



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am

Monday, 25 April 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 Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 21 February 2022 (Pages 3 - 6)
4. Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2021/22 –
Report of the Assistant Director of Childrens' Services
(Pages 7 - 36)
5. Vulnerable Pupil Panel Review –
Report of the Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion
(Pages 37 - 40)
6. Work Programme –
Report of the Group Director of Operations
(Pages 41 - 56)
7. 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
8. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 13 April 2022

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Ali, Mrs Culley, Bell, Crudass, C L B Hughes, Lister, Lucas, Renton, Snedker, Sowerby and Willis

Statutory Co-optees

Malcolm Frank and Carly Spence

Non Statutory Co-optees

Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Nick Lindsay, Janet Woodcock and John Armitage

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Allison Hill, Democratic Officer, 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: allison.hill@darlington.gov.uk or telephone 01325 405997

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 21 February 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Crudass (Chair), Ali, Mrs Culley, C L B Hughes, Renton, Snedker and Willis

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

APOLOGIES – Councillors Bell, Lister, Lucas and Sowerby; Tim Fisher, Nick Lindsay and John Armitage

ABSENT – Malcolm Frank, Carly Spence, Maura Regan and Janet Woodcock

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Tony Murphy (Head of Education and Inclusion), Nicola Davies (Early Years Project Officer), Helen Ellison (Head of Education Partnerships); Eleanor Marshall (Education Partnerships Officer) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

CYP33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP34 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES/NOTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON:

Submitted – The Minutes/Notes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 25 October, 20 December 2021; and 10 January 2022.

In reference to Minute CYP19/Oct/21, it was acknowledged that Members comments in relation to specific reporting changes to the annual report at the meeting held on 25 October 2021 had been taken on board and included in this annual report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes/Notes of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 25 October, 20 December 2021; and 10 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

CYP35 REVIEW OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND) ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2017-2020

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated to provide Members with an update on the progress to date in respect of the review of the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Accessibility Strategy 2017-2020.

It was reported that although the Strategy does not form a part of the Council's Policy Framework, it is a statutory requirement as required by Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 for the Local Authority to prepare an Accessibility Strategy in relation to schools for which it is the responsible body; and to comply with legislation a review of the Strategy is required every three years, however due to COVID, the review took place in Autumn 2021 and concluded in early 2022.

The Strategy sets out how the Local Authority will work with maintained settings to increase

the extent to which disabled children and young people can participate in the school curriculum; improve the physical environment of schools; and improve delivery of information to pupils with disabilities and/or learning difficulties.

It was also reported that a consultation exercise had taken place with parent/carers and maintained settings to whom this Strategy applied and stakeholders, the Darlington Parent/Carer Forum and Darlington Association on Disability; a consistent message from parent/carers was the need to ensure more staff training for equality and diversity and to ensure that information was accessible.

This Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval on 3 May 2022.

Members discussed in particular the duty on the authority's academies and the ways in which this authority advise academies and offer them the expertise of our officers; the national recruitment issue and how that was affecting service delivery; how the strategy will be monitored and the compliance with the Local Offer; and the assessment process for an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which remained above the national average throughout the pandemic.

Members also discussed in more detail the accessibility issues that had been experienced at the beginning of the pandemic and the ongoing work with the Parent/Carer Forum to better seek the views of parents to support future challenge in this area.

RESOLVED – (a) That this Scrutiny notes the process undertaken to review the Strategy.

(b) That this Scrutiny notes that ongoing consultation with children and young people will inform any further amendments to the Strategy and/or the action plan that will accompany this.

CYP36 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2021-22

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the findings of the 2021-22 Childcare Sufficiency Review.

Local authorities are required by the Department for Education's 'Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities June 2018' to ensure sufficient childcare as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 or up to 18 for disabled children; and to report annually to elected Members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and to make this report available and accessible to parents.

It was reported that the childcare market in Darlington was made up of private day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs, nursery schools and nursery units. Prior to March 2020, Darlington's childcare market was fairly stable and the parental take-up rates of the various entitlements was predictable.

From early June 2020 when providers were again able to admit children other than those whose parents were key workers or vulnerable children, the number of pre-school children attending provision rose and by the end of the Summer 2020 term there were 263 pre-school

children in attendance. In comparison, by the end of the Summer 2021 term there were 839 pre-school children in attendance in childcare although this figure had reached a high of 1,413 by the end of May 2021 and the figure in early December 2021 was 1,117.

It was also reported that there were periodic short-term closures within the sector due to the pandemic but these were minimal and by the Autumn 2021 term, 1,696 children were accessing an Early Years Entitlements place compared with 1,587 children accessing a funded place in Autumn 2019.

During this pandemic, support continued to be provided to the childcare sector via: regular guidance up-dates; virtual network meetings; public health provider briefings, weekly Q & A sessions with public health; an early years strategy group; a group for early years leads in schools; virtual inclusion panels and individualised support around transitions; setting link officers and an Early Years newsletter.

Additionally, a childcare sufficiency task group meets regularly which includes colleagues from Economic Growth, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), Darlington Association on Disability (DAD), Jobcentre Plus, Learning & Skills, Darlington Families' Information Service and Children's Centres.

It was also reported that providers had indicated that recruitment and retention was an issue; and following consultation with the Darlington Parent/Carer Forum in Summer 2021 it was agreed that up-dated marketing information, sign-posting parents to sources of information about different types of local, registered, inclusive childcare across the borough could be shared.

Providers were facing uncertainty with regard to childcare demand, early years entitlements and parent paid income as families' circumstances change, however it was reported that Indicators showed that there had been sufficient capacity to meet demand throughout this period, however any unmet demand will be continually monitored to ensure that parents are able to access training and work in the coming months and years.

Members discussed affordability issues and the worrying financial situation for providers; the national retention and recruitment problems and general uncertainty in the settings; and insufficient funding from other sources to ensure the providers are in a position to meet future demand.

Members also discussed areas of the borough where they felt that sufficiency was not meeting demand and requested further information be brought to Members at a future date regarding demographical/community data.

RESOLVED – That the information and findings of the 2021/22 Childcare Sufficiency Review be noted.

CYP37 WORK PROGRAMME

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously

approved work programme.

Members also gave consideration to a request to carry out a review of the Vulnerable Pupil Panel including the relevant quad of aims.

It was also reported that on 22 February, 2022 a virtual meeting had been arranged for Members of this Scrutiny Committee to meet with young people from the Darlington Youth Partnership and Council of School Councils to discuss projects the Council are working on to try and capture the voice of children and young people from across Darlington.

And on 11 February, 2022 the Head of Employment, Education and Skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority attended a joint briefing with Members of this Committee and the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee to discuss the education and skills funding allocation as it relates to our authority and where specifically the spend is being focused.

RESOLVED – (a) That the work programme be noted.

(b) That a review of the Vulnerable Pupil Panel be included in the work programme of this Scrutiny Committee.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25 April 2022

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 3 2021/22

Purpose of the Report

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

Summary

2. This report provides mid-year performance information (October 2021 – December 2021) in line with an indicator set agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 2 July 2018, and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs.
3. It is suggested monitoring focuses on issues and exceptions, and relevant Assistant Directors will attend the meeting to respond to queries raised by the committee regarding the performance information contained within this report.
4. Where indicators are reported annually, quarterly updates will not be available.

Where are we performing well?

5. 10.8% of the children referred, by the end of Q3 2021/22, have been a re-referral to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral. This is positively below the internal target of 18%.
6. 100% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 100% of Children in Care (CiC) have an allocated social worker.
7. During Q3 2021/22 no child has ceased to be subject to a CP plan who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years, we continue to positively perform below our target of 5%.
8. 92.1% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, during Q3 2021/22.
9. 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 98.4% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales by the end of Q3 2021/22.
10. The number of Children in Care (CiC) was 271 by the end of December 2021, which was a reduction when compared with the number of children at the end of December 2020 (284). Work continues to safely reduce the number of children coming into care.

11. 89.8% of statutory CiC visits were completed within timescale during Q3 2021/22. This is in line with the target of 90%.
12. 10.0% of our Children in Care, as of December 2021, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This performance is in line with our internal target of 10%.
13. 73.5% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This performance is positively above our internal target of 68%.
14. 6.1% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2021. This is a positive performance and below target of 10%.
15. 82.7% of children due a review health assessment by December 2021 have had one completed. 80.4% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by December 2021 have had one completed.
16. 17.6% of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET) at the end of December 2021, which is positivity below target of 30% and 100.0% were in suitable accommodation.

Where do we need to improve?

17. Social workers completed 80.0% of the C&F assessments within timescale during Q3 2021/22, which falls below our target of 90%, and is similar to the 85.4% completed in timescale for the same period last year.
18. 67.7% of referrals were screened and completed within 1 day by the end of Q3 2021/22, below the target of 90% and 7.7% of the referrals took over 3 days to complete. The additional time taken to carry out contact enquiries is ensuring that all information is complete, and that children and families are being offered the right service at the right time.
19. At the end of December 2021, the percentage of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending was 8.0%, above the 6% target, however this is a reduction from 9.8% as at the end of Q2 2021/22.
20. 82.3% of children received a statutory CP visit within 10 working days during Q3 2021/22. This is below the target of 90%.

Recommendation

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

Chris Bell

Assistant Director of Childrens Services

Background papers

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

Sharon Raine Head of Performance and Transformation: Extension 6091

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



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children's Social Care Performance & Quality Assurance Report

Page 11

Quarter 3 2021/22 (October - December 2021)

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Q3 2021-22 Performance Summary

Referral: 67.7% of the referrals completed this year were finalised within 1 working day. This is below the 90% target and the timeliness recorded during Q3 2020/21 (75.6%), however with a similar number of children having their referral outcomed within 1 working day. We have experienced a rise in referrals taking longer than 3 working days to complete, currently above the 5% target with 7.7%.

Re-Referrals: Re-referrals continue to remain low with 26 children, from 17 families, being re-referred to social care during Q3 2021/22. Year to date this equates to 10.8% of our referrals during this period having been repeated within 12 months. This is below the internal target of 18%.

Building Stronger Families: 165 Early Help Assessments have been completed during Q3 2021/22.

Missing: 14 Children in Care (CiC) were reported missing during Q3 2021/22 with a total of 64 episodes. Where children are looked after by other authorities but cared for in Darlington, the ERASE Team have been alerted and provided with relevant information to ensure that the young people have been appropriately placed.

Children & Families Assessments: 245 children had a single assessment carried out during Q3 2021/22.

C&F Timeliness: Social workers completed 80.0% of the C&F assessments within timescale during Q3 2021/22. This is below our target of 90% and gives a year-to-date completion percentage of 84.6% which is similar to the 85.4% completed in timescale for the same period last year.

Section 47 enquiries: 79 section 47 enquires were started during Q3 2021/22 involving 157 children. This is an increase when compared to previous years, but in line with the increase in Strategies held this quarter.

Child Protection Conference Timeliness: 92.1% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, during Q3 2021/22.

Child Protection Plans: 89 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2021. This is comparable to the 88 children who were subject to CP at the end of December 2020. Darlington currently has a 39.5 rate per 10,000 population for children subject to a CPP.

100.0% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and all the CP reviews were carried out in timescale. During Q3 2021/22 there were no children ceasing

CP who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years. At the end of December 2021, the percentage of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending was 8.0%, above the 6% target although this is down on the 9.8% by the end of Q2 2021/22.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 82.3% of children received a statutory Child Protection (CP) visit during Q3 2021/22 within 10 working days, this is below our target of 90%.

Children in Care: 271 children were in care as of December 2021, which is a reduction to the number of children (284) that were in care as of December 2020. During Q3 2021/22 a total of 26 children came into the care of the DBC and a total of 21 children ceased to be in care.

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 98.4% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales by the end of Q3 2021/22.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 89.8% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale during Q3 2021/22. This is in line with our internal target of 90%.

Children in Care Placements: 10.0% of Children in Care (CiC), as of December 2021, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is at the internal target of 10%. 73.5% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is positively above our target of 68.0%. 6.1% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2021, which is positively below our target of 10.0%. This relates to young people who have been placed in residential care due to their disability / placed with family / or placed for adoption, and this provision was not available within 20 miles.

Initial Health Assessments: 91.3% of children newly in care were seen by CDDFT within their timescale of 20 days during Q3 2021/22.

Health and Dental Reviews: 82.7% of children due a review health assessment by December 2021 have had one completed. 80.4% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by December 2021 have had one completed. The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks has continued to decrease through the year, with 3.6% refusing their health review and 2.9% refusing their dental review. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

Care Leavers: 100.0% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2021. The percentage of care leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to be positively below the target set of 30% at 17.6% at the end of December 2021.

REFERRALS - TIMELINESS

DEFINITION Percentage of referrals completed within 1 working day and over 3 working days. Referrals completed within 1 working day indicates that decisions regarding the services required are made in a timely manner to minimise drift and delay and to ensure that children are safe.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

67.7% of the referrals completed this year were finalised within 1 working day. This is below the 90% target and the timeliness recorded during Q3 2020/21 (75.6%), however with a similar number of children having their referral outcomed within 1 working day. We have experienced a rise in referrals taking longer than 3 working days to complete, currently above the 5% target with 7.7%.

All referrals that are completed out of timescale are reviewed by the service manager to ensure delay was unavoidable. No negative impacts on the families have been highlighted because of these delays.

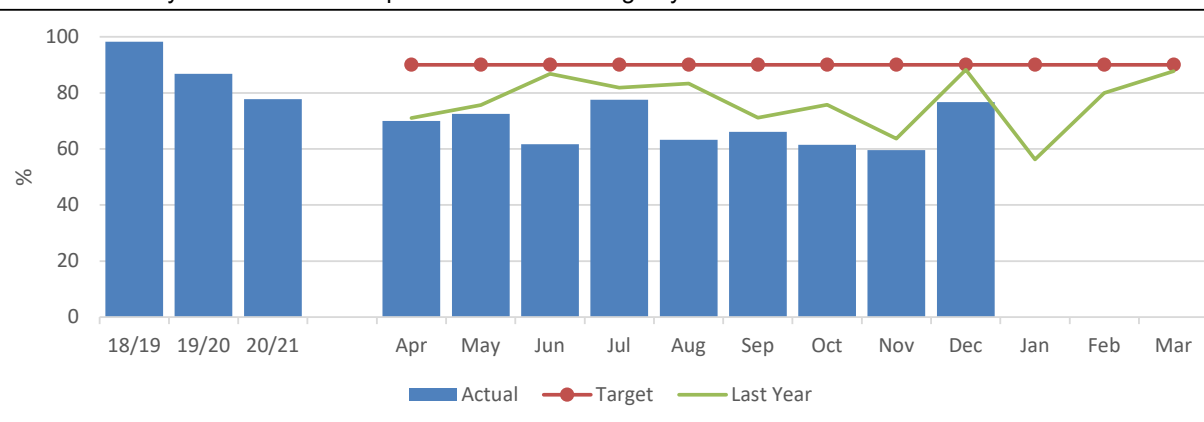
Page 14

CSC 022	CSC 026
Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.	Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.

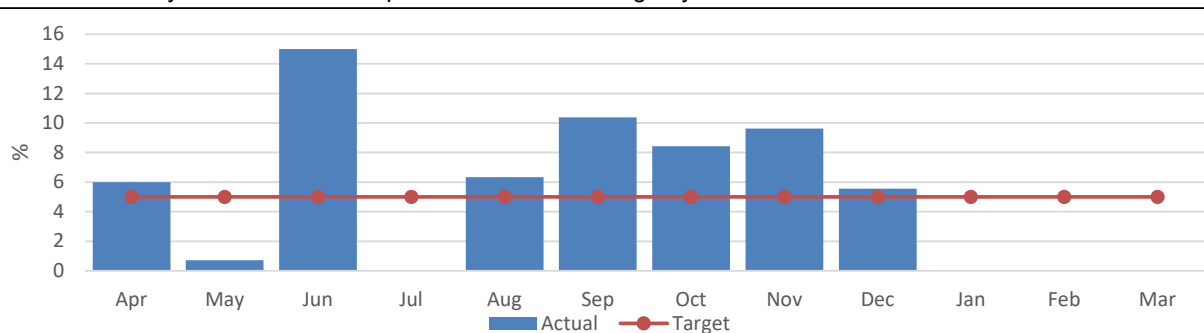
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90%	5%
	Apr-21	70.0	6.0
	May-21	72.5	0.7
	Jun-21	61.7	15.0
	Jul-21	77.6	0.0
	Aug-21	63.3	6.3
	Sep-21	66.0	10.4
	Oct-21	61.5	8.4
	Nov-21	59.6	9.6
	Dec-21	76.7	5.6
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
Mar-22			

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	98.2	0.0
	2019/20	86.8	1.6
	2020/21	77.7	4.7
	2021/22	67.7%	7.7%

CSC 022: Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.



CSC 026: Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.



REFERRALS - RE-REFERRALS

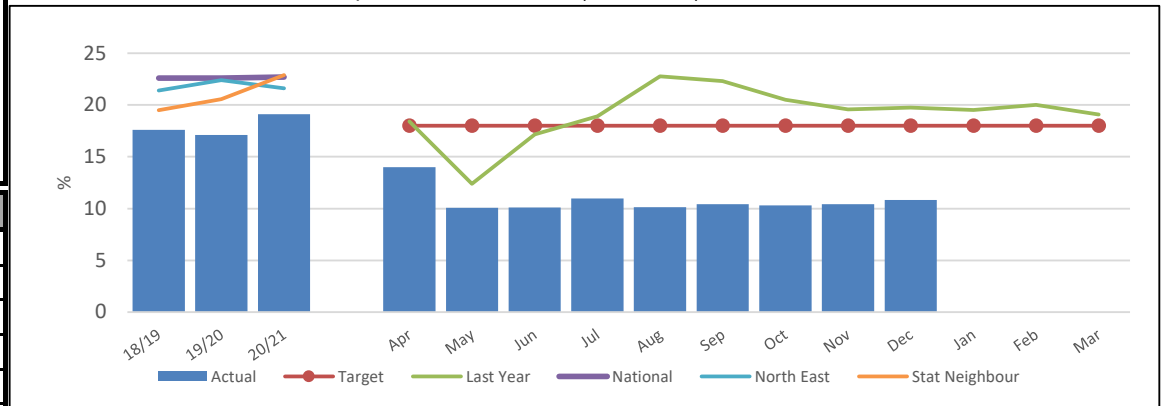
DEFINITION Percentage of re-referrals that are received within 12 months of a previous referral (based on referral start dates)
 A re-referral to Children's Social Care could be an indication that the previous referral was inappropriately closed down without addressing the initial concerns or issues.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS Re-referrals continue to remain low with 26 children, from 17 families, being re-referred to social care during Q3 2021/22. Year to date this equates to 10.8% of our referrals during this period having been repeated within 12 months. This is below the internal target of 18%, our statistical neighbour (22.9%), regional (21.6%) and national average (22.7%) (LAIT 2021).
 When compared with previous years which saw 43 re-referrals during Q3 2019/20 and 30 re-referrals during Q3 2020/21 this shows a positive decrease.

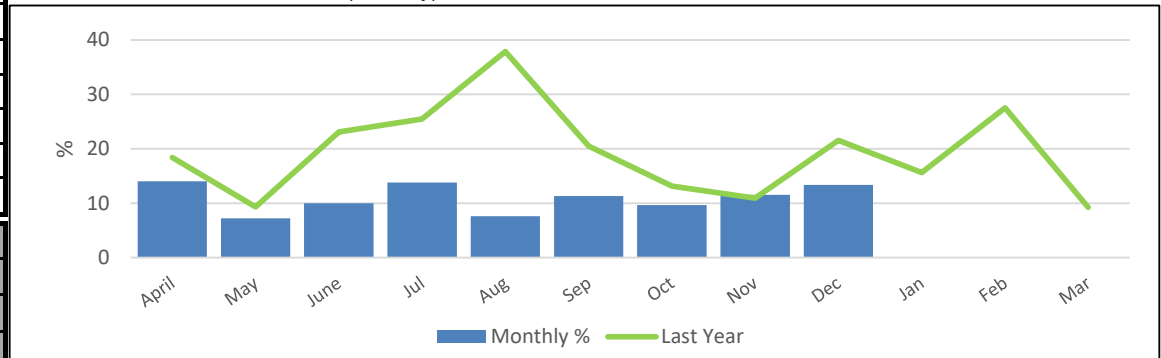
CSC 034	CSC 032	
Monthly number of re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative)	% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target		18%	
	Apr-21	7	14.0	14.0
	May-21	5	10.1	7.2
	Jun-21	6	10.1	10.0
	Jul-21	8	11.0	13.8
	Aug-21	6	10.1	7.6
	Sep-21	12	10.4	11.3
	Oct-21	8	10.3	9.6
	Nov-21	6	10.4	11.5
	Dec-21	12	10.8	13.3
	Jan-22			
	Feb-22			
	Mar-22			
ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	205	17.6	
	2019/20	171	17.1	
	2020/21	143	19.1	
	2021/22	70	10.8	

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



% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)



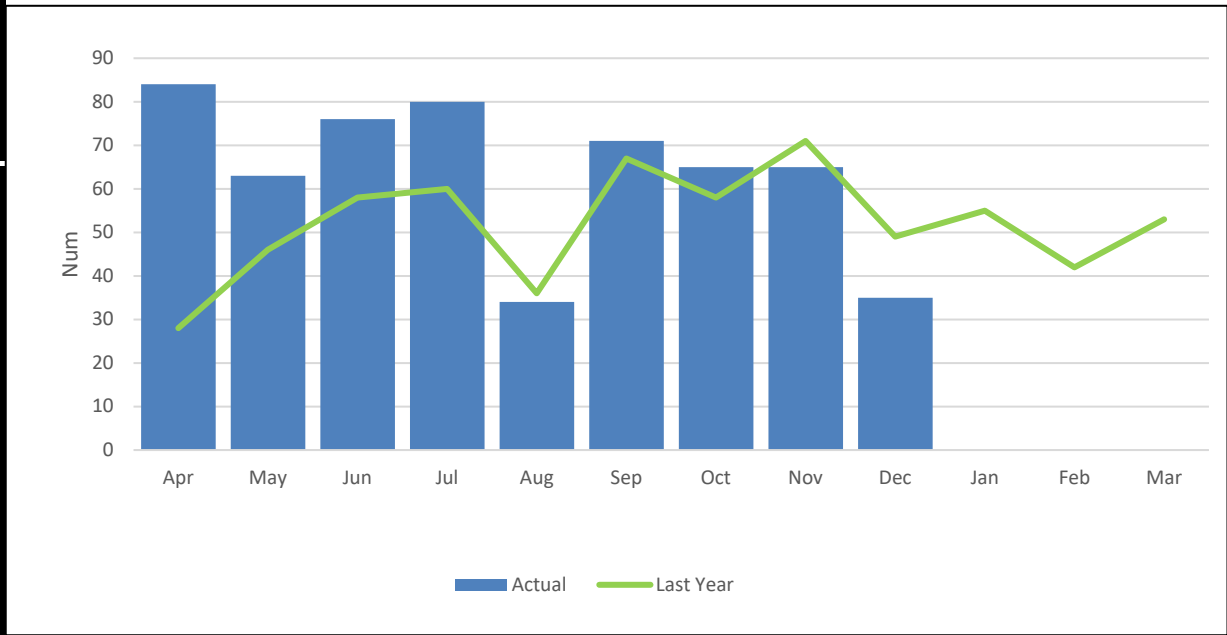
EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS - STARTED

DEFINITION The number of individual Early Help Assessments (EHA) started in month and year to date, including those initiated by external agencies. The start date of the EHA is taken from the form created date in Liquid Logic and the start date of the external EHA is taken from the contact date when the agency informed us of the EHA.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 165 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started during Q3 2021/22, 30.3% (50) of which were initiated by external agencies.

CSC 002
Total number of individual EHA's started in month (inc. external)

CSC 002: Total number of individual EHA's started in month (inc. external)



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	
	Apr-21	84
	May-21	63
	Jun-21	76
	Jul-21	80
	Aug-21	34
	Sep-21	71
	Oct-21	65
	Nov-21	65
	Dec-21	35
	Jan-22	
	Feb-22	
	Mar-22	

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	869
	2019/20	893
	2020/21	623
	2021/22	573

MISSING EPISODES

DEFINITION	The number of episodes of children reported missing in Darlington who are a Child in Care (CiC).□
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	14 Children in Care (CiC) were reported missing during Q3 2021/22 with a total of 64 episodes. Where children are looked after by other authorities but cared for in Darlington, the ERASE Team have been alerted and provided with relevant information to ensure that the young people have been appropriately placed.
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CSC 246	
Number of missing relating to Children in Care with DBC	Of which are in a placement more than 20 miles from home

	Ep.	Child.	Ep.	Child.
Apr-21	8	5	1	1
May-21	15	7	1	1
Jun-21	30	10	5	1
Jul-21	16	7	1	1
Aug-21	25	6	5	1
Sep-21	24	10	5	2
Oct-21	35	8		
Nov-21	15	8		
Dec-21	14	9		
Jan-22				
Feb-22				
Mar-22				

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE

	Ep.	Child.	Ep.	Child.
Apr-21	8	5	1	1
May-21	15	7	1	1
Jun-21	30	10	5	1
Jul-21	16	7	1	1
Aug-21	25	6	5	1
Sep-21	24	10	5	2
Oct-21	35	8		
Nov-21	15	8		
Dec-21	14	9		
Jan-22				
Feb-22				
Mar-22				

ANNUAL TREND child counted once

2018/19	199	36	43	10
2019/20	129	24	32	10
2020/21	107	30	15	4
2021/22	182	28	18	2

ASSESSMENTS

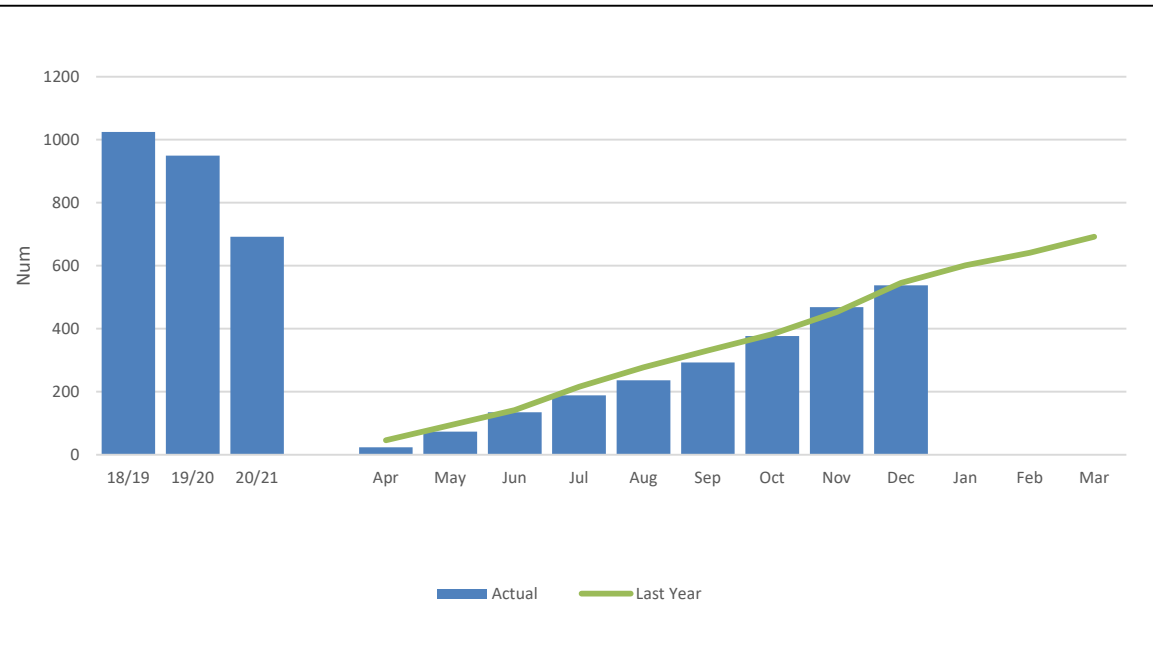
DEFINITION	Monthly and cumulative number of Children & Families assessments completed.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	245 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q3 2021/22; an increase compared with 215 assessments completed in Q3 2020/21.
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Page 18

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

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



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Apr-21	24
	May-21	73
	Jun-21	135
	Jul-21	189
	Aug-21	236
	Sep-21	293
	Oct-21	377
	Nov-21	469
	Dec-21	538
	Jan-22	
	Feb-22	
	Mar-22	

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	1,025
	2019/20	950
	2020/21	692
	2021/22	538

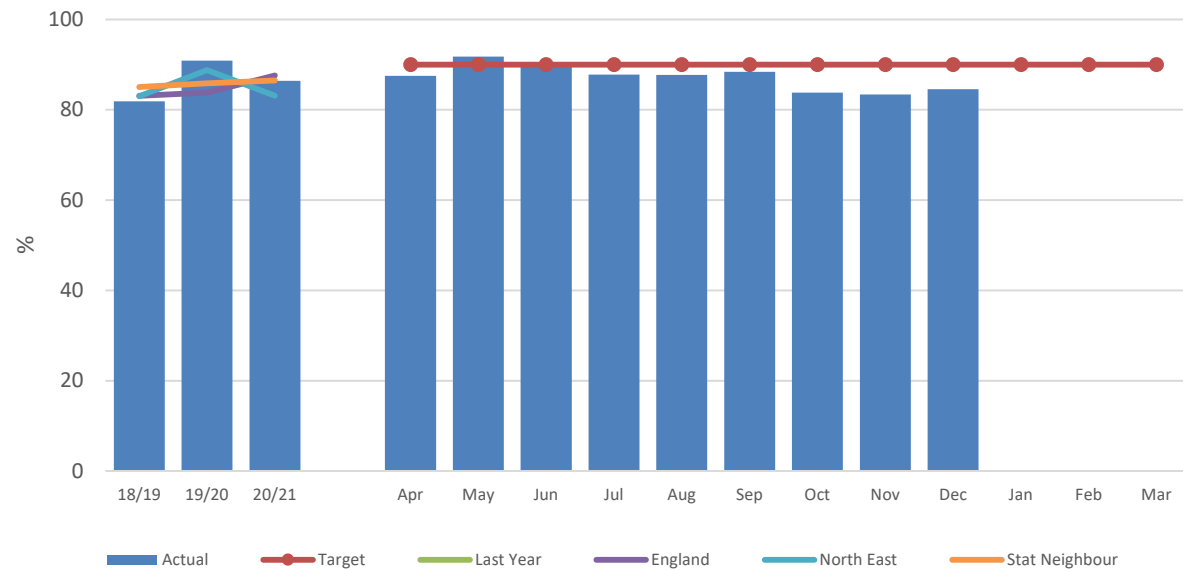
ASSESSMENTS - TIMELINESS

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 During Q3 2021/22, 80.0% of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale. This is below our target of 90% and gives a year to date figure of 84.6% which is in line with the 85.4% in timescale for the same period last year.

CSC 038
 % C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (Year to date)

% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (Year to date)



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90%
	Apr-21	87.5
	May-21	91.8
	Jun-21	90.4
	Jul-21	87.8
	Aug-21	87.7
	Sep-21	88.4
	Oct-21	83.8
	Nov-21	83.4
	Dec-21	84.6
	Jan-22	
	Feb-22	
	Mar-22	

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	81.9
	2019/20	90.9
	2020/21	86.4
	2021/22	84.6

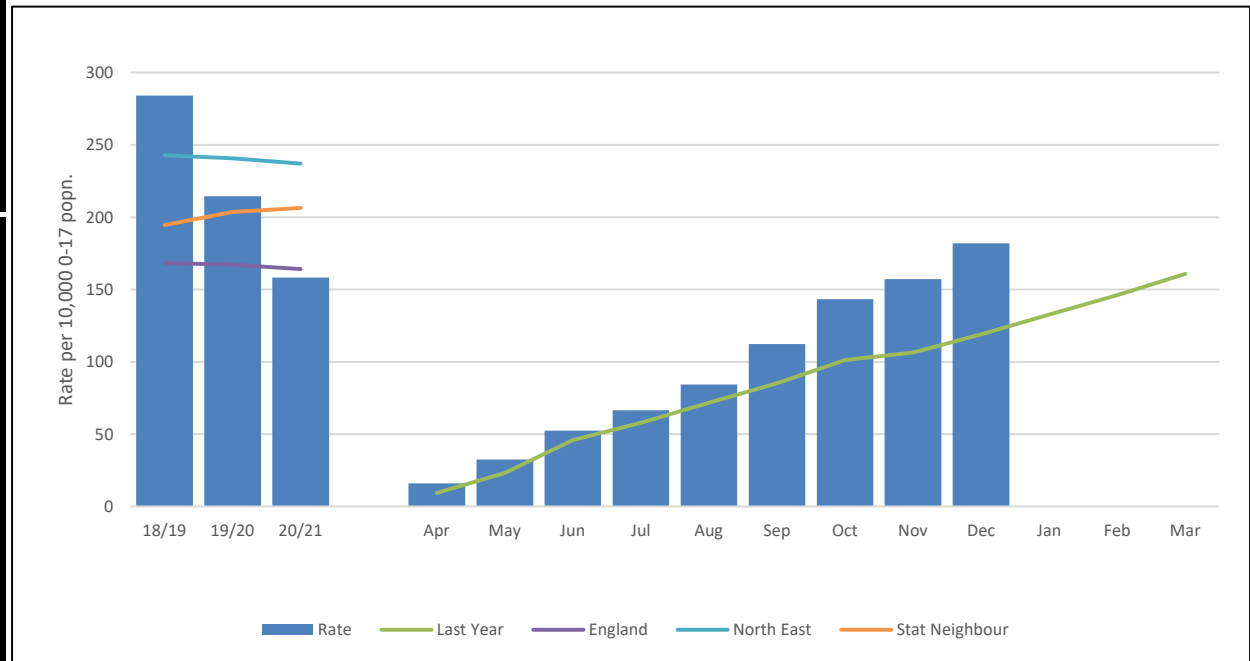
SECTION 47 - STARTED

DEFINITION Number of children who have had a section 47 enquiries started monthly and year to date and the actual number of enquires started.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 79 section 47 enquires were started during Q3 2021/22 involving 157 children. This is an increase on the 44 section 47 enquiries started in Q3 2020/21, and 53 in Q3 2019/20. The increase is in line with the increase in strategies we have seen held this quarter.

CSC 166	CSC 164
All children who had a section 47 enquires started in the month	Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (Cumulative)

Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (inc. children already on CPP)



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		CSC 166	CSC 164
	Apr-21	36	16.0
	May-21	37	32.4
	Jun-21	45	52.4
	Jul-21	32	66.6
	Aug-21	40	84.3
	Sep-21	63	112.3
	Oct-21	70	143.4
	Nov-21	31	157.1
	Dec-21	56	182.0
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
	Mar-22		

ANNUAL TREND		CSC 166	CSC 164
	2018/19	426	284.1
	2019/20	646	214.4
	2020/21	484	158.2
	2021/22	410	182.0

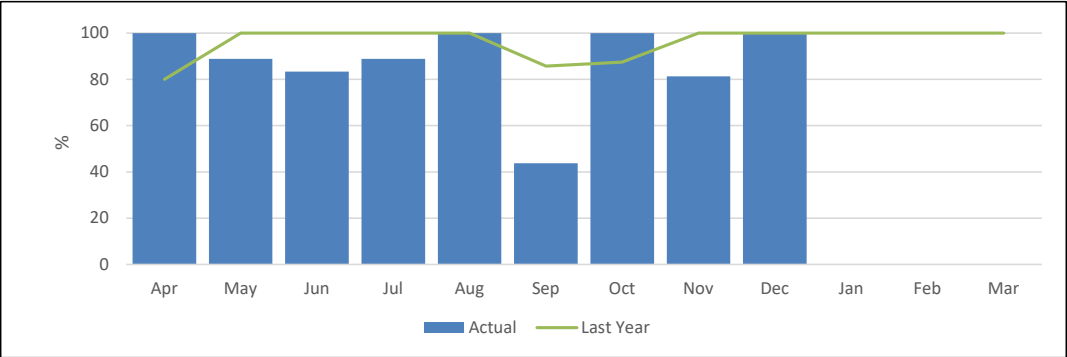
INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - TIMELINESS

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 92.1% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, during Q3 2021/22.

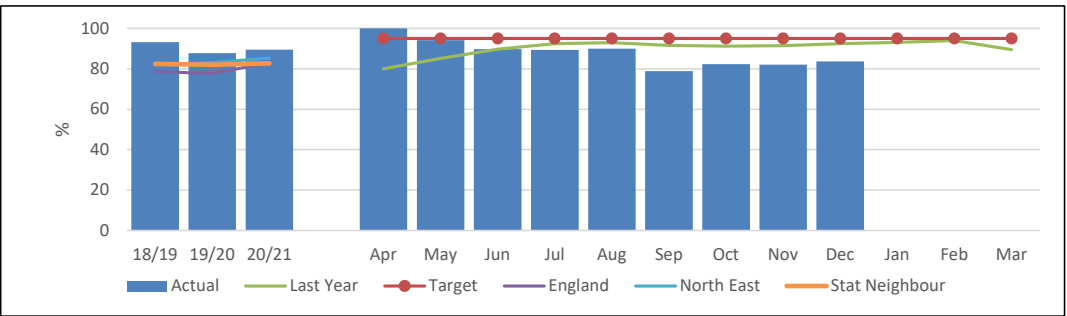
CSC 178	CSC 176
Monthly % of cases recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook where Child Protection strategy meeting / S47 start to initial child protection conference (ICPC) are within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences.	% of cases where the initial child protection conference (ICPC) was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

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



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	CSC 178	CSC 176
	Apr-21	100	100.0
May-21	100	88.9	94.1
Jun-21	100	83.3	89.7
Jul-21	100	88.9	89.4
Aug-21	100	100.0	90.0
Sep-21	100	43.8	78.8
Oct-21	100	100.0	82.3
Nov-21	100	81.3	82.1
Dec-21	100	100.0	83.7
Jan-22			
Feb-22			
Mar-22			

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



ANNUAL TREND	Year	CSC 178	CSC 176
	2018/19	95.4	93.2
	2019/20	89.5	87.7
	2020/21	94.4	89.5
	2021/22	100.0	83.7

CHILD PROTECTION

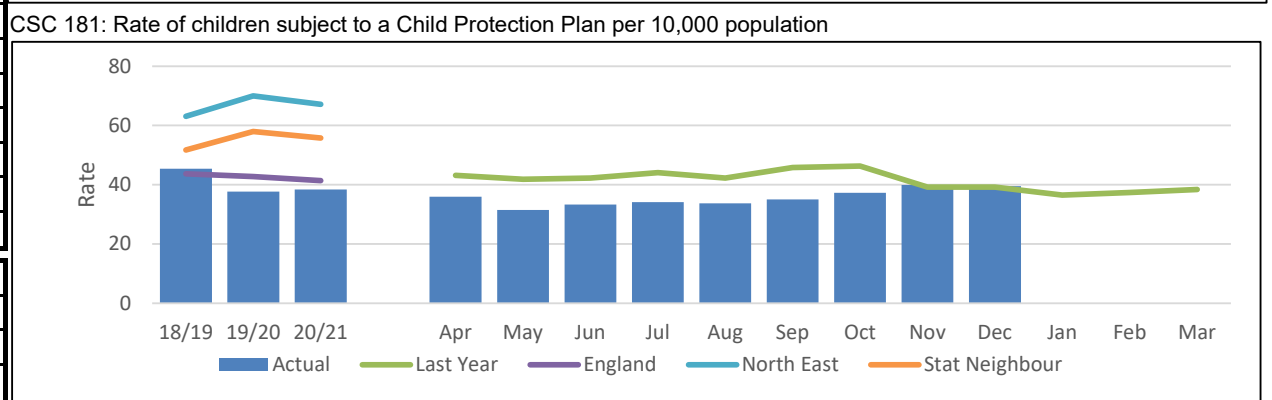
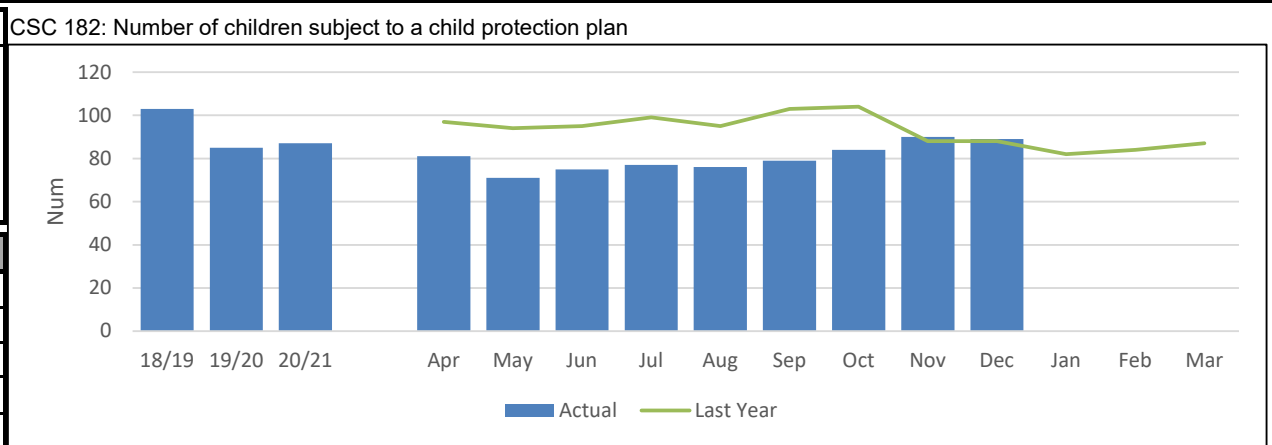
DEFINITION Number of children subject to a Child Protection plan at the end of the month.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 89 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2021. This is comparable to the 88 children who were subject to CP at the end of December 2020. Darlington currently has a 39.5 rate per 10,000 population for children subject to a CPP which is lower than the regional average (67.2), statistical neighbour (55.8) and the national average (41.4) as reported in the 2021 LAIT.

	CSC 182	CSC 181
	Number of children subject to a child protection plan	Rate of children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE			
	Apr-21	81	36.0
	May-21	71	31.5
	Jun-21	75	33.3
	Jul-21	77	34.2
	Aug-21	76	33.7
	Sep-21	79	35.1
	Oct-21	84	37.3
	Nov-21	90	40.0
	Dec-21	89	39.5
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
	Mar-22		

ANNUAL TREND			
	2018/19	103	45.7
	2019/20	85	37.7
	2020/21	87	38.4
	2021/22	89	39.5



CHILD PROTECTION - ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

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

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker.

100% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.

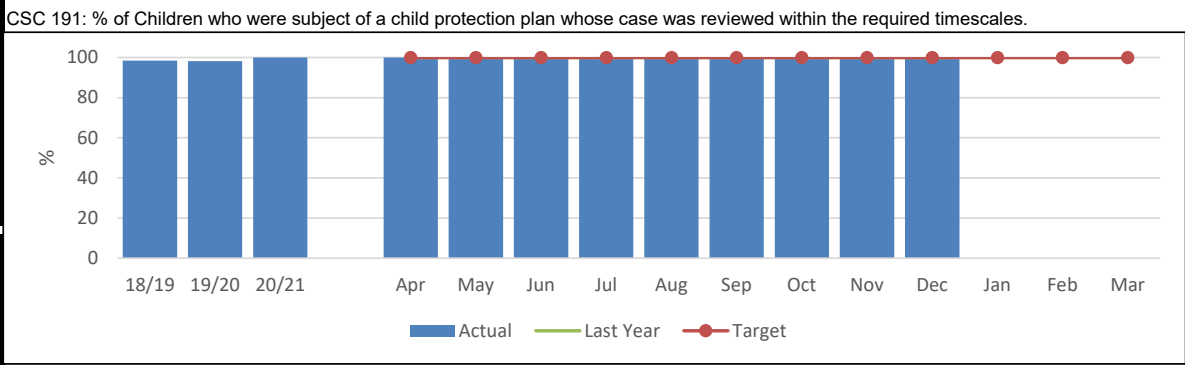
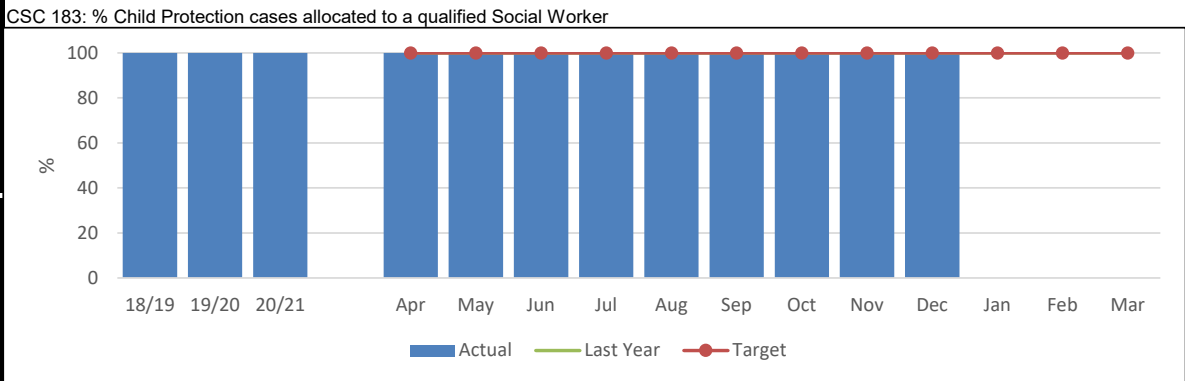
Performance remains higher than statistical neighbours (91.8%), regional (91.0%) and national averages (93.2%) as reported in the 2021 LAIT.

Page 23

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

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	100	100	
	Apr-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	May-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Jun-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Jul-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Aug-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Sep-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Oct-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Nov-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Dec-21	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Jan-22			
	Feb-22			
	Mar-22			

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	100.0	98.4
	2019/20	100.0	98.2
	2020/21	100.0	100.0
	2021/22	100.0	100.0

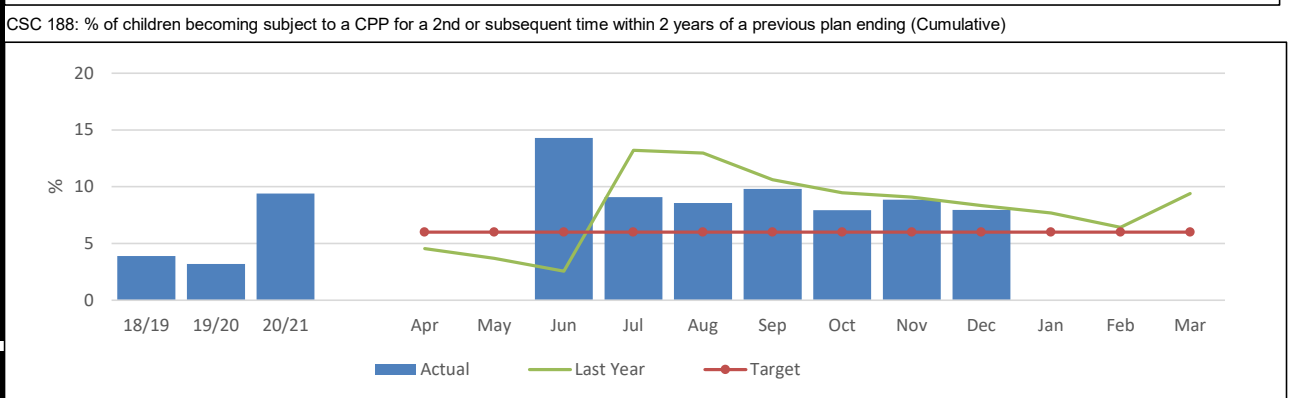
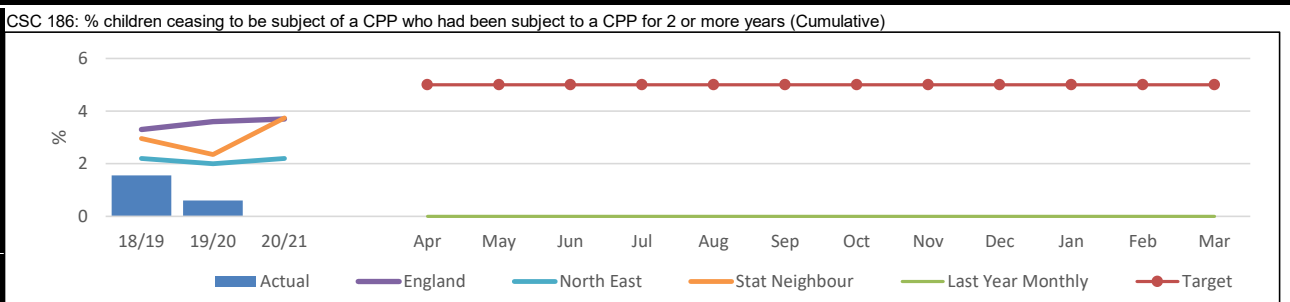


CHILD PROTECTION - TIME PERIODS

DEFINITION
 Percentage of children ceasing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan who had been subject to a Plan for 2 or more years, and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for the 2nd or subsequent time within a) 2 years of a previous plan, and b) with a previous plan at any point.
 These indicators reflect the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to all children not needing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan within a maximum of two years, or becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 8.0% of children became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending. This is above our target of 6% but positive decrease when compared to the percentage at December 2020 (8.3%).
 Year to date no child has ceased to be subject to a CP plan who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years and we continue to remain below our target of 5%.

	CSC 186	CSC 188
	% children ceasing to be subject of a CPP who had been subject to a CPP for 2 or more years (Cumulative)	% of children becoming subject to a CPP for a 2nd or subsequent time within 2 years of a previous plan ending (Cumulative)
	5%	6%
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	5%
	Apr-21	0.0
	May-21	0.0
	Jun-21	0.0
	Jul-21	0.0
	Aug-21	0.0
	Sep-21	0.0
	Oct-21	0.0
	Nov-21	0.0
	Dec-21	0.0
	Jan-22	0.0
	Feb-22	0.0
	Mar-22	0.0
ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	1.6
	2019/20	0.6
	2020/21	0.0
	2021/22	0.0



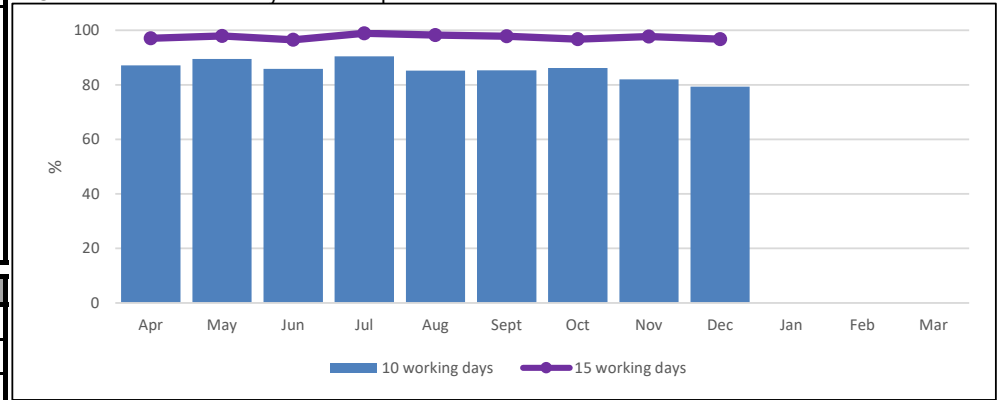
CHILD PROTECTION - STATUTORY VISITS

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

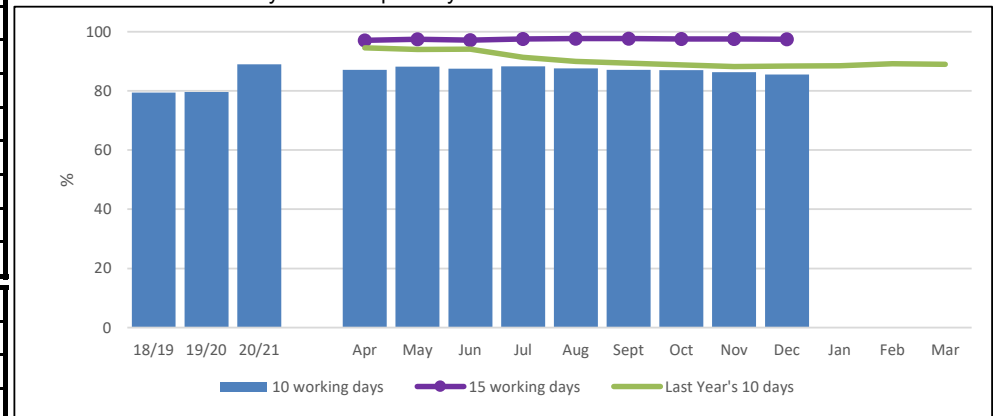
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 82.3% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q3 2021/22 and 97.1% of the visits were completed within 15 working days.

CSC 252a		CSC 252b	
% Child Protection statutory visits completed within 10 working days within the month	% Child Protection statutory visits completed within 15 working days within the month	% Child Protection statutory visits completed within 10 working days year to date (cumulative)	% Child Protection statutory visits completed within 15 working days year to date (cumulative)

% Child Protection statutory visits completed within the month



% Child Protection statutory visits completed year to date



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90	90	90	90
	Apr-21	87.1	97.1	87.1	97.1
May-21	89.5	97.9	88.3	97.5	97.5
Jun-21	85.9	96.5	87.5	97.2	97.2
Jul-21	90.4	98.9	88.3	97.6	97.6
Aug-21	85.3	98.2	87.6	97.7	97.7
Sep-21	85.3	97.8	87.2	97.7	97.7
Oct-21	86.2	96.7	87.0	97.6	97.6
Nov-21	82.0	97.7	86.4	97.6	97.6
Dec-21	79.3	96.7	85.5	97.5	97.5
Jan-22					
Feb-22					
Mar-22					

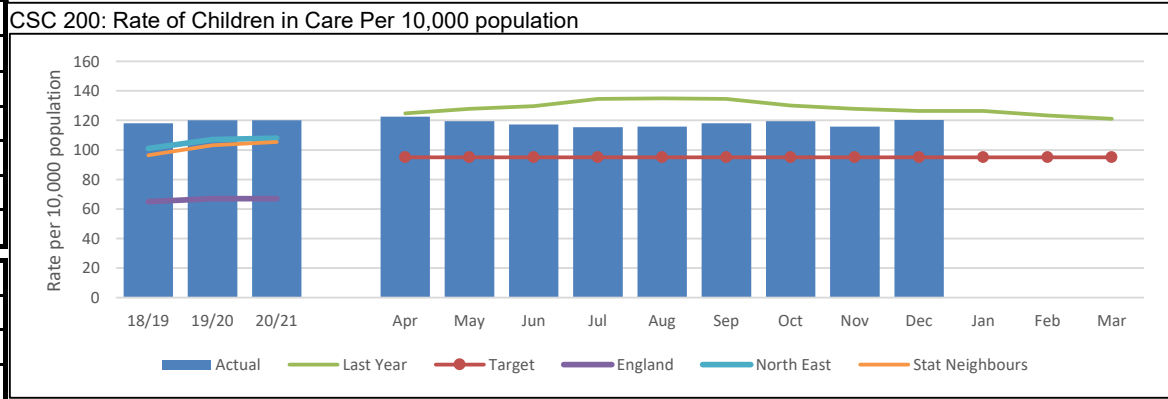
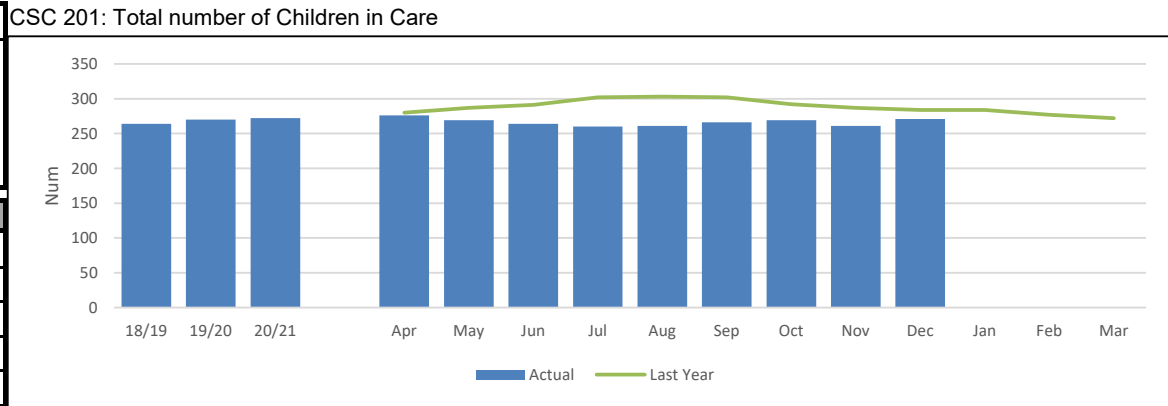
ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	79.3	95.7	79.3	95.7
	2019/20	79.6	92.0	79.6	93.8
	2020/21	89.0	98.4	89.0	98.4
	2021/22	79.3	96.7	85.5	97.5

CHILDREN IN CARE

DEFINITION	Number of Children in Care at the end of each month.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	271 children were in care as at December 2021 which is a 4.6% reduction from the 284 children in care at the end of December 2020.
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	CSC 201	CSC 200
	Total number of Children in Care	Rate of Children in Care Per 10,000 population
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		95
Target		
Apr-21	276	122.5
May-21	269	119.4
Jun-21	264	117.2
Jul-21	260	115.4
Aug-21	261	115.9
Sep-21	266	118.1
Oct-21	269	119.4
Nov-21	261	115.9
Dec-21	271	120.3
Jan-22		
Feb-22		
Mar-22		
ANNUAL TREND		
2018/19	264	118.0
2019/20	270	120.0
2020/21	272	121.1
2021/22	271	120.3



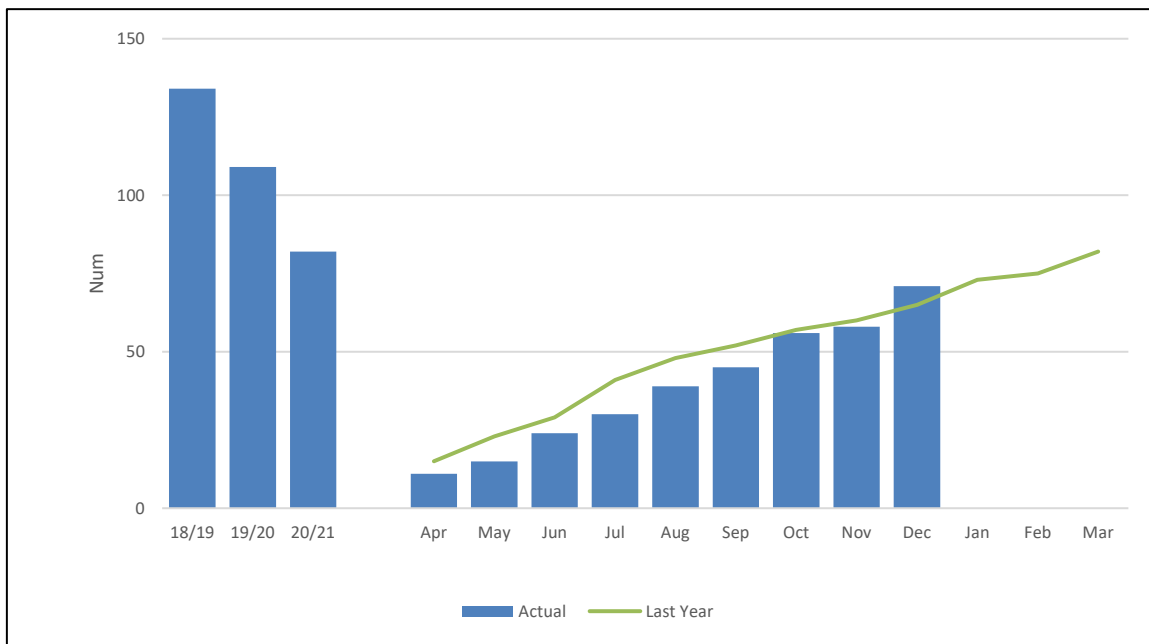
CHILDREN IN CARE - COMING INTO CARE

DEFINITION Number of children coming into the care of the local authority during the month and year to date and their first placement type.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 26 children came into care in Q3 2021/22, taking our year to date total to 71 children. This is a 9.2% increase when compared with the 65 children who came into care between April and December 2020, but a 18.4% decrease compared to between April and December 2019 (87 children) and a 31.7% decrease compared to between April and December 2018 (104 children).

CSC 209	CSC 208
Monthly number of new cases of children coming into care	Total number of new cases of children coming into care within the year

Total number of new cases of children coming into care within the year



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		CSC 209	CSC 208
	Apr-21	11	11
	May-21	4	15
	Jun-21	9	24
	Jul-21	6	30
	Aug-21	9	39
	Sep-21	6	45
	Oct-21	11	56
	Nov-21	2	58
	Dec-21	13	71
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
Mar-22			

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	134	134
	2019/20	109	109
	2020/21	82	82
	2021/22	71	71

CHILDREN IN CARE - CEASING CARE

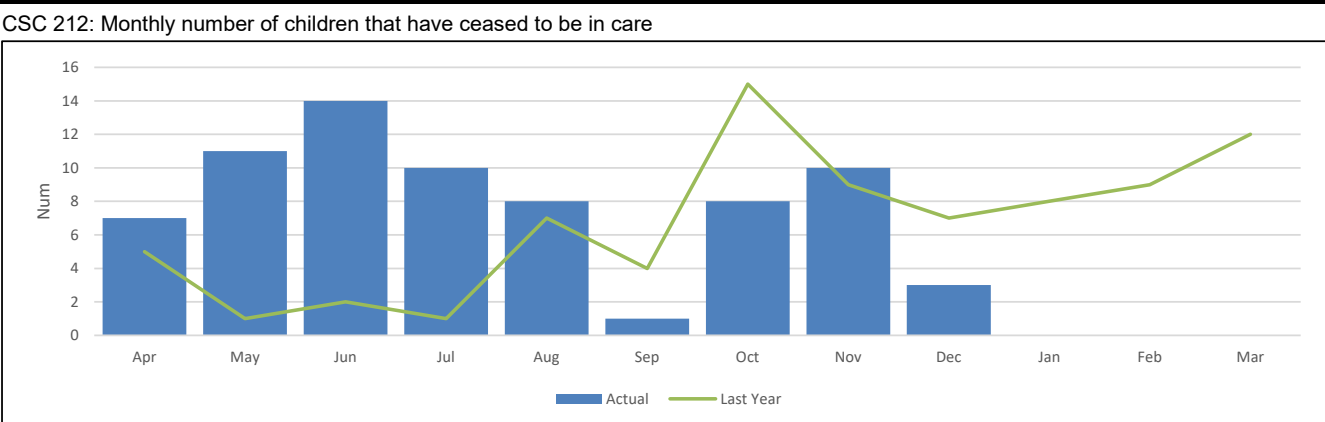
DEFINITION Number of children ceasing to be a Child in Care during each month and year to date and their destination when they ceased being in care.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 21 children and young people ceased to be in care during Q3 2021/22, taking our year to date total to 72 children. This is a large increase when compared with the 51 children who ceased between April and December 2020, and similar to the 71 children who ceased care between April and December 2019 and 69 children between April and December 2018.

Of the 21 children who did cease CiC:

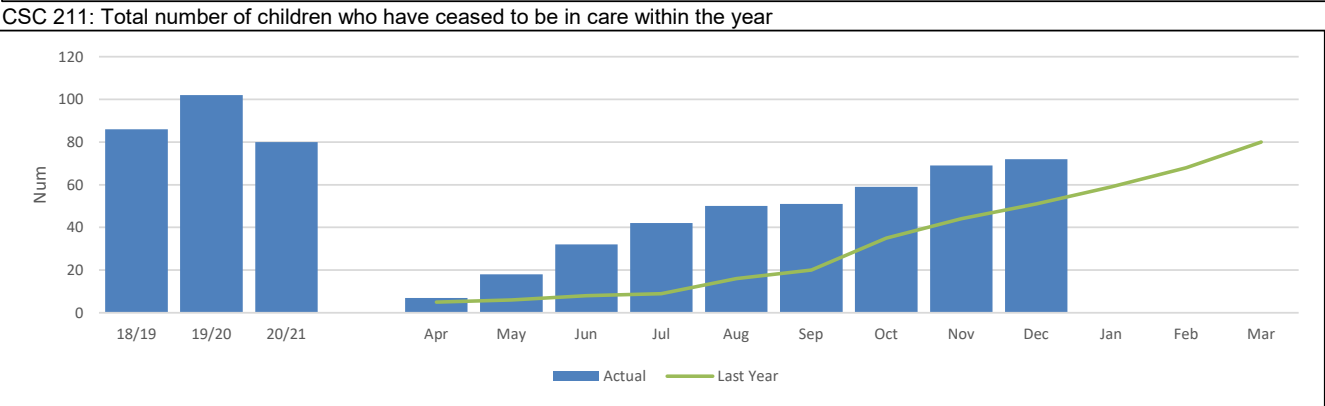
- 14.3% were young people ceasing as they turned 18 and became a care leaver.
- 23.8% of the children were adopted.
- 33.3% of children had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative.
- 28.6% of the children returned home to their parent.

CSC 212	CSC 211
Monthly number of children that have ceased to be in care	Total number of children who have ceased to be in care within the year



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE

Month	CSC 212	CSC 211
Apr-21	7	7
May-21	11	18
Jun-21	14	32
Jul-21	10	42
Aug-21	8	50
Sep-21	1	51
Oct-21	8	59
Nov-21	10	69
Dec-21	3	72
Jan-22		
Feb-22		
Mar-22		



ANNUAL TREND

Year	CSC 212	CSC 211
2018/19	86	86
2019/20	102	102
2020/21	80	80
2021/22	72	72

CHILDREN IN CARE - ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION

The percentage of Children in Care cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time during the year and the percentage of Children in Care cases that were allocated to a qualified Social Worker at the end of the month.

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

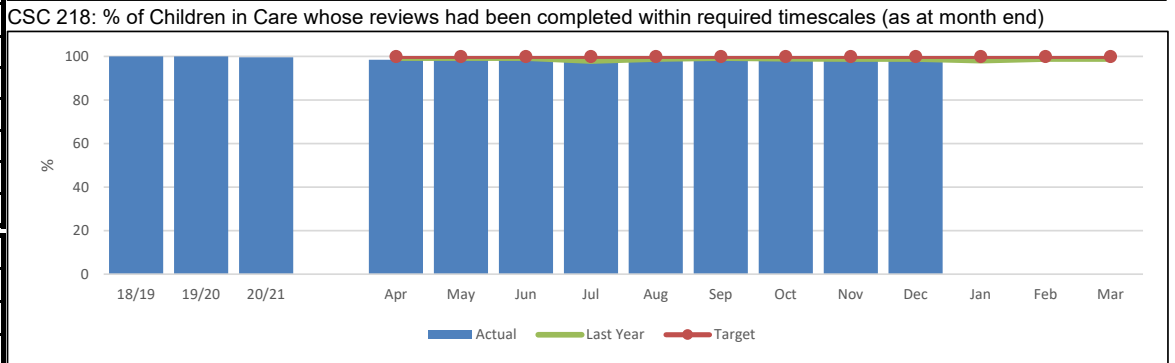
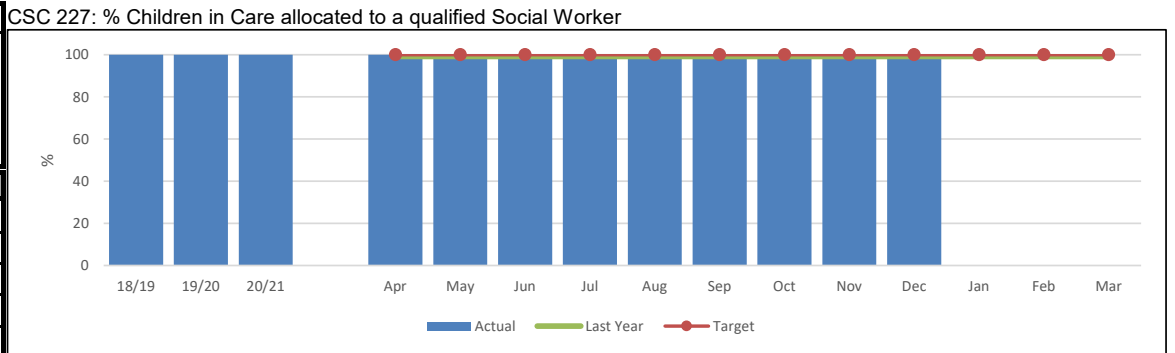
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

100% of Children in Care (CiC) are allocated to a qualified social worker.

98.4% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales.

Page 29

		CSC 227	CSC 218
		% Children in Care allocated to a qualified Social Worker	% of Children in Care whose reviews had been completed within required timescales (as at month end)
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	100	100
	Apr-21	100.0	98.5
	May-21	100.0	99.2
	Jun-21	100.0	99.3
	Jul-21	100.0	98.1
	Aug-21	100.0	98.3
	Sep-21	100.0	98.4
	Oct-21	100.0	98.4
	Nov-21	100.0	98.4
	Dec-21	100.0	98.4
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
	Mar-22		
ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	100.0	100.0
	2019/20	100.0	100.0
	2020/21	100.0	99.6
	2021/22	100.0	98.4



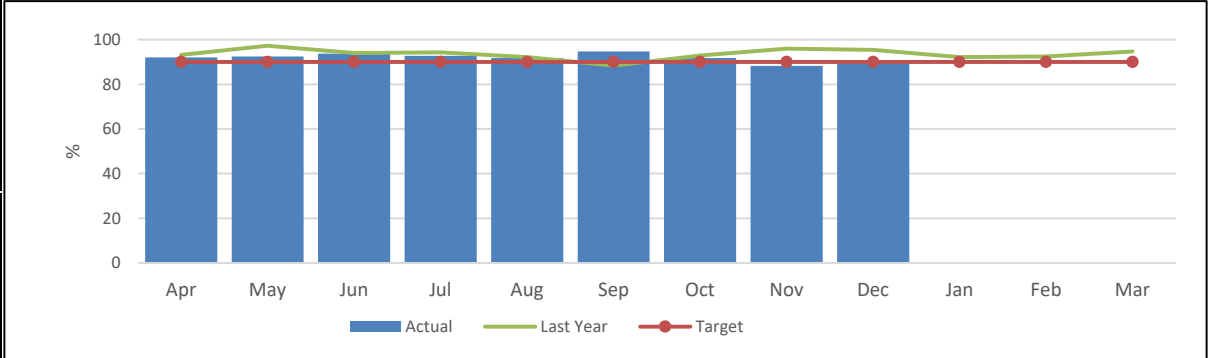
CHILDREN IN CARE - STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION	Percentage of Children in Care who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales and percentage of Children in Care's statutory visits completed within timescales each month and year to date.
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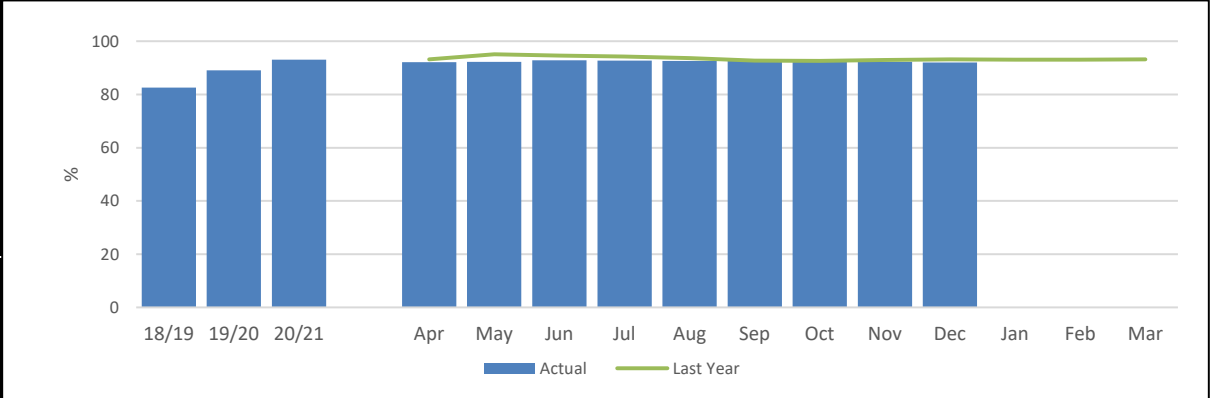
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	During Q3 2021/22, 89.8% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale. This is a small decrease compared with Q3 2020/21 when there were 93.1% of visits completed in timescale.
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CSC 260a	CSC 260b
% Child in Care statutory visits completed in timescale within the month	% Child in Care statutory visits completed in timescale year to date

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



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



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90	90
	Apr-21	92.1	92.1
	May-21	92.5	92.3
	Jun-21	93.7	92.8
	Jul-21	92.7	92.8
	Aug-21	91.7	92.6
	Sep-21	94.8	92.9
	Oct-21	91.7	92.7
	Nov-21	88.3	92.2
	Dec-21	89.4	92.0
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
Mar-22			
ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	82.6	82.6
	2019/20	89.0	89.0
	2020/21	93.1	93.1
	2021/22	89.4	92.0

CHILDREN IN CARE - PLACEMENTS

DEFINITION

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

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

10.0% of Children in Care, as at December 2021, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is at internal target (10.0%), and above the 6.7% as at December 2020.

Currently, 73.5% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is a lower percentage compared with December 2020 (76.1%) but still positively above the 68% target.

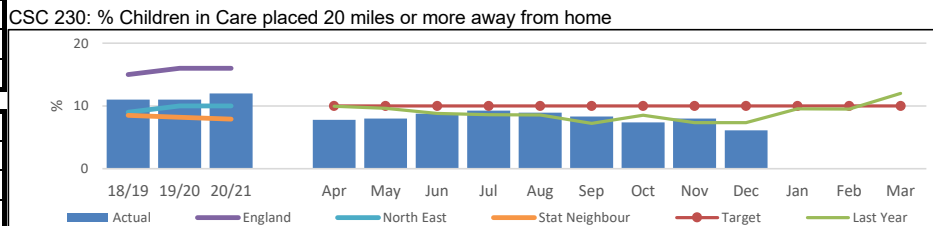
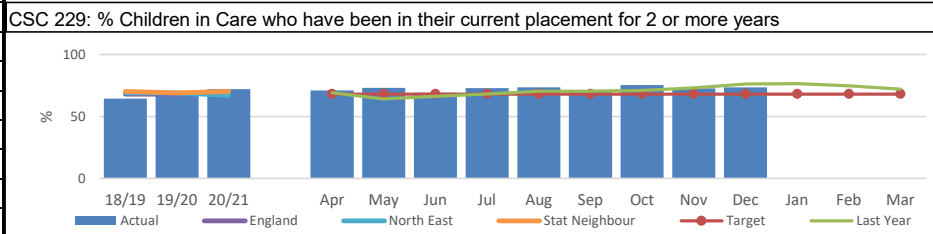
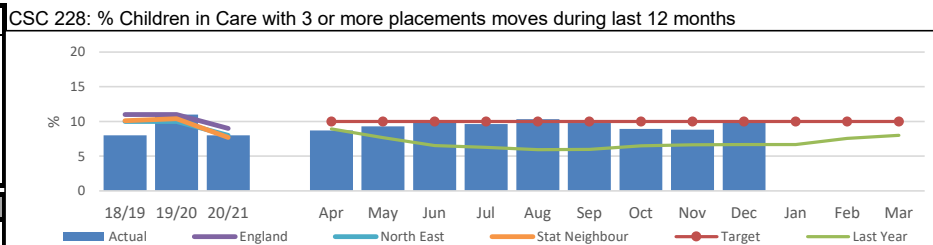
6.1% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at December 2021. This is positively below target of 10% and that of December 2020 (7.4%). All these placements have been confirmed by team managers to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.

Page 31

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

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	10%	68%	10%
	Apr-21	8.7	70.9	7.8
	May-21	9.3	73.0	8.0
	Jun-21	9.8	69.1	8.8
	Jul-21	9.6	72.9	9.2
	Aug-21	10.3	73.5	8.9
	Sep-21	9.8	69.8	8.3
	Oct-21	8.9	75.2	7.4
	Nov-21	8.8	72.7	8.0
	Dec-21	10.0	73.5	6.1
	Jan-22			
	Feb-22			
	Mar-22			

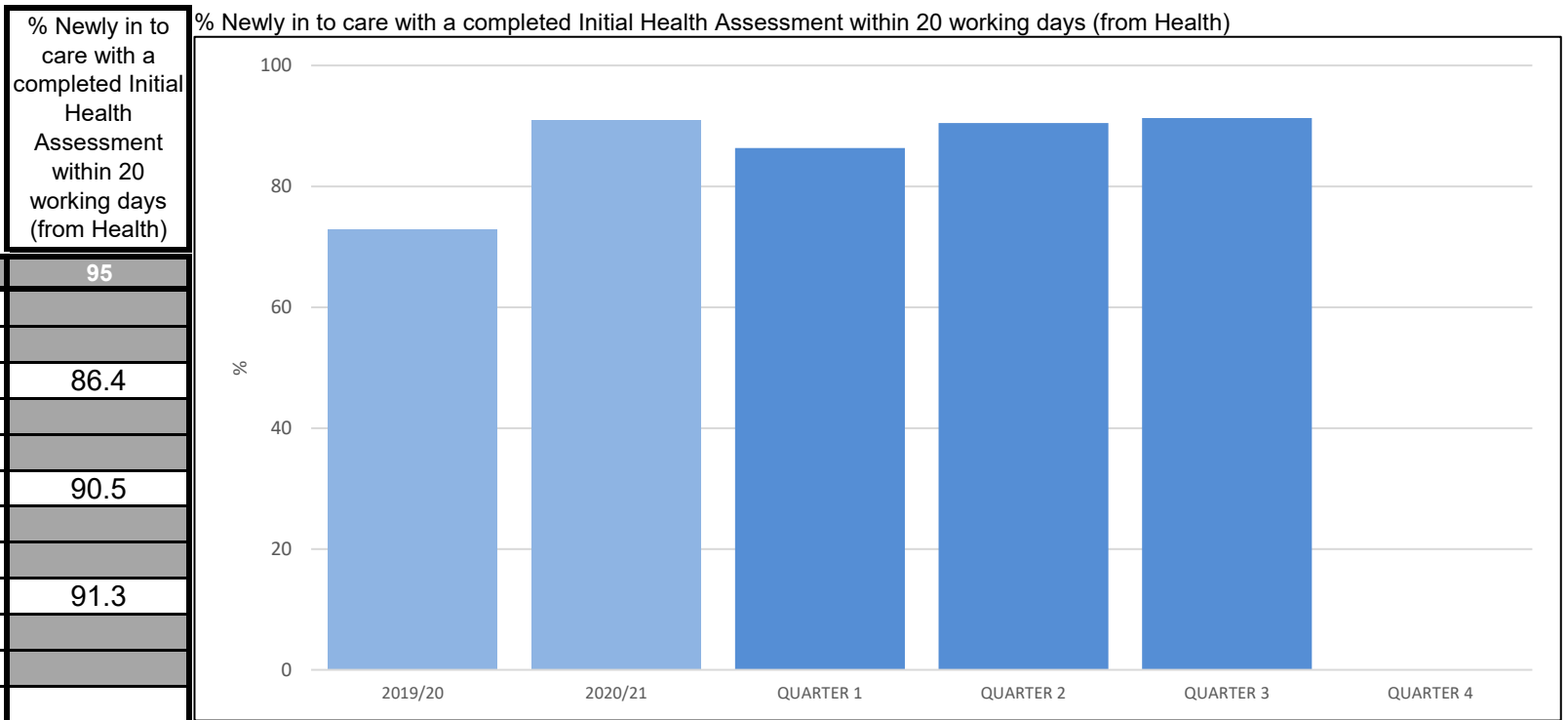
ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	8.0	64.4	11.0
	2019/20	11.0	70.0	11.0
	2020/21	8.0	72.0	12.0
	2021/22	10.0	73.5	6.1



CHILDREN IN CARE - INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child coming into our care year to date (data from Health), and percentage of IHA forms returned to Health within 7 working days.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 91.3% of children newly in care were seen by CDDFT within their timescale of 20 days during Q3 2021/22.



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE

Month	Target	Value
Apr-21	95	
May-21		
Jun-21	86.4	
Jul-21		
Aug-21		
Sep-21	90.5	
Oct-21		
Nov-21		
Dec-21	91.3	
Jan-22		
Feb-22		
Mar-22		

ANNUAL TREND

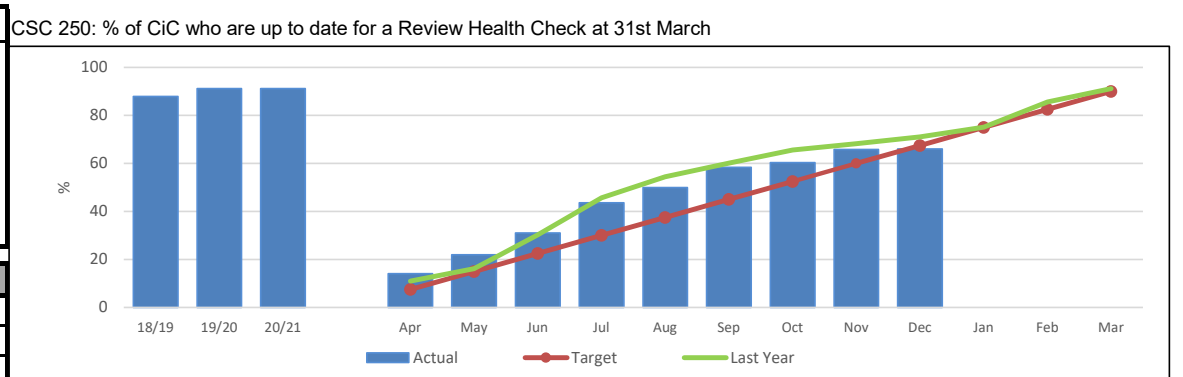
2018/19	86.2
2019/20	72.9
2020/21	90.9
2021/22	89.4%

CHILDREN IN CARE - HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

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

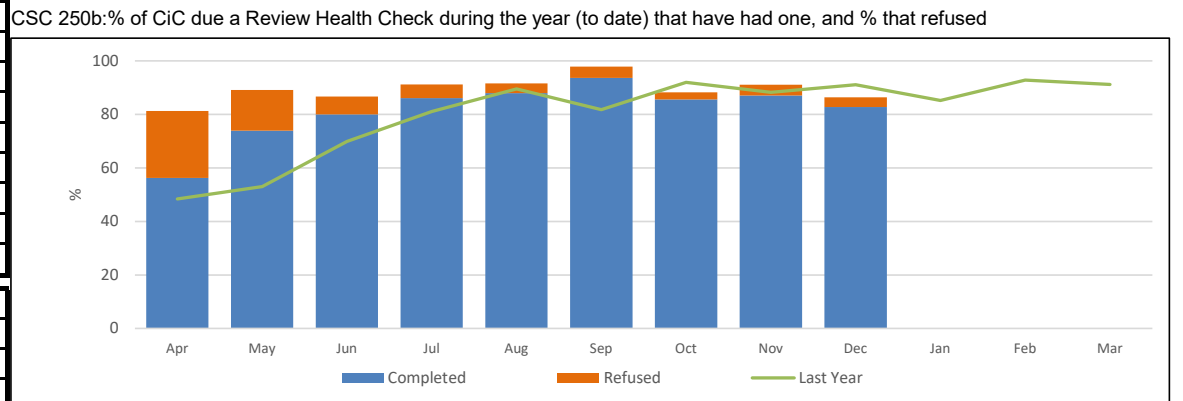
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 82.7% of children due a review health assessment by end of Q3 2021/22 have had one completed.
 Of the children who did not have a health review, 3.6% of them are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

CSC 250		CSC 250b
The % of CiC who have an up to date Health Checks (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March)	The % of CiC who were due a Review Health Check (year to date) who refused to engage	The % of Children in Care who were due a Review Health Check year to date and were completed and recorded



IN MONTH PERFORMANCE

Month	Target	90%	90%
Apr-21	14.1	25.0	56.3
May-21	22.0	15.2	73.9
Jun-21	31.0	6.7	80.0
Jul-21	43.6	5.1	86.1
Aug-21	50.0	3.6	88.0
Sep-21	58.4	4.2	93.7
Oct-21	60.4	2.7	85.6
Nov-21	65.8	4.0	87.1
Dec-21	66.0	3.6	82.7
Jan-22			
Feb-22			
Mar-22			



ANNUAL TREND

Year	90%	90%
2018/19	87.9	87.9
2019/20	91.2	93.3
2020/21	91.2	91.2
2021/22	66.0	82.7

CHILDREN IN CARE - DENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who had had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and the percentage who had had an annual health check during the previous 12 months.

Children in Care share many of the same health risks and problems as their peers, but often to a greater degree. These indicators track the participation of our Children in Care with dental checks as a proxy for monitoring the general health and wellbeing of the children, as well as providing a check on the effectiveness of joint working with Health to secure good health outcomes for Children in Care.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

80.4% of children due a dental check assessment by end of Q3 2021/22 have had one completed.

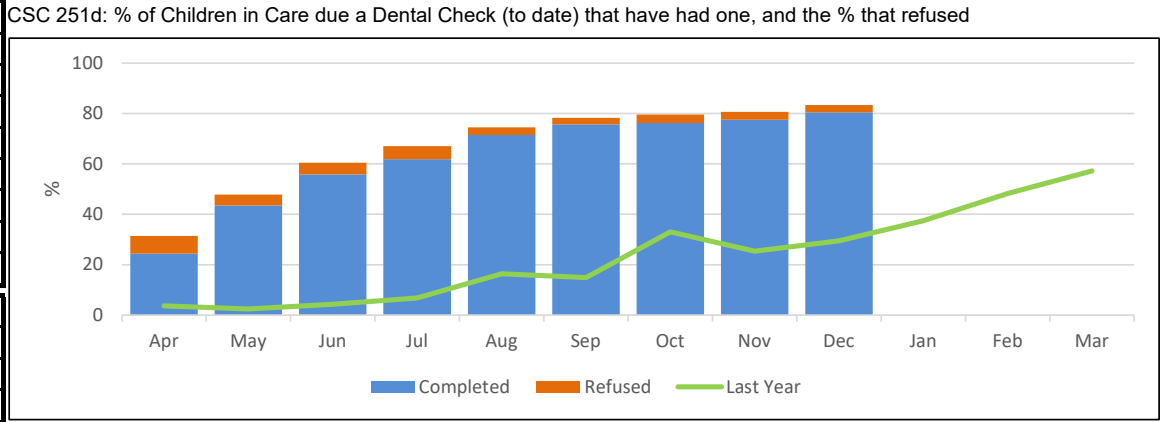
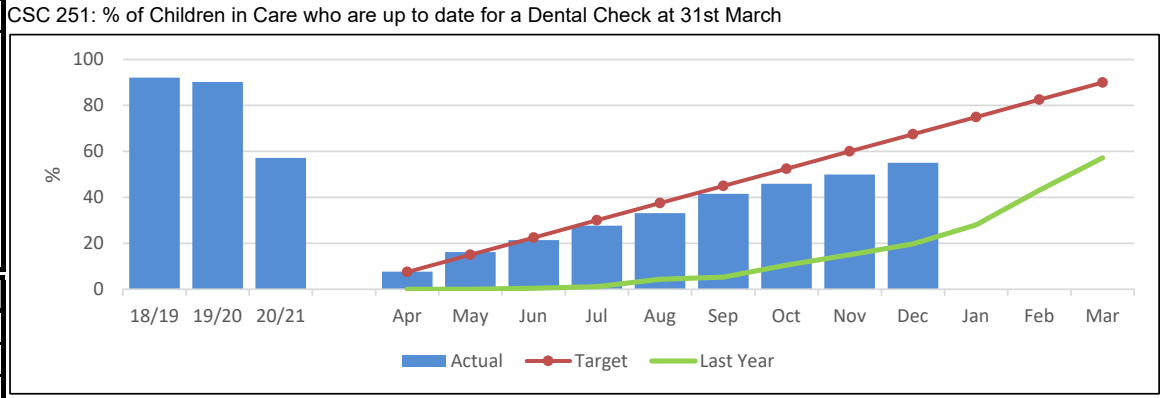
Of the children who did not have a dental check, 2.9% of them are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

Page 34

CSC 251		CSC 251d
The % of Children in Care with up to date Dental Checks (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March)	The % of Children in Care who were due a Dental Check (year to date) who refused to engage	The % of Children in Care who were due a Dental Check year to date and were up to date by the report date

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90%		90%	
	Apr-21	7.7	7.0		24.4
	May-21	16.2	4.3		43.5
	Jun-21	21.4	4.7		55.8
	Jul-21	27.7	5.2		61.9
	Aug-21	33.2	3.1		71.4
	Sep-21	41.6	2.6		75.7
	Oct-21	45.9	3.3		76.2
	Nov-21	50.0	3.1		77.5
	Dec-21	55.0	2.9		80.4
	Jan-22				
	Feb-22				
	Mar-22				

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	92.1		92.1
	2019/20	90.2	3.1	90.2
	2020/21	57.2	2.8	57.2
	2021/22	55.0	2.9	80.4



CARE LEAVERS

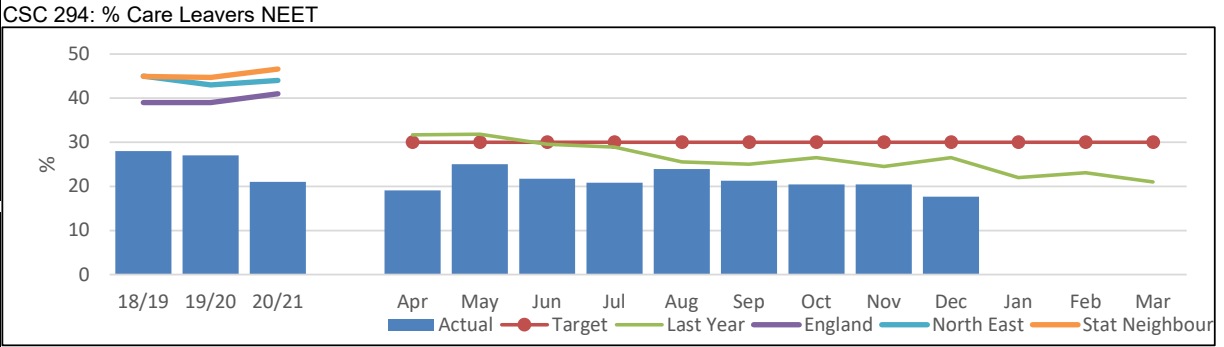
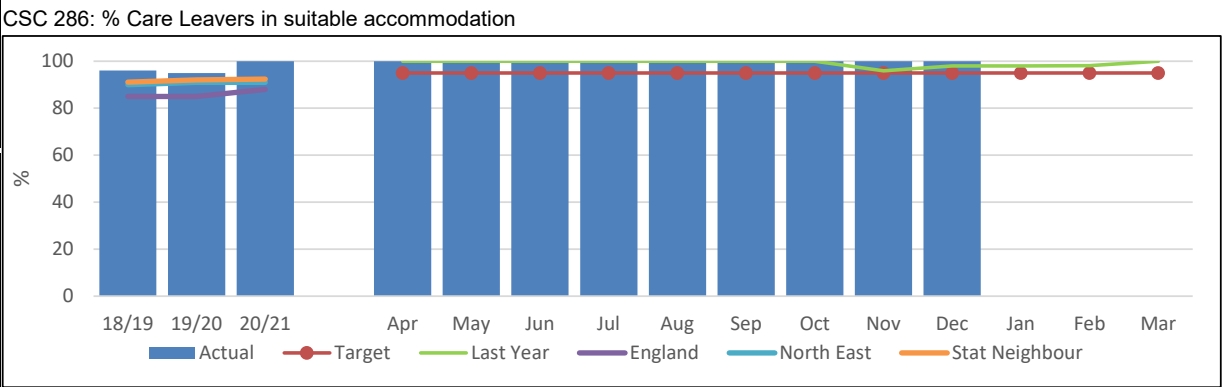
DEFINITION
 The percentage of 'former relevant' care leavers aged 19-21 who were in suitable accommodation at their most recent contact, and the percentage who were not in employment, education or training at their most recent contact. Published data is included for comparison however data submitted to DfE by Local Authorities captures the young person's status around their 19th, 20th, or 21st birthday each year rather than the latest available information. This measures accommodation and employment outcomes for young people formerly in care - a key group at risk of social exclusion. It is intended to increase the proportion of former care leavers who are in suitable accommodation and employment, education or training.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 100.0% of our care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of Q3 2021/22.
 Of the young people (aged 19-21) as of 31st December 2021 who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET);
 • 5.9% NEET because of illness or disability
 • 7.8% NEET because of other circumstances
 • 3.9% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.
 This equates to 17.6% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.
 19.6% of our care leavers were engaging in education (7.8% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 62.7% of care leavers were in training or employment.

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

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Target	90%	30%
	Apr-21	100.0	19.1
	May-21	100.0	25.0
	Jun-21	100.0	21.7
	Jul-21	100.0	20.8
	Aug-21	100.0	23.9
	Sep-21	100.0	21.3
	Oct-21	100.0	20.4
	Nov-21	100.0	20.4
	Dec-21	100.0	17.7
	Jan-22		
	Feb-22		
Mar-22			

ANNUAL TREND	2018/19	96.0	28.0
	2019/20	95.0	27.0
	2020/21	100.0	21.0
	2021/22	100.0	17.7



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**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY
25 APRIL 2022**

VULNERABLE PUPIL PANEL REVIEW

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To share with Members the work and impact of the Darlington Vulnerable Pupil Panel, a multi-agency panel, of which the Local Authority is a part.

Summary

2. The Vulnerable Pupil Panel (VPP) was created in 2019 to replace the previous arrangements of the Schools Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (SBAP). Since its inception the VPP has formed a dynamic multi-agency partnership which aims to avoid children disengaging from education due to any cause.
3. The VPP supports the Local Authority with the discharge of its statutory duties related to Fair Access admissions, and exclusions.
4. In the lifetime of the VPP there has been a reduction in permanent exclusion and persistent absence and the gap between all children and vulnerable groups has also reduced for both metrics.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) The contents of this report are noted by committee members.
 - (b) The Local Authority continues to support the operation of the Vulnerable Pupil Panel.
 - (c) Local partner agencies are encouraged to continue to support the work of the Vulnerable Pupil Panel.

Tony Murphy
Assistant Director of Education & Inclusion

Background Papers

Vulnerable Pupil Panel Protocol

Calvin Kipling: Extension 5581

S17 Crime and Disorder	Reduction of antisocial behaviour and increased engagement in education
Health and Wellbeing	
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	No direct impact
Diversity	Reducing impact of education disengagement by vulnerable groups
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Disadvantaged children of statutory school age
Budget and Policy Framework	DSG High Needs Block
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	Children and Young Peoples Plan
Efficiency	
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 Vulnerable Pupil Panel was created in 2018 to replace the previous arrangements of the Schools Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (SBAP). SBAP was structurally unsuited to enact legislative changes with respect to Admissions, Fair Access and Exclusion and a new approach was required.
7. In 2018 there were high rates of exclusion. The permanent exclusion rate in Darlington was 0.18 per 100 for all pupils and 0.23 for disadvantaged pupils and this was in 87th and 80th national percentile respectively. Fixed Term Exclusions (now Suspensions) were 6.07 per 100 for all pupils and 13.81 for disadvantaged pupils. Persistent absence was at national average at 10.7%, but slightly above national at 17.6% for disadvantaged groups.
8. The local authority has specific obligations in relation to exclusion from school. These are set out in this guidance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921405/20170831_Exclusion_Stat_guidance_Web_version.pdf

9. The Vulnerable Pupil Panel (VPP) was inaugurated to provide more structure and support to disadvantaged pupils. The VPP also supports the Local Authority in discharging its statutory duties related to exclusion. The VPP encompasses membership from a broader range of multi-agency partners than was previously the case with SBAP.
10. The membership includes the headteacher of every primary, secondary and special school (36 headteacher members and 6 Academy trust CEOs), Rise Carr College, Home & Hospital Teaching Service, Traveller Education and Achievement Service, Specialist Community Public Health Nurses, CAMHS, Durham and Darlington Police, Darlington Fire Service Arson Reduction Young People Coordinator, Community Resilience Officer. From DBC Assistant Director Education and Inclusion, Head of Children’s Services, Education Safeguarding Officer, SEND Inclusion Advisor, Education Information Officer, Head of Education Partnerships, Inclusion Lead Officer, Young People’s Engagement and Justice Service, Virtual School Headteacher, Head of SEND, ASB Civic Enforcement Operational Team Lead, ASB and Civic Enforcement Manager, Elective Home Education Advisor, Principal Educational Psychologist, Learning & Skills and Education Partnerships Quality Manager.
11. The VPP has developed its protocols over time. The current VPP protocol can be found in Appendix 1 The VPP enacts the statutory Fair Access Protocol for Darlington (FAP). It gate-keeps admissions to Home and Hospital Teaching Service, Rise Carr College and Clifton House. The VPP also co-ordinates and monitors managed moves between schools.
12. Every local authority must have a FAP in place. Once it is agreed with the majority of schools in its area, all admission authorities must participate in it. FAPs exist to ensure that vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty securing a school place in-year, are allocated a place as quickly as possible. Relevant guidance about FAP can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1012993/FAP_Guidance.pdf
13. The VPP operates on a case referral basis. Any partner can refer a child for consideration. A QA panel made up of partner representatives on a rota, determine if the referrals meet the thresholds set out in the protocol and proceed for discussion at the whole panel. Decisions are then taken by the whole panel, where a solution-focussed approach is taken by all partners.
14. Table showing the number of referrals received each year

Year	Referrals Considered	Managed Moves requested (successful)	Clifton House Placements	Home and Hospital Placements	Rise Carr College placements
2019/20	111	32 (19)	9	13	6
2020/21	144	31 (18)	11	12	13
2021/22 to date	66	20 (10)	7	7	7

15. In addition to the individual cases considered, the VPP collects intelligence from all partners about their work and emerging themes. This has included responses to COVID in relation to EHE return to school requests, a protocol on the response to possession of offensive weapons in schools, enhanced transition for vulnerable pupils, an exclusion working group and providing clarity on threshold for legal action in case of school absence.
16. The VPP has had some success in preventing disengagement from education. Persistent absence has improved to 9.8% and is 0.7% better than national for all pupils and 17.1% for disadvantaged pupils now 2.9% better than national. Both metrics have improved more rapidly than national and the gap has narrowed as a result of the work of the VPP. Overall absence for disadvantaged groups has remained static at 6.2% but the gap with national has improved by 0.5%.
17. Over time a significant number of potential exclusions have been avoided by as a result of access to the new provision as detailed above or by other services present at the VPP being alerted to the young person and providing or signposting additional support that maintained the current placement. A benefit of multiphase meeting has enabled families to be considered in the round and the impacts considered by a number of schools at once. It has also promoted continuity of relationships with children and families with primary colleagues and facilitated transition arrangements.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25 APRIL 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 2021/22 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. Members are requested to note the work programme and consider any additional items which they may wish to include.

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

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

Author: Allison Hill

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

5. 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.
6. 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’ .
7. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to the 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.
8. The vision for the Children and Young People portfolio is :

‘a borough where young people get the best start in life, can maximise their potential and are safe’

to maximise the potential of our young people by working with partners to maximise educational achievement; working to remove barriers to young people reaching their potential and working at a Tees Valley level to match jobs with skills and training.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

9. Any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims.
10. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

Review – Parent Care Forum Meeting with Members

1. At a meeting of this Scrutiny on 21 February 2022 Members agreed to establish a review of the Vulnerable Pupil Panel and a quad of aims was approved.
2. Prior to Scrutiny receiving a report on the Vulnerable Pupil Panel at the meeting scheduled for 25 April 2022 it was agreed that a fact finding meeting be arranged with families of the Darlington Parent Carer Forum.
3. On 16 March 2022 Councillors Crudass, Culley, C Hughes, Snedker and Willis attended a meeting with the Parent Carer Forum at the Darlington Arena and there were a number of issues discussed with the families and points raised and the Chair will update Members at this meeting.
4. We also requested that the Forum members provided this Scrutiny with their three top priorities.
5. Members are requested to consider the information provided and determine if any further action is to be taken.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation	Q3 25 April 2022 Q4 27 June 2022 Q1 31 Oct 2022 Q2 19 Dec 2022	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
Vulnerable Pupil Panel	25 April 2022	Tony Murphy/Calvin Kipling		To examine the mechanics of the vulnerable pupil panel and to learn about the process and what the scale of the attendance challenge is
Missing and Exploited Young People	27 June 2022	Alison Poulter		To provide Scrutiny with an update following concerns over the increase in numbers of missing
Children's Services Self-Assessment - Overview	5 September 2022	Chris Bell		To provide Scrutiny with the Annual Self-Assessment for Children's Services so that constructive 'critical friend' challenge takes place to drive improvement in public services
Children and Young People Public Health Overview	5 September 2022	Ken Ross	PBH 009 PBH 013c	Annual Monitoring

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
and Childhood Healthy Weight Plan			PBH 016 PBH 018 PBH 020 PBH 021 PBH 054	
Local Designated Officer Annual Report	5 September 2022	James Stroyan		To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned
Learning and Skills Service Annual Report	31 October 2022	Paul Richardson		Annual Report to demonstrate challenge
IRO Annual Report	31 October 2022	Martin Graham	CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer for Looked After Children
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	31 October 2022	Ann Baxter, Independent Chair		Annually monitoring
Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report 2021/22	31 October 2022	Vicky Davidson-Boyd, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley		Annual monitoring
Children and Young Peoples Plan	31 October 2022	Christine Shields		Annual Report
2022/23 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	27 February 2023	Tony Murphy/Nicola Davies		Annual Report

REVIEWS PENDING

<p>Autism Provision Review Group</p>	<p>Final Report to Health and Housing on 14 April 2021. Cross Party Joint Working Group to be established – ongoing.</p>	<p>Christine Shields</p>	<p>To review the provisions and services and contractual arrangements between this Council and our providers who provide the Autism provisions, diagnoses and support services for Darlington</p>
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MEMBER BRIEFINGS

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
<p>Tees Valley Combined Authority Education and Skills – Role and Funding</p>	<p>4 February 2022</p>	<p>Shona Duncan, Head of Employment, Education and Skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority</p>		<p>Joint presentation to CYP and Economy and Resources Scrutiny to receive specific information on the funding allocation as it relates to this authority and where the spend (adult education up to 28 years) is being focused.</p>
<p>Meet with Young People (Council or Schools Councils/Youth Partnership)</p>	<p>22 February 2022</p>	<p>Joanne Shutt</p>		

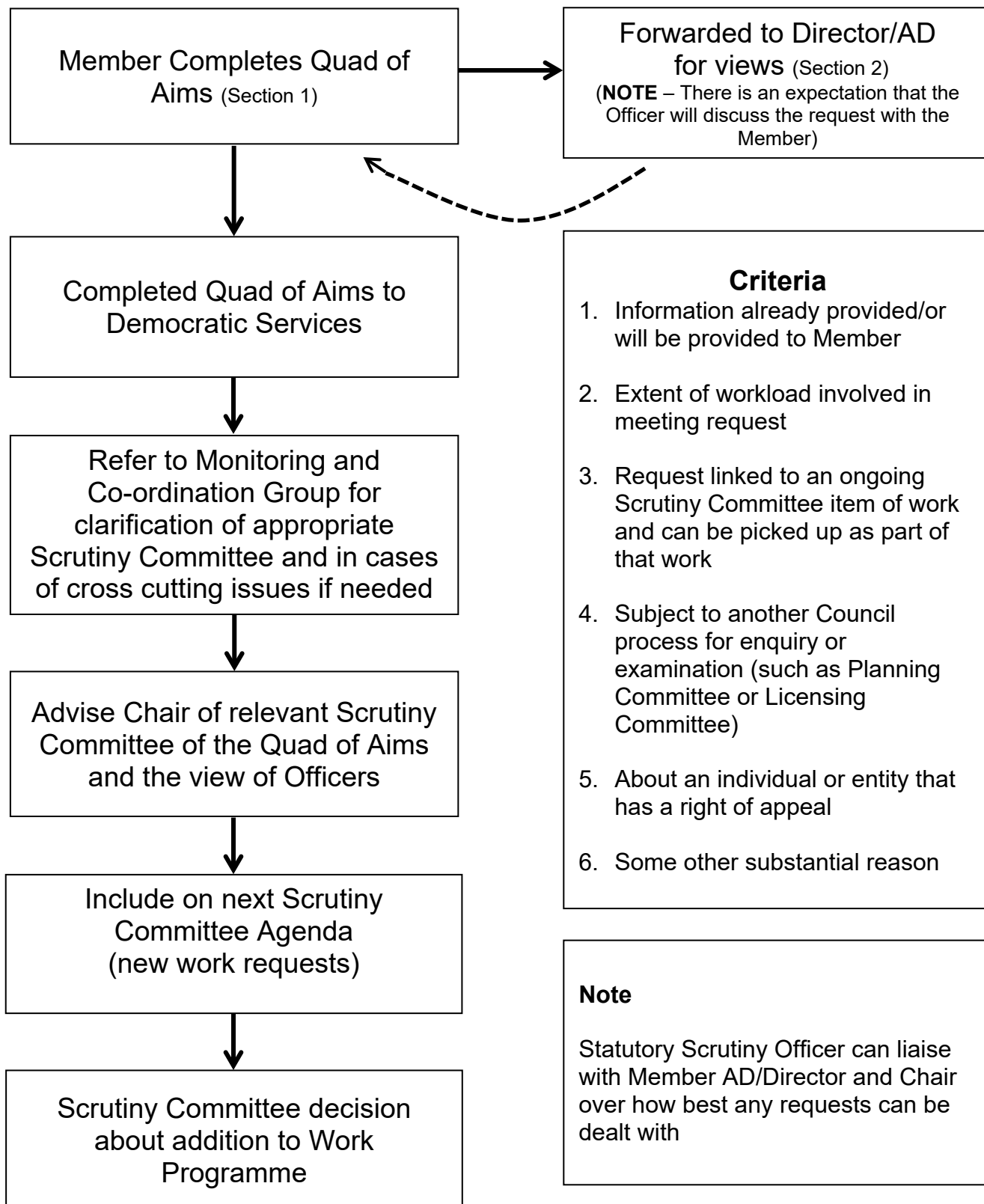
ARCHIVED ITEMS

Topic	When considered	Lead Officer	Scrutiny's Role
SEND - Outcomes for Parents following Covid-19	4 January 2021	Carla Scaith Darlington Parent Carer Forum	To continue to monitor SEND/ EHCPs. To receive the survey results from the Parent Carer Forum SEND Survey and to receive information relating to experiences of the Parent Carer Forum.
Trauma and Horizon Scanning	23 August 2021	Paige Thomason/ Martin Webster	To examine how Children's Services are starting to embed and respond to Trauma.
Looked After Children Off-framework.	23 August 2021	Jane Kochanowski	To examine the current situation with those placed off framework, commissioning of accommodation and costs
Adoptive Services	Item request approved by Scrutiny at the meeting held on 29 June 2020 – Not progressed	Vicky Davidson-Boyd	To examine how the Regional Adoption Agency is serving Darlington and to examine how the Coronavirus Pandemic has affected adoption
Early Help services available for new mothers	20 December 2021	Joanne Benson	To examine services available post and pre pandemic
Developing Darlington Care Collective	20 December 2021	Christine Shields/Martin Webster	To provide an Update on the Care Collective
Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26	Special 10 January 2022	Elizabeth Davison	To consider the MTFP 2022/23 to 2025/26 and make any views, and in particular, those in relation to those services and finances which are specifically within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee

Accessibility Strategy	21 February 2022	Tony Murphy/ Eleanor Marshall	Progress to date in respect of the review of the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Accessibility Strategy 2017-2020
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PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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?

Page 52

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)

	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?	

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Signed **Position** **Date**

Page 54

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 2 MARCH 2022 - 31 JULY 2022**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
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
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Annual Procurement Plan 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Disposal of Land at Haughton Road, Darlington	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village Development	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Schedule of Transactions - April	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Council Chamber Refurbishment	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Restoration of Locomotion No 1 Replica	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Special Educational Needs (SEND) Accessibility Strategy 2021/24	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Housing Management Policy	Cabinet 14 Jun 2022
Public Space Protection Order – Darlington Town Centre	Cabinet 14 Jun 2022
Representation on Other Bodies 2022/23	Cabinet 14 Jun 2022
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2021-22	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Council Plan Performance Report 2021/22 – Quarters 3 and 4	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Outturn 21/22	
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23 - Quarter 1	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Revenue Budget Outturn 2020/21	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 - Quarter 1	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022