learning has been embedded within organisations.

Quarterly Performance reports provide the information by exception on the current highs and lows and highlight the changing landscape due to the Pandemic. Measures are in place to address themes and trends to further understand these changes which will shape what the Partnership needs to take forward.

• Learning and Development sub-group (L&D)

Underpinned by The Care Act 2014 and Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Statutory Safeguarding Partners set the strategic direction of the Partnership aligning the work of Adult and Child Safeguarding. Members are the most senior leaders from the three statutory partners.

The Partners have a strong collective oversight of all safeguarding arrangements to ensure fulfilment of their statutory obligations. They engaged with wider partners by inviting key leads along to meetings on a rotational basis to obtain an understanding of current issues and safeguarding challenges organisations were facing.

• **Child Exploitation Group (CEG)**

The primary purpose of CEG is to oversee, monitor, evaluate and improve responses to tackling children missing from home, care and education and act as the strategic lead group for the reduction of Child Exploitation across Durham and Darlington. An operational group oversees individual cases of children at risk of exploitation in Darlington with a purpose to prevent, disrupt and deter them from being criminally or sexually exploited.

• **Critical Safeguarding Partnership Groups**

Two groups were established at the start of the Pandemic to understand the most vulnerable children and adults and the mechanisms in place to provide assurance on who had line of sight. The groups were responsible for the management, oversight and response to any emergency regards the most vulnerable in Darlington and provided Statutory Partners with assurance and an operational overview of what was happening on the ground.

Both groups had oversight of processes and how agencies were operating. These groups ensured there was strategic oversight of vulnerable children and adults across all agencies and a new guidance was developed to support the groups.

• **MASH/Childrens Front Door Operational Group**

The MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) Operational Group for children was established during this period to share good practice, practice challenges and any other information relevant to the operational management and functioning of the Childrens Front Door in Darlington. It is a multi-agency group with a shared responsibility for safeguarding children with an aim of promoting effective communication between all partner agencies contributing to decision making and involvement with children and families at the Front Door.

• **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**

Child Death Overview Panel arrangements are undertaken cross border with Durham Safeguarding Partnership. The Panel continues to review all deaths of children as required in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

This year the panel has identified a number modifiable factors and key learning points from reviews completed which include:

- Smoking in the household
- Smoking during pregnancy
- Management of high risk pregnancies
- Co-sleeping and parental alcohol and/or substance misuse
- The new mortality database collates and shares all learning from reviews across the country

Review of Governance arrangements

Discussions continue in respect of the development of the governance arrangements and work is ongoing to review how groups can align more closely to ensure learning is embedded into practice. What has been highlighted during the Pandemic is the need to have two separate operational groups for children and adults, to have oversight on the most vulnerable and ensuring mechanisms are in place to provide assurance on who has line of sight. The groups will focus on practice issues and challenges relating to operational management and will feed up to the Learning and Development and Quality Assurance and Performance Groups, who will take a strategic and coordinated view including a programme of checks and balances. This will be a priority for the Partnership going into 2020/21.

5. Activities and Interventions

Performance data and quality assurance activity

Work has progressed in collating multi-agency performance data to obtain an understanding of how COVID-19 has impacted on the changing landscape over the year.


There was a decrease in referrals to child and adult services in the first weeks of the lockdown and partners saw a decline in referrals into other services such as CAMHS and Paediatrics. There was an increase in contacts from midwifery and pre-birth assessments and repeat referrals.

As the year progressed the number of contacts into Children's Services started to rise and were nearer normal levels. Police did not experience an increase in domestic abuse incidents as was reported in the media and this was supported by Children's Services data as the number of contacts received regarding domestic abuse had decreased. However, a larger number progressed to a referral to social care which suggested a rise in the severity of the abuse and a higher level of impact/risk/concern for the child.

Health Trusts saw an increase in children presenting with accidents to Emergency Departments and a decrease in those accessing services where there are more complex health issues. It was appreciated there were caveats with less activity in the general population due to lockdown and a genuine nervousness of accessing hospital due to COVID-19. Partners were assured the children attending A&E due to accidents were genuine and not as a result of non-accidental injury.

There was a noted increase in the number of contacts to the Children's Front Door from members of the public and a revised process was adopted to respond to these to ensure information was triangulated.





Cases involving self-neglect and people with complex lifestyles have increased, there is emerging evidence the increase in the conversion rate could be related to the Pandemic, particularly in relation to the cohort of individuals who have either no or low level care and support needs. Many in this cohort can be described as leading “chaotic lifestyles” where a prevalence to abusing substances often lead to self-neglect issues. The safeguarding team spent an increasing amount of time assisting these individuals who may have lost what little informal/formal support they had due to restrictions through the Pandemic. As is being reported elsewhere the most vulnerable in the community appear to be the most severely impacted as a result of COVID-19.

There have been some changes in conversion rates for acute health providers who are seeing less people as a result of COVID-19 lockdown isolation.

During the Pandemic three care homes and a private hospital met the threshold for Executive Strategy Meeting (ESM) process. This is a significant increase from the previous year. In all cases CQC have inspected these homes and rated them as either inadequate or requires improvement. The ESM process holds providers to account, however significant support is also made available from the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and Care Quality Commission (CQC). It is clear the provider market has struggled with the impact of the Pandemic and those providers where there is weaker leadership and issues with recruiting and retaining staff of a sufficient quality have suffered most.

A Significant Provider Forum which has multi-agency oversight on Care Home Sector and those settings in ESM and includes CQC and commissioning agencies, continues to monitor those settings as well as escalating any emerging concerns.

The most vulnerable in the community appear to be the most severely impacted as a result of COVID-19 and is acknowledged that there is likely to be an increase in referrals as there will likely be many hidden issues, which will emerge over time.

Adult Insight Project

Darlington took part in the COVID-19 Safeguarding Insight project which was developed to create a national picture regarding adult safeguarding activity during the Pandemic and was supported by the Local Government Association (LGA), Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and National Network of Chairs of Safeguarding Adults Boards.

At the start of the Pandemic there were concerns that safeguarding issues were not being identified and reported during the lockdown period and was considered important to understand what had happened to learn lessons for future COVID-19 outbreaks, as well as responding to changing safeguarding needs.

The project required the collection of monthly data on safeguarding activity alongside a series of questions to elicit further insight and intelligence on local trends and changes. The data was analysed looking at the differences between activity in March 2019 and March 2020 and Darlington was generally comparable with the national picture.

Multi-Agency response to COVID-19 Practitioner Survey

The Partnership carried out a survey to obtain a collective understanding of how agencies worked together to safeguard children during the Pandemic and to establish what worked well and where improvements were required. Findings highlighted that partners were satisfied there was a 'line of sight' on the most vulnerable children, especially those children who were not in school. Appropriate safeguarding procedures were in place and agencies continued to work through the Pandemic and ensure visits/contacts were safely undertaken. Services worked together to share the responsibility and there had been good communication and information sharing between agencies.

MASH multi-agency audits

In February 2020, the MASH Operational Group agreed to commence a multi-agency audit process based on key themes highlighted at the Children's Front Door to review live cases. There will be a focus on two to three live cases as this means they will be timely and may result in a change of outcome for families. A model as to how this might be approached was being firmed up and initial areas suggested for initial focus were Cumulative Harm/Neglect and information sharing.



6. Analysis of impact and effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements

Child Safeguarding

Early Help

The Partnership has recognised that early help requires a wider involvement than that provided by the local authority and the pressure on 'universal' services such as schools and health visitors has increased year on year. There was a reduction seen in the number of early help assessments undertaken by partner agencies due to impact of COVID.

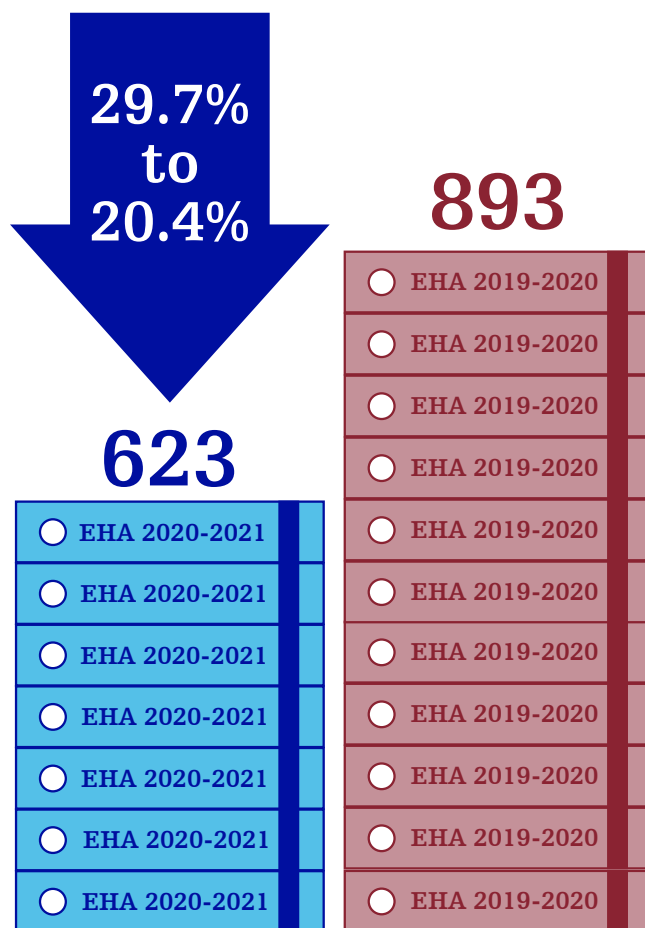
The Early Help Assessment is used by multi-agency partners and provides a standard and coordinated approach for practitioners to ensure children, young people and their families receive the right support at an early stage to reduce the chance of escalation to specialist services.

Early Help Services continued to respond to all contacts during the lockdown and continued to maintain a focus of regular contact with families as services which would have been delivered through face to face were being delivered online.

During 2020-21 there were 623 Early Help Assessments (EHA) started which is a decrease on the 893 completed in 2019-20, which is largely due to the impact of the Pandemic. The percentage of EHAs completed by external agencies has also seen a decline from 29.7% to 20.4% which is below the 30% target.

Children in Need (CiN)

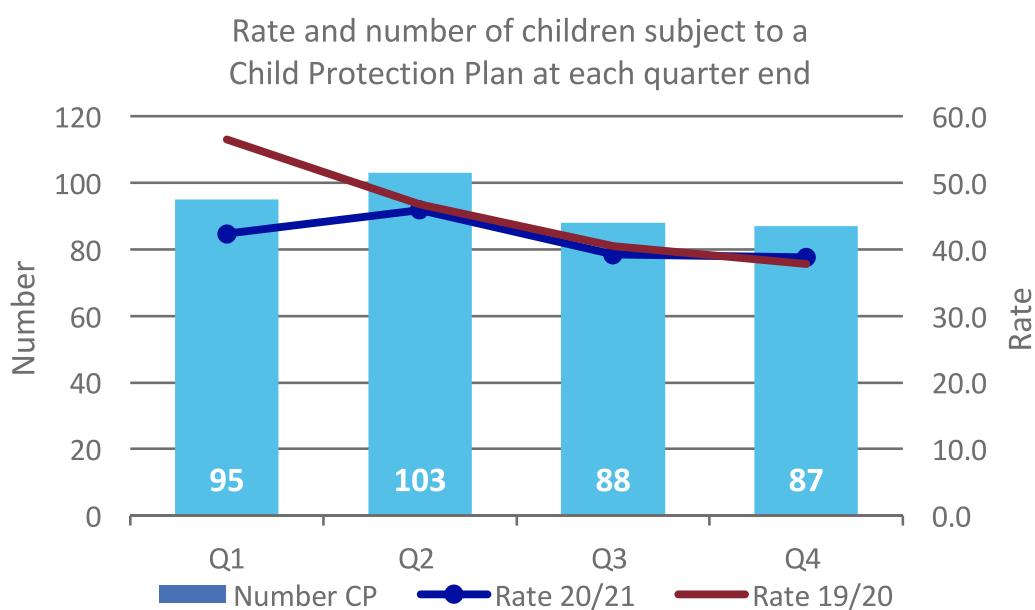
In March 2021 there were 332 children in Darlington identified as CiN, compared to 357 children that were at the end of the 2019/20 period.





Child Protection Plans (CPP)

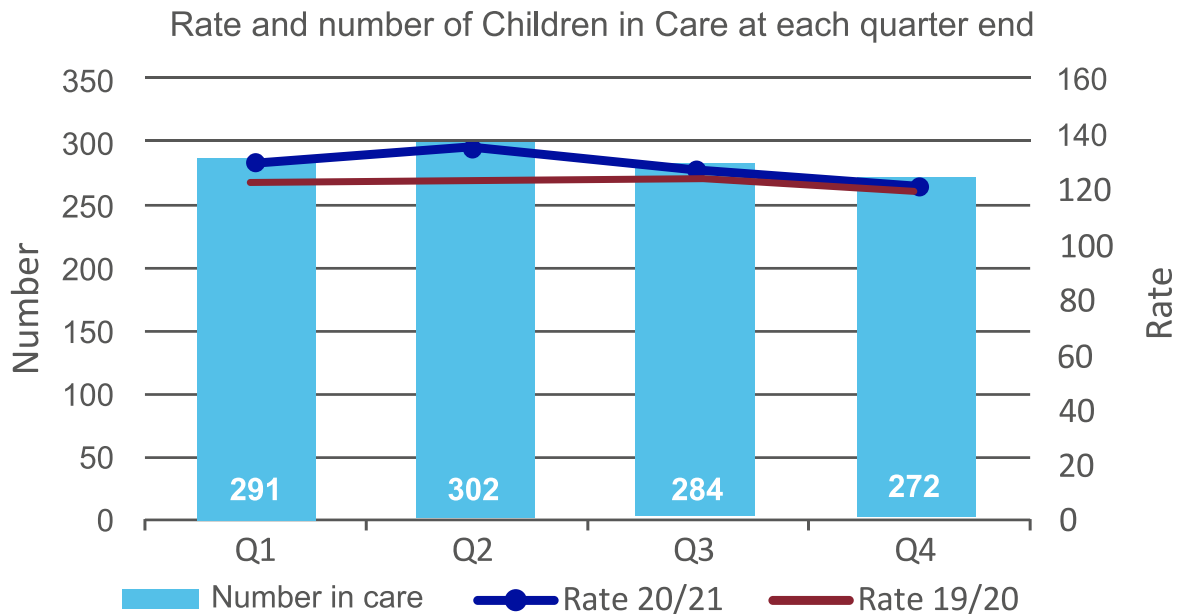
At the end of March 2021, 87 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan in Darlington (a rate of 38.8 per 10,000). This is lower than: regional average (70.0); statistical neighbour (53.9) and the national average (42.8).



Risk Factors associated with Child Protection were due to:			
Neglect	Emotional Abuse	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
42%	42%	14%	2%

Children Looked After

Children Looked After and care leavers are recognised nationally as one of the most vulnerable groups. It was reported from the beginning of April there had been a total of 26 children brought into care with 61% of those being placed with extended family members. During the Pandemic the Family Courts adapted to new processes and reduced the number of hearings in order to manage virtual Court hearings, they remained open for urgent applications in respect of children who were at risk of significant harm. There had been minimal movement of placements as a result of the Pandemic.



The number of Looked After Children (LAC) by the local authority at the end of March 2021 was 272 (121.1 per 10,000); which is higher than our statistical neighbours (100.3), regional (108.0) and national average (67.0).

These placements were made up of:							
In house Fostering	Connected Carers	Private Fostering	Residential Care	Placed for adoption	Independent Living	Placed with parent	Other
54	44	91	28	17	6	22	10

Care Leavers

Care leavers remained in contact with services during the Pandemic and were supported in various ways. The Local Authority has a 'Staying Put' policy and there are currently nine young people accommodated under this arrangement.

74 out of 75 care leavers in Darlington were in suitable accommodation by the end of 2020-21 and the percentage of care leavers (aged 19-21) who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) was 17.9%, below the target of 30%, these were either due to disability or illness, pregnancy or parenting or other circumstances.

Transition to Adulthood

When a young person reaches the age of 18 they are legally an adult under SEND and Leaving Care statutory guidance, however children's services retain the responsibility to ensure the right package of care is provided. There is a difference between the thresholds for support and models of care between Adults and Children's Services, therefore a child and young person who has qualified for care and support under the SEND agenda for Children's legislation will be reassessed as to their eligibility to receive support from Adult Social Care.

Education

Throughout the Pandemic, 100% of schools in Darlington remained open for vulnerable children and those with critical worker parents, compared to the national average of 61%. All schools in Darlington made arrangements that enabled children with a social worker to continue to attend and children and their parents were actively encouraged to do so with school attendance being monitored daily.

Average attendance for children with a social worker was 30% which compared favourably with national attendance estimate of 18%. It was also reported that throughout the Pandemic there had been a strong multi-agency focus on attendance with liaison between Head Teachers, Designated Safeguarding Leads, Social Workers and health colleagues to ensure the most vulnerable children received a co-ordinated approach to their education and on-line learning.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

There are effective measures in place for Elective Home Education following a real focus in Darlington and the appointment of a full-time EHE Advisor. A local policy has been developed in line with 2019 EHE guidance and all cases are RAG rated against the statutory guidance on evidence of receiving suitable education.

As was to be expected and seen nationally, the number of children EHE increased significantly during the year due to the Pandemic, with reasons cited as COVID related. Although face to face visits were not taking place, welfare texts, phone and conference calls have continued with vulnerable pupils as a priority.



Since beginning of March 2021, 151 unannounced visits were conducted, during which contact was re-established with 72 families. The EHE data continues to fluctuate regularly as parents have free choice to elect for home education. Schools have been encouraged to inform EHE Advisor prior to parent's decision to home educate.

As at 31 March 2021 there were 209 EHE with 110 from GRT community. Darlington has a higher than average GRT population, with a high proportion of EHE from this community. The EHE advisor works closely with the GRT teacher and the 'Moving on and Aiming High' project was well attended.

There continues to be a focus on the safety and wellbeing of EHE children and partners received assurance reports throughout the year.

Children Missing from Home, Care and Education

The total number of children who went missing from home or care during 2020-21 was 219 with 100% of children being offered a return home interview, 69% within the 72-hour timescale. Of these young people who went missing 21.9% were Children in Care. Return Home interviews were offered for all children and feedback suggests children were not returning home at the time they should have due to pressures and strain of the lockdown and children feeling isolated with added pressure in family home.

The Philomena Protocol continues to protect children who go missing from care by promoting a joint investigation with an aim of returning the child to safety.

The total number of children missing from education (CME) for 2019-20 were 58 and all children referred had been traced.

Exploitation of children and young people

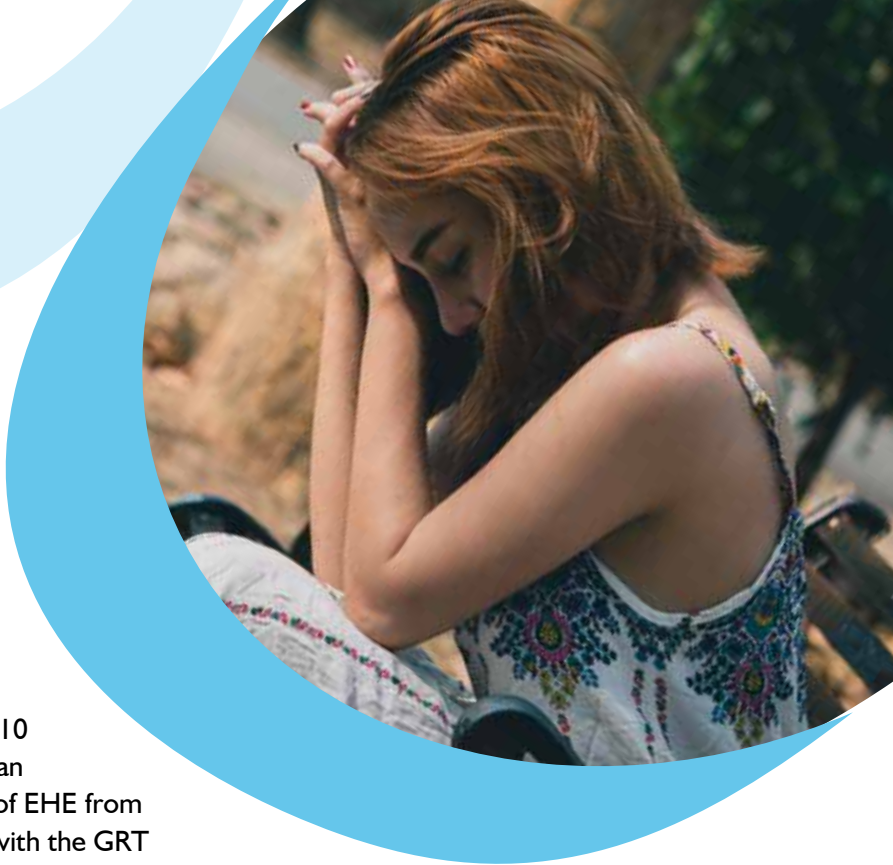
Multi-agency work around child exploitation is coordinated through the Child Exploitation Group (CEG), which was extended to reflect a broader focus and includes all forms of Criminal Exploitation, County Lines, Organised Crime and Modern-Day Slavery.

The Partnership continues to obtain an understanding of the risks posed to young people as they grow and become influenced by a whole range of environments and people outside the family home such as school/college, their community, peer groups or online.

A cross agency Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker (CEVT) was launched in November 2019, originally designed to track County Lines. The tracker is used across Darlington and County Durham to identify children at risk. Children are scored based on level of risk, the tracker is monitored by CEG.

Child Deaths

During 2020/2021 there were 11 child deaths in Darlington. The 2020-21 CDOP Annual report contains a summary of activity carried out by the County Durham and Darlington Child Death Overview Panel.



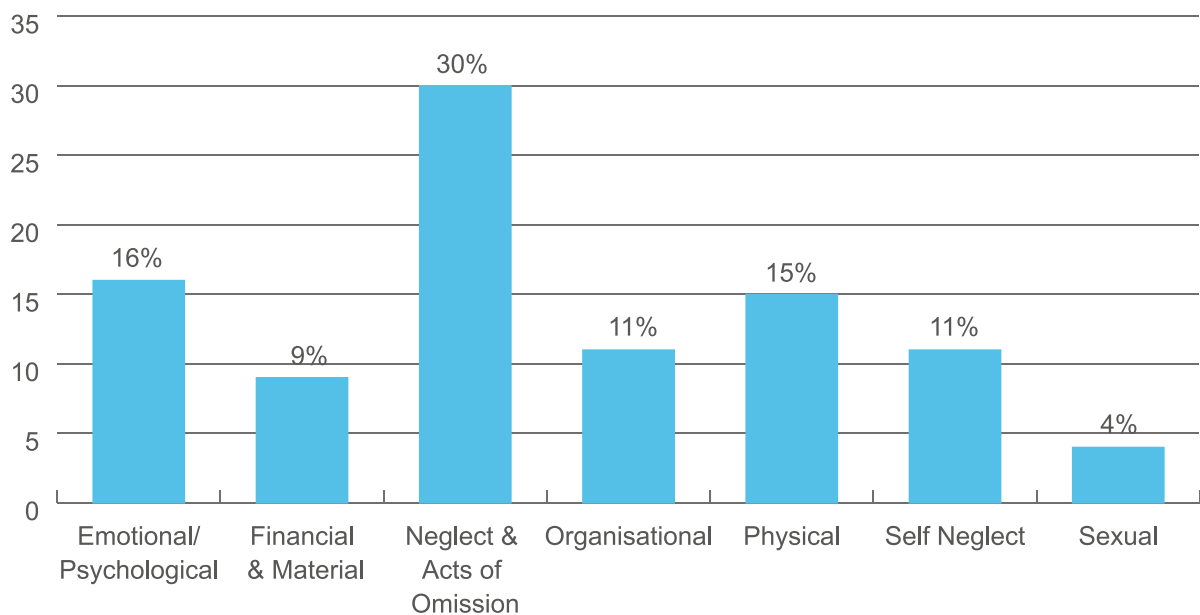


Adult Safeguarding

The number of reported concerns for abuse and neglect in 2020/21 was 1543, with 40% progressing to S42 safeguarding enquiry. Of the concluded S42 enquiries, in 95% of cases the outcome was that the risk was either reduced or removed.

The most common category of abuse in Darlington continues to be Neglect and Acts of Omission which represented 30%. This was followed by Emotional/Psychological (16%) and Physical Abuse (15%).

Categories of Abuse



Location of abuse:								
Own home	In the Community	Community Service	Care Home Nursing	Care Home residential	Hospital Acute	Hospital Mental Health	Hospital Community	Other
35.6%	6.6%	3.2%	2.3%	33%	3.3%	8.6%	0.8%	1.9%

Executive Strategy Process

Executive Strategy processes are held to address all concerns and issues relating to suspected organised or institutional abuse or neglect of adults. In 2020/21, there were three care settings in Executive Strategy Process, two of these settings were removed during this period as assurance was provided that they had made improvements and had safe practices in place and all regulatory action had been completed. One setting continues to remain in Executive Strategy Process and continues to be monitored by the Significant Provider Forum.

Adults who go missing

The Herbert Protocol is a national scheme adopted by Durham Constabulary, working alongside its partners and encourages staff, families, friends and carers to provide useful information which could be used in the event of a vulnerable person going missing from either a care home or their own home. The information may help police and other agencies locate the missing person much more quickly and return them to safety.

Domestic Abuse

The vision of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is for all agencies to work together to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and to provide a co-ordinated community response. The Safeguarding Partnership is committed to supporting a reduction in the prevalence of domestic abuse in Darlington, including a co-ordinated community response to prevention, support and protection services and services for perpetrators.

Operation Encompass addresses shortcomings in the early sharing of information with schools to enable them to provide proactive support to children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse within the family home. During the period April 2020 to March 2021 there were 406 incidents which involved 576 children, all notified to schools.

Domestic abuse remains a key training module to raise awareness and to ensure frontline practitioners are aware of the impact domestic abuse can have on victims, children and vulnerable adults. It also includes an emphasis on coercion and control.

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) monitors local arrangements and the role key partners have in tackling domestic abuse which provides some assurance about multi-agency response to tackling domestic violence and abuse.

December 2020, saw the launch of the 4Kids project, a Partnership approach to tackling domestic abuse in the family home, with particular emphasis on the harm caused to children in the household. Through a restorative approach, the aim of the project is to have both parents acknowledge the impact of their unhealthy relationships and to recognise how their behaviour affects the development of their children. The project is still in its infancy, however it is already having a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing of children and through support offered is hoped will improve their life chances.

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 will offer many new protections for domestic abuse victims and their families and places a duty on local authorities and partner agencies to support victims of domestic abuse and their families and the Partnership will explore how it can work together with the Community Safety Partnership to tackle its response to domestic abuse in Darlington.



Housing and Homelessness

2020/21 has been a challenging and busy year for Darlington Borough Council housing teams and partner agencies. Changes in legislation means that the local authority has a duty to house people and as a consequence there was a significant increase in the numbers of people in emergency accommodation compared to pre COVID-19 levels. Between May and June 2020 there were 243 presentations requesting emergency accommodation, with June 2020 seeing the highest levels ever recorded. In April 2019 there were 297 people in emergency accommodation and by April 2020 this had increased to 817. These mainly represent the 'hidden homeless' who sofa surf and needed to find accommodation during the lockdown.

There has been an increase in victims of domestic abuse seeking housing and all such victims were accommodated. There has also been an increase in people with mental health needs requesting housing along with people who have multiple complex needs and dual diagnosis, but who are nevertheless deemed to have capacity.

Higher risk people have been housed outside of the borough due to a lack of suitable premises. However, central government announced a four year funding initiative and Darlington Borough Council, with the Community Safety Partnership made a bid for funding to secure accommodation for rough sleepers and will look at funding support workers for offending/substance misuse and providing 'higher risk' units with 24/7 support.

Communication and Engagement

The voice of children, young people and adults with needs for care and support and their families is at the heart of all Partnership activity. The Partnership structure includes the provision for actively seeking the voice of children and adults ensuring their voices are threaded throughout the structure. It is a challenge for some agencies to demonstrate and we will continue to review ways in which we can gather this feedback and recognise there is much more that can be achieved.

Where possible the Partnership will involve families in Child and Adult Safeguarding learning reviews and information from such engagement will be used to inform and develop practice.

The Communication and Engagement strategy sets out the strategic aims and objectives of the Partnership's approach to communication and engagement. The strategy embraces the 'Think Family' approach to ensure the work of the Partnership is effectively communicated to relevant audiences which includes children, young people and adults at risk, their families as well as practitioners and the wider community in Darlington.



Annual Young People Conference

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is committed to hosting an annual Young People's Conference, unfortunately, due to the Pandemic the conference scheduled for July 2020 had to be cancelled. The conference aimed at young people aged 12-14 is an opportunity to promote key messages on the prevention of harm. Again, due to the Pandemic it is unlikely there will be a conference held in 2021.

Corporate Parenting Panel

Care Leavers have an active voice in shaping and developing children's services through a number of channels including the Corporate Parenting Panel and Leaving Care Forum.

Healthy Lifestyle Survey

A Healthy Lifestyle survey is usually conducted annually in participating schools, however due the Pandemic it has not been possible to conduct as normal. A survey was shared with Primary sector and summary of results includes reporting an understanding of what positive relationships should look like and the effects of negative behaviours on others such as bullying. The influence of social media is significant and children are largely reporting unrestricted and unsupervised access to the internet and social media.

Regional Adult Safeguarding Radio Campaign

The North East Association of Directors of Adult Social Services launched a regional safeguarding radio campaign during the year, with a purpose of reinforcing awareness of safeguarding issues amongst the public and to empower them to feel confident in reporting a concern and to reassure vulnerable adults, their relatives and carers that social services are concentrating on abuse and have not let it slip as a priority during the Coronavirus Pandemic. The radio campaign was heard by 30% of the region's population and an increase of impact was shown across the region for safeguarding concerns whilst the campaign was live.





Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is applicable to all agencies and aims to develop a person centred and outcomes focus to safeguarding. In Darlington MSP and the involvement of service users or their representative in safeguarding enquiries is measured from the outset and is evaluated as part of the safeguarding process. Despite the Pandemic, the principles of MSP were being maintained through telephone, face time or zoom calls. It was highlighted that using these platforms there can be some difficulties in reading body language and therefore making more difficult to monitor and offer support where needed, discussions were taking place with families to prepare for virtual meetings.

In 2020/2021 96% of cases consistently involved the individual (or their representative or advocate) in the safeguarding enquiry. The Partnership continues to seek assurances that the principles of MSP are embedded within partner agencies.

Review of Children's Front Door arrangements

Darlington Borough Council implemented its new strengthening families programme which was to see relational and restorative practices at the centre of practice to find solutions to issues and work together to lead to better outcomes for children and young people.

The new practice went live in March 2020 and required partners to telephone the Children's Initial Advice Team and have a conversation with a social worker to discuss the concerns to ensure the right support is put in place to meet the needs of the children and young people. Prior to the process the team were receiving 292 telephone calls and 7177 email contacts. A critical part of the implementation was to encourage practitioners to hold telephone conversations and over the course of the year the number of telephone contacts has increased seven fold to 2364 telephone contacts. These figures evidence the new process has been fully embraced by partner agencies and initial feedback indicates partners are welcoming the opportunity for discussion with richness in having a conversation to support families.

The conversion from contact to referral has reduced by 22.6% which has also resulted in a reduction in the number of strategy discussions, evidencing the model is proven to be effective. There has also been a reduction in the number of single assessments with those resulting in no further action reducing by 39.4%, which can be attributed to consistency at the Front Door and evidencing there has been a reduction in unnecessary or inappropriate interventions with families.

Independent Chair Engagement

During the year the Independent Chair held multi-agency meetings with the relevant agencies of the Partnership and attended other forums such as primary and secondary education forums to talk about current issues, what is working well and what needs to change relating to current safeguarding arrangements.

DSP website, briefings and newsletters

The DSP uses a variety of methods to communicate to many different audiences. From DSP members, wider safeguarding partners, managers and frontline practitioners, to the general public, children & young people, parents and carers and adults and their families.

The Partnership website continues to be a key forum to provide key safeguarding messages to practitioners and to the wider public as well as useful information and resources to support those working with children and adults.

www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk

The Partnership developed a number of briefings to update on national, regional and local information which highlighted key headlines the Partnership should be sighted on, including bulletins to support partners through the beginning weeks of the COVID Pandemic.

In December 2020, the Partnership launched its quarterly newsletter to provide information and guidance to those working across child and adult services and feedback on this has been positive, however it is recognised there is much more to be done to ensure key messages are cascaded to the right people within each partner organisation.



Learning and Development

Whilst the Partnership continues to deliver a high-quality inter-agency training programme, the Pandemic has greatly impacted on the ability to provide face to face training. During 2020/21 a programme of both eLearning and virtual training was developed to cover any gaps and address any potential risks that the Statutory Safeguarding Partners may need to be sighted on.

Increasingly, courses were being adapted to be relevant for work for both child and adult service user groups. This facilitates a greater understanding of respective roles and responsibilities and supports some of the 'transition' areas for improvement and 'think family approach'. The training is regularly updated to ensure the lessons from learning reviews are reflected within the training programme as well as identifying the local needs of the multi-agency workforce. The virtual training offer was well received and helped to reduce the risk of professional isolation associated with the Pandemic.

The Learning and Development sub group continues to ensure there is quality and consistency of single and multi-agency training through initiatives such as training needs analysis (TNA), peer evaluation, quality assurance and the pre and post course evaluation process. The development of training is supported and actively monitored by the sub group. Any development and changes are reported to the group by the Multi-Agency Trainer.

Despite the Pandemic the Partnership continued to provide an extensive multi-agency programme of virtual courses and provision of new training.

Examples of development during 2020-2021 include:

- The local authority is licensed to use the NSPCC Graded Care Profile support tool for child neglect, the multi-agency trainer delivers the training and the course is now embedded into the multi-agency training programme.
- Development and delivery of sessions to support the updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.
- Additional courses have been developed and introduced to the programme and focus on Professional Challenge, Cumulative harm and Safeguarding Children with Special Educational needs and Disabilities.
- Podcasts have been developed to focus on the revised guidance on Professional Challenge and Information Sharing.



What did we achieve?

- 104 virtual multi-agency training sessions delivered throughout 2020/21 via Microsoft teams
- 1166 attendances recorded for the virtual training
- 578 people completed e-learning modules

Partner agencies provided details on their interim measures to address safeguarding training during the Pandemic, with the majority also delivering on a virtual basis.

Evaluation and Assessment

It is recognised that assessment of learning is necessary to measure both the quality of training and to evidence the impact on practice and how the training is contributing to improving the knowledge and skills of the workforce. Demonstrating the effectiveness of training is not an easy matter and whilst the Partnership continues to seek evidence of quality of training and impact of practice, due to the Pandemic the usual paper data evaluation process has proven to be unsuitable following virtual training. As an interim measure only the trainer has requested delegates to feedback via email commenting on the quality of training. The feedback has been positive although a few delegates have highlighted that virtual training is not as effective as face to face training.

Examples of feedback received:

The session was informative and helpful in relation to all aspects of safeguarding procedures. It is reassuring to know there is someone at the end of a phone for help, support and advice (voluntary sector)

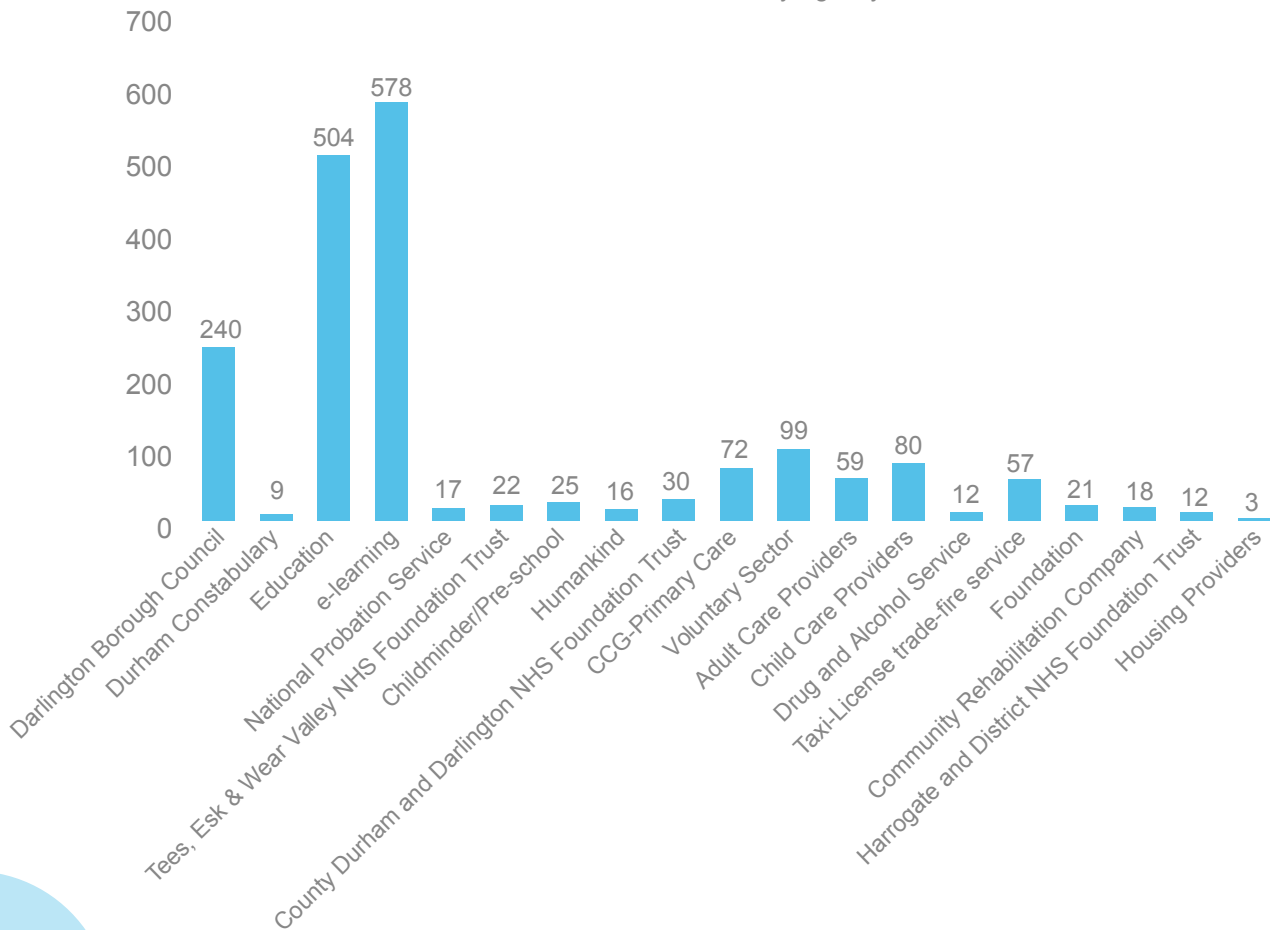
I think I enjoyed it more than the face to face training. Loads of helpful information and advice. Although I have a great network it is so reassuring to know that someone is available to talk to and advise at the end of a phone. Thank you again (volunteer)

The training was very good and a great refresher for us all. It will be nice when we can return to face to face training, but that training was very well delivered. (Care Home)



The chart below outlines the attendance by partner agencies during the period April 2020 - March 2021.

Learners 2020-21 by Agency



Policy and Procedure

Enabling continual improvement and learning for partners and practitioners is important to the Partnership. The ongoing review of policies, procedures and guidance documents is important to support front line practitioners with both prevention, early intervention and awareness raising. There is a clear timeline for the revision of policy and procedure which is monitored through a policy revision schedule.

The Learning and Development Sub Group continues to provide a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to safeguarding practice through the development, review and updating of policies and procedures for use by professionals across the Partnership.

During 2020/21 the following were developed, reviewed and revised by the Partnership:

- Medical Assessments - information on medical assessments have been incorporated into the Child Protection Procedures to support practitioners when there is an allegation, suspicion or disclosure of child abuse involving a suspicious injury
- Managing Allegations against employees and volunteers who work with adults who have needs for care and support - incorporating advice on dealing with those who are self employed
- Bruising in non-mobile children Protocol - setting out the referral pathways and incorporating into the Child Protection Procedures
- Guidance on Confidentiality has been incorporated into the Child Protection Procedures
- Professional Challenge Procedure revision - to include additional guidance on when and how it should be applied
- Forced Marriage Practice Guidance
- Honour Based Abuse Practice Guidance
- Safeguarding Adult Review Procedure
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Serious Incident Notification Procedures
- Fire Setting Guidance

All revisions are undertaken in consultation with partner agencies and partners agencies are expected to disseminate and implement within their own agency. All documents are published on the DSP website.



7. Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews

During 2020-21, the Partnership did not undertake any new Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) or Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR). Whilst it is acknowledged the number of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) in Darlington have been low, the Partnership recognised there was a need to improve the processes and guidance to clearly set out organisational responsibilities for dealing and responding to serious incidents.

Whilst there is no formal requirement for notification for a SAR, partners agreed a similar process to replicate that of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review should be followed where appropriate, which has been reflected in the SAR Procedure.

DSP revised **Serious Child Safeguarding Incident and Child Safeguarding Practice Review Procedure** and **Safeguarding Adult Review Procedure**.

Partners are assured there is now a robust process in place for all circumstances and/or events which either meet the criteria for notification to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel or meet the criteria for Safeguarding Adult Review, as well as for reporting those cases that do not meet the criteria however highlight there is learning to be explored and are referred to the Learning and Development Sub Group.

There were a number of cases referred during the year that were deemed did not meet the criteria for notification which the Learning and Development Sub Group has considered and taken forward as learning events.

Key messages from reviews are shared using a range of methods, including the development of briefing documents and training podcasts. Partners are asked to use these tools within their own organisation to support and improve learning and practice.

As a result of learning, the following guidance and tools were developed:

- revision of the Professional Challenge procedure and guidance
- development of a training podcast to support professionals in knowing when and how to apply the procedure
- development of a training podcast on information sharing
- development of fire setting guidance

It was noted that it is only the local authority who have referred cases in this and the previous period and work continues in raising awareness of the CSPR and SAR procedures and the role that all partners have in reporting cases.



8. Looking Ahead

This year has been a year like no other, the COVID-19 Pandemic will continue to influence the services provided by partners. We will ensure lessons learnt from how we safeguarded during the Pandemic will be taken forward.

There are a number of challenges to support organisations and professionals across Darlington to safeguard children and adults. We will begin the year focussing on embedding the revised governance arrangements and develop the role of the Operational Groups. We will then work with partners in developing our key priority areas. These will include:

- Further develop scrutiny processes
- Transitional safeguarding from childhood to adulthood
- Learning from good practice as well as CSPRs/SARs
- Lived experience of child/adult
- Website development
- Domestic Abuse and collaboration with CSP



Appendix 1

Staffing and Budget

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership is supported by the following staff within the Business Unit:

- Business Manager
- Development Officer/Designated Officer
- Multi-Agency Trainer
- Business Support Officer
- Analyst (P/T seconded from Durham Constabulary to work jointly across Durham and Darlington Safeguarding Partnerships)
- Information Officer (P/T)

Contributions from Partner Agencies for 2019-20 period	
Darlington Borough Council	£88,942
Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group	£41,310
Durham Constabulary	£34,404
Schools Forum	£10,000
Darlington College	£1,600
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£16,973
Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College	£1,515
Community Rehabilitation Company	£1,000
National Probation Service	£770
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	£2,000
Course and Training Fees	£1,930
Total Revenue	£200,444

Appendix 2

Relevant Agencies

- Darlington Local Authority - Housing, Public Health, Youth Offending
- Health agencies - County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT), Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS)
- Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (DDFRS)
- Early Years Settings
- Education (Primary, Secondary, Further Education, SEN)
- Support organisations for issues such as Substance Misuse / Domestic Abuse / Sexual Exploitation / Sexual Abuse (SARC)
- Family Justice Board (FJB)
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
- Voluntary and third sector organisations (including Healthwatch)
- Darlington Primary Care General Practices
- Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England (pharmacy, dentist and optometrists)
- Independent providers including private hospitals, children's homes, nursing and care homes, domiciliary providers
- Youth groups - e.g. sport, scouts, brownies
- Faith settings
- Minority Communities
- British Transport Police (BTP)
- Chairs of other key local boards
- Representatives of other National Partners
- Darlington Partnership - which includes business and community organisations
- Coroner



DARLINGTON
Borough Council





**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 FEBRUARY 2022**

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2021/22 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the Municipal Year, which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee in the last Municipal Year.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.
5. Members' views are requested.

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

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

Author: Paul Dalton

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
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
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

6. 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.
7. The Council Plan sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council through to May 2023, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering success for Darlington'.
8. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to a vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.
9. The vision for the Adults Portfolio is 'a Borough where vulnerable adults can be helped and supported to maximise their independence and enjoy life to the full, and where care services are available to those in need'.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

10. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a Quad of Aims.
11. A copy of the index of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

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ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role / Notes
COVID Response – Verbal Update	22 February 2022	Christine Shields		On-going item during the period of the pandemic.
Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2021/2022	22 February 2022	Sharon Raine / Linda Thirkeld	ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211	To monitor Key Performance Indicators. To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership - Annual Report	22 February 2022	Ann Baxter / Amanda Hugill	ASC 028 ASC 029 ASC 059 ASC 061 ASC 062 ASC 199 ASC 200 ASC 201 ASC 202 ASC 203 ASC 204 ASC 205 ASC 206 ASC 207 ASC 209 ASC 210 ASC 213 ASC 214	To consider the Annual Report on the work of the Board and to receive reassurance that adult safeguarding is being addressed and an effective approach is in place. To be advised of the key issues for the Board and funding.

COVID Response – Verbal Update	26 April 2022	Christine Shields		On-going item during the period of the pandemic.
Adult Social Care Funding	26 April 2022	Christine Shields / Linda Thirkeld / Joss Hebron / Brett Nielson		<p>Added to the Work Programme following a discussion at the initial meeting of the Municipal Year (22 June 2021). Members expressed the wish to ensure that the funding which is available to Adult Social Care is used in the best way possible, and in a preventative way which seeks to reduce future need by improving health and independence.</p> <p><i>Item deferred from the Agenda of the Ordinary Meeting of the Adults Scrutiny Committee on 22 February 2022 at Officer request.</i></p>
Quality Standards Monitoring Outcomes 2020-2022: Agreement for the provision of Residential Care for Adults and Older People and Older People with Mental Health Problems 2013-2023	October 2022	Christine Shields		

Task and Finish Review Group(s)

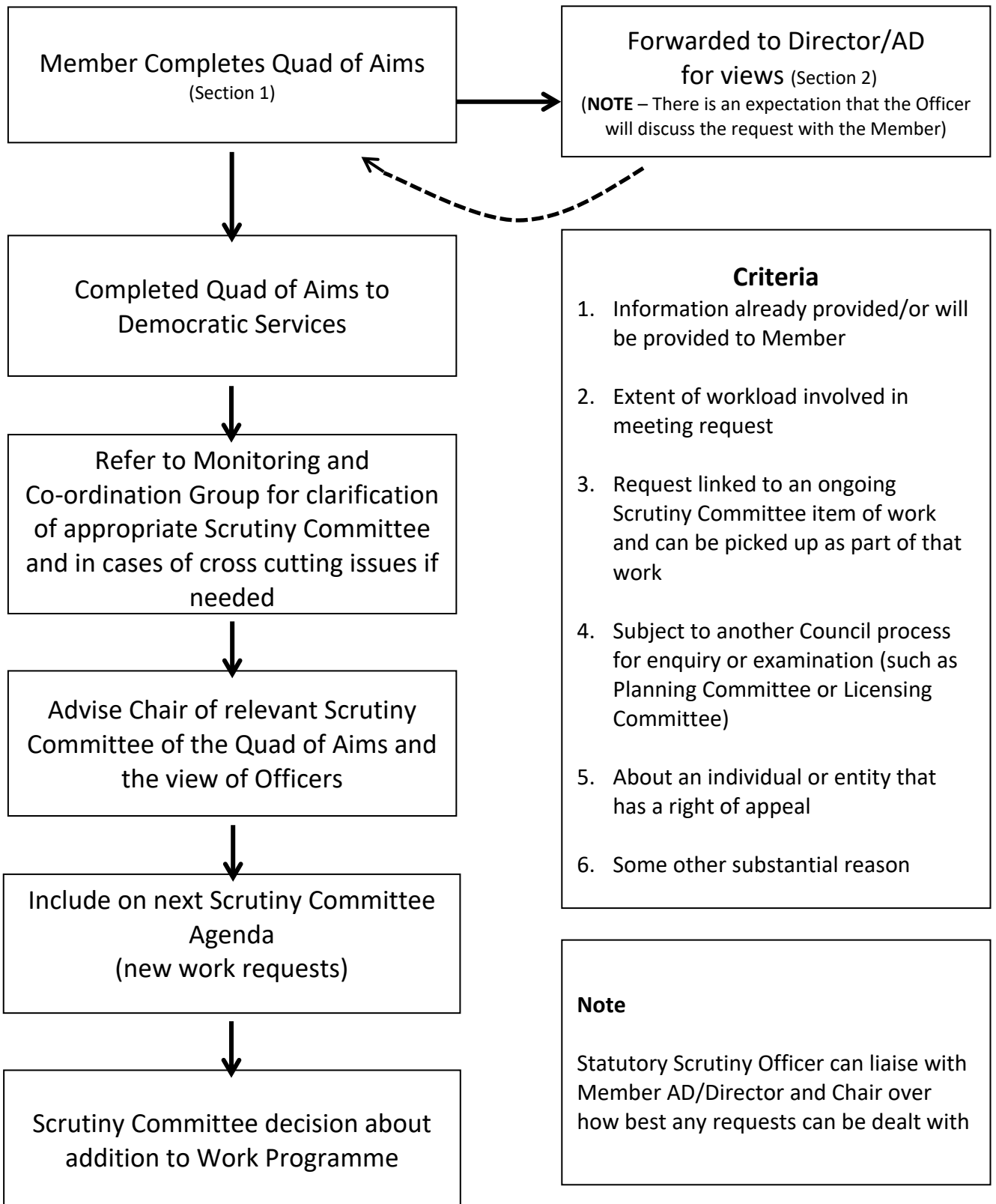
- **‘Loneliness and Connected Communities’ Task and Finish Review Group** – commenced Tuesday, 28th January 2020;
- **‘Review of Adult Care Services during Covid Task and Finish Group’** – commenced Friday, 21st May 2021.

Additional Work:

Visits to Extra Care, Care and Nursing Homes (Quality Assessment – Annual Monitoring of Local Care Homes for Older People):

- North Park Care Home, I'anson Street, Darlington, DL3 0SW – TBC **(Suspended due to Covid pandemic)**
- Oak Lodge, Stockton Road, Haughton-le-Skerne, Darlington, DL1 2RY – TBC **(Suspended due to Covid pandemic)**

PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Signed Councillor

Date

SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)

Page 67

	Criteria
1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes No If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services)	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member
(b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so?	2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?	6. Some other substantial reason
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme?	

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Signed **Position** **Date**



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 1 FEBRUARY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2022**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2022/23	Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Education Case Management System	Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Housing Revenue Account 2022/23	Council 17 Feb 2022 Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Levelling Up Darlington	Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Local Plan Adoption	Council 17 Feb 2022 Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26	Council 17 Feb 2022 Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy	Council 17 Feb 2022 Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Rail Heritage Quarter Update	Council 17 Feb 2022 Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
School Admissions 2023/24	Cabinet 8 Feb 2022
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022/26	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Local Transport Plan	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Schedule of Transactions - March	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD) Design Code - Burtree Garden Village	Council 12 May 2022 Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Annual Procurement Plan 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Restoration of Locomotion No 1 Replica	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Special Educational Needs (SEND) Accessibility Strategy 2021/24	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Representation on Other Bodies 2022/23	Cabinet 14 Jun 2022
Reports Deferred	
Land at Sparrowhall Drive	Cabinet
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD) Design Code - Skerningham Garden Village	Council Cabinet

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