



**DARLINGTON**

Borough Council

# Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Monday, 19 June 2023

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington. DL1 5QT

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

1. Introductions/ Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/2024
3. Appointment of Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/2024
4. To consider the times of meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/2024 on the dates agreed in the Calendar of Meetings by Cabinet at Minute C258/Feb/23
5. Declarations of Interest
6. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2023 (Pages 3 - 8)
7. Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2022/23 –  
Report of the Group Director of People  
(Pages 9 - 38)
8. The Government Response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care –  
Report of the Assistant Director Children's Services  
(Pages 39 - 44)
9. SEND Written Statement of Action –  
Report of the Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion  
(Pages 45 - 84)

10. Work Programme 2023-2024 –  
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance  
(Pages 85 - 96)
11. 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
12. Questions



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

**Friday, 9 June 2023**

**Town Hall**  
**Darlington.**

**Membership**

Councillors Ali, Allen, Crudass, Dillon, Durham, Johnson, Layton, Renton, Storr and Toms.

**Statutory Co-optees**

Carly Stonier.

**Non Statutory Co-optees**

Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Janet Woodcock, John Armitage and Sally Hudson.

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

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 27 February 2023

**PRESENT** – Councillors Crudass (Chair), C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, Snedker and Willis.

**STATUTORY CO-OPTES** – None

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTES** – None

**APOLOGIES** – Carly Stonier, John Armitage and Sally Hudson.

**ABSENT** – Councillors Ali, Bell, Lucas, Preston, Sowerby, Maura Regan, Tim Fisher and Janet Woodcock.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Ella Long, The Play Hut Day Nursery and Amanda Summers, All Saints Blackwell Pre- School (Members of the Darlington Early Years Education Strategy).

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Chris Bell (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion), Christine Shields (Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation), Helen Ellison (Head of Education Partnerships), Martin Graham (Head of Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer).

### CYP32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

### CYP33 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 DECEMBER AND THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2023

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 December 2022 and the Special Meeting held on 9 January 2023.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 December 2022 and the Special Meeting held on 9 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### CYP34 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REVIEW 2022/23

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the findings of the 2022-23 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 however since the pandemic the picture had become more complex and less predictable.

The most up-to-date census data showed that the total supply of pre-school places (FTE) in the borough in Spring 2022 was 2,476 and the demand for pre-school places (number of children) was 1,719. There is no overall lack of childcare sufficiency in the borough however it was noted that this supply may vary across wards.

It was also reported that feedback from the childcare sector was that registered holiday provision (not run by schools) was experiencing a decline in take-up and it was unclear yet whether hybrid working was affecting take-up; there had been a slight increase in the number of school registered out of school and breakfast clubs; the number of registered childminders had declined by 19 per cent since Autumn 2021; from Spring 2022, some private day nurseries had reported an increase in demand for baby places; and there had been a drop in the take-up rate for 2 year olds accessing an Early Years Entitlement place in the Summer 2022 term and a decline in children accessing a Universal Entitlement place in Autumn 2022.

The local authority continued to work with the sector through the Early Years Education Strategy Group and support continued to be provided to the childcare sector via: regular guidance up-dates, virtual and face to face network meetings, public health provider briefings, monthly drop in sessions with public health, 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 local providers had indicated that recruitment and retention was an issue in a Childcare Recruitment and Retention survey which was carried out October 2021; and during 2022 early years funding audits had taken place with 13 of the 27 day nurseries and pre-schools in the borough where Managers also confirmed that recruitment and retention were affecting their business.

In October 2022, the Early Years Team attended the Darlington Jobs Fair to promote childcare as a career and also to ensure people were aware that if they needed childcare to enable them to work, there was help available with childcare costs, such as Families' Tax Credit.

Ella long from The Play Hut Day Nursery and Amanda Summers from All Saints Blackwell Pre School attended the meeting to share their views and also on the work they are involved with as part of the Darlington Early Years Education Strategy.

Members questioned how the Council can help raise awareness of the support and assistance available to families and discussed the on-going work to promote assistance with the cost of childcare and Early Years Entitlements and in particular Tax Free Childcare which in a mini survey of parents/carers at Beaumont Hill Academy revealed that 62 per cent of respondents said they had not heard of schemes to support childcare costs such as Tax Free Childcare and the Universal Credit Childcare Offer.

Members also discussed the increased costs of living and its effect on both families and the childcare sector; the on-going difficulties in recruitment and retention of staff within the sector and what was being done within the authority to promote childcare as a career; the reducing numbers of childminders which was a national issue and discussed the various reasons for the decline in numbers; discussed the general underfunding within childcare; and Members raised their concerns at the costs of childcare for those children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) and the difficulties in accessing SEND funding.

Members agreed with the priorities for the Local Authority to continue to provide parents with up to date information about financial assistances towards children care costs, including any available tax credits; to work with settings and other interested stakeholders to continually improve the quality of care and make settings/activities more inclusive; and to assist childcare providers by providing information on matters relating to funding and sustainability.

**RESOLVED** – That the information the findings of the 2022-23 Childcare Sufficiency Review be noted.

#### **CYP35 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22 AND THE CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an overview of the work by the Independent Reviewing Officer Service in relation to Looked After Children and Children who are the subject of Child Protection Conferences and / or multi-agency Child Protection Plans; and to consider the Annual Reports of the Independent Reviewing Officer for 2021/22 and the Child Protection Conference Chair for 2021/22.

The Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2021/22 was a requirement under the statutory guidance and covers the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer which is a defined role that relates to Children Looked After; and the Child Protection Conference Chair Annual Report 2021/22 covers the role of the conference chair in relation to children who are in need of safeguarding and the statutory requirements are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018).

It was highlighted that for the period April 2021 to March 2022, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, formal meetings, which in previous years would have been face to face, had been conducted using virtual platforms. This applied to all Child Protection Conferences, Child Looked After Review, and most of the contact with children, young people, and their families.

The submitted report also provided information on the role of the IRO's, the statutory and

non-statutory functions that the service is responsible for; outlined the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans at 31 March; management and quality assurance; workload allocation; training and development; registration and accreditation; and highlighted the actions scheduled for 2022/23.

Members discussed the actions for 2022/23 and the ways in which the authority plan to increase the number of children who attend their Child Looked After Review; discussed advocacy services available for Children Looked After and in particular how the authority planned to increase uptake of advocacy services for those children and young people who were subject of Child Protection Conferences; and the improvements to the Independent Reviewing Officer footprint since the 2018 Ofsted inspection by the introduction of the Liquid Logic system.

**RESOLVED** – That the annual reports of the Independent Reviewing Officer and Child Protection Conference Chair for 2021/22 be noted.

### **CYP36 THE REFRESHED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN 2023-2028**

The Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation submitted a report (previously circulated) to consider the proposals for the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023 – 2028.

It was reported that although the plan was no longer a statutory requirement, the production of a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) as a strategic plan for delivering outcomes for children and young people and the setting of priorities for the medium term was considered to be best practice.

It was noted that the development of the refreshed five-year Plan had taken place with input from a wide range of stakeholders including children and young people; young carers; health; police; the voluntary sector, and schools; and the Plan will need to be delivered within existing resources, maximising partnership working to deliver the refreshed Plan, and use every opportunity, where possible, to attract additional funding.

The refreshed CYPP will be completed and launched in Spring 2023 and progress against the refreshed CYPP will be managed through the Health and Well Being Board.

Members supported the Plan and acknowledged the key themes of the Plan drawn from feedback with face to face consultation with local schools and colleges, the Darlington Youth Partnership, the Youth Member of Parliament and engagement with key stakeholders which included children and young people's mental health and wellbeing; cyber bullying and suicide rates; the impact of young people awaiting a diagnosis for autism from the CAMHS service; and child poverty and the impact of hardship on families and their children.

**RESOLVED** – That the proposals for the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023 – 2028 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.

**RESOLVED** – That the work programme be noted.

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## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 19 June 2023

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### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 3 2022/23

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#### Purpose of the Report

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

#### Summary

2. This report provides performance information (October 2022 – December 2022) 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. 85.8% of referrals received in Q3 2022/23 were completed within 1 working day. This is an increase when compared with 67.1% in Q3 2021/22 and relates to double the number of referrals. Although this is still below our 90% target, we have seen a continued improvement over the timeliness of referrals since the start of this reporting year. 0.4% Referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2022/23 which is performing ahead of our 5% target.
6. 97 children were supported by a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2022. This is an increase compared to the 88 children who were supported by a CP plan at the end of December 2021. Darlington currently has a of 42.9 rate per 10,000 population for children on a CP plan.
7. 100% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 100% of Children in Care (CiC) have an allocated social worker.
8. 100% of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 98.1% of Children in Care (CiC) had their reviews completed within timescale.
9. No child ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q3 2022/23 who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years, positively reducing our cumulative performance measure to below target (5%) to 2.6%. As of December 2022, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 18 months.

10. 2 children became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending in Q3 2022/23, this has still positivity reduced our cumulative performance measure compared to last quarter to 7.7%.
11. 314 Children were in our care at the end of December 2022, 18 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
12. 23.8% of the children ceasing to be in our care did so due to being returned home to a parent, 52.4% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative and 23.8% turned 18 years and progressed to a care leaver.
13. 88.0% of children due a review health assessment by December 2022 have had one completed. 52.2% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by December 2022 have had one completed. The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks has decreased throughout the year, with 2.7% refusing their health review and 1.4% 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.
14. 21.8% of our care Leavers, aged 19-21 and 25.5% of our care leavers, aged 22-25, years were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) in December 2022, which is positivity below target of 30%. 98.2% of care leavers aged 19-21 and 98.0% aged 22-25, were in suitable accommodation.
15. 58.2% of our care leavers, aged 19-21 and 66.7% of our care leavers, aged 22-25 were in training or employment as of December 2022, and 20.0% of those aged 19-21 were engaging in education, 12.7% in studies beyond A level with 7.8% of those aged 22-25 years also engaging in education all are in studies beyond A level.

Where do we need to improve?

16. 20.3% of the children referred in Q3 2022/23 have been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral. This is an increase in re-referrals compared to Q3 2021/22, Q3 2020/21 and Q3 2019/20. This increase is likely to relate to receiving double the number of referrals during this quarter compared to the previous 3 years.
17. 65.3% of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in Q3 2022/23. We have seen a reduction in the timeliness of the written aspect of the assessments, however it is of note that we are seeing an increase in the number of assessments required compared to previous quarters (438 assessment completed in Q3 2022/23, 247 in Q3 2021/22, 215 in Q3 2020/21 and 204 in Q3 2019/20).
18. 65.7% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, in Q3 2022/23. Work is ongoing to incorporate systems of process to aid the reduction in late requests for conferences.

19. 63.3% of children received a statutory CP visit within 10 working days in Q3 2022/23. This is negatively below the internal target of 90%.
20. 78.4% of statutory CiC visits were completed within timescale in Q3 2022/23. This is negatively below our internal target of 90%.
21. 14.0% of our Children in Care, as of December 2022, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months, which is negatively above our internal target (10%).
22. 63.8% 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 as of December 2022, which is negatively below our internal target (68%).
23. 12.8% of our Children in Care have needed to be placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2022. This is negatively above target of 10% but all 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.

## Recommendation

24. It is recommended:

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

**James Stroyan**  
**Group Director of People**

## Background papers

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

Author: Sharon Raine Head of Performance and Transformation: Extension 6091

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.
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 & Practice Report**

## **QUARTER 3 - October - December 2022**

### **Scrutiny**

# Scrutiny

## Q3 2022-23 Performance Summary

**Referrals:** 85.8% of referrals received in Q3 2022/23 were completed within 1 working day. This is an increase when compared with 67.1% in Q3 2021/22 and relates to double the number of referrals. Although this is still below our 90% target, we have seen a continued improvement over the timeliness of referrals since the start of this reporting year. 0.4% Referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2022/23 which is performing ahead of our 5% target.

**Re-Referrals:** 20.3% of the children referred in Q3 2022/23 have been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral. This is an increase in re-referrals compared to Q3 2021/22, Q3 2020/21 and Q3 2019/20. This increase is likely to relate to receiving double the number of referrals during this quarter compared to the previous 3 years.

**Early Help:** 456 Early Help Assessments were started in Q3 2022/23, 12.1% of which were started by an external agency.

**Missing:** Of the children and young people who were reported missing from home, 92.8% have been offered a return home interview within the 72-hour timescale in Q3 2022/23. Where the co-ordinator cannot engage the child or young person, discussions take place with parents, carers, teachers or social workers to offer insight around reducing the missing episodes. Of those who went missing, 29.1% were a Child in Care accounting for 54.4% of the missing episodes.

**Children & Families Assessments:** 438 children had a single assessment carried out in Q3 2022/23, this continues to be a large increase on previous years, with 247 completed in Q3 2021/22, 215 in Q3 2020/21 and 204 in Q3 2019/20. Social workers completed 65.3% of the C&F assessments within timescale in Q3 2022/23. This is significantly below our internal target of 90%. The increase in the number of assessments being required has had a negative effect on the timeliness of completion on the system, our frontline social workers are often prioritising visiting families; undertaking duty visits or supporting in a crisis; resulting in the written completion of assessments being delayed. Plans are in place to give social workers the dedicated time to complete outstanding tasks also overtime has been offered to support this. In the longer-term, discussions with our business support colleagues have commenced to explore how they can relieve some of the administrative pressures on social workers and their managers.

**Section 47 Enquiries:** 77 section 47 enquires were started in Q3 2022/23 involving 170 children.

**Child Protection Conference timeliness:** 65.7% of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding children who were transferred-in conference, in Q3 2022/23.

**Child Protection Plans:** 97 children were supported by a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2022. This is an increase compared to the 88 children who were supported by a CP plan at the end of December 2021. Darlington currently has a of 42.9 rate per 10,000 population for children on a CP plan.

100.0% of CP cases were allocated to a social worker and all the CP reviews were carried out in timescale. No child ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q3 2022/23 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years, meeting our cumulative performance measure target of (5%) with 2.6%. As of December 2022, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 2 years. At the end of December 2022, 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 7.7%, above the 6% target.

**Child Protection Statutory visits:** 63.3% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q3 2022/23 and 86.8% of the visits were completed within 15 working days. The capacity of social workers to make regular visits has been impacted on during 2022/23 due to rising workloads. This has resulted in other social workers assisting in carrying out visits but has also resulted in delays in updating the system. Changes have been made to case allocation for the A&S teams based on the child's location. This aims to help reduce travel times and times away from the office, which in time will improve the performance of visit recording.

**Children in Care:** 314 children were in care as of December 2022, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. During Q3 2022/23 a total of 49 children came into the care of DBC, 6 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, 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. 98.1% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales in Q3 2022/21.

**Children in Care Statutory visits:** 78.4% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q3 2022/23. The capacity of social workers to ensure time to update visit recording has been impacted on during 2022/23 due to rising workloads. Changes have been made to case allocation for the A&S teams based on the child's location. This aims to help reduce travel times and times away from the office, which in time will improve the performance of visit recording.

**Children in Care Placements:** 14.0% of Children in Care (CiC), as of December 2022, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. 63.8% 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. 12.8% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2022. 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 is not available within 20 miles.

**Initial Health Assessments:** We are awaiting the official data from CDDFT to confirm the percentage of the children, that came into our care in Q3 2022/23, had a health appointment within 20 days.

**Health and Dental Reviews:** 88.0% of children due a review health assessment by December 2022 have had one completed. 52.2% of Children in Care, that were due a dental check assessment by December 2022 have had one completed.

The percentage of children who have refused their medical checks has decreased throughout the year, with 2.7% refusing their health review and 1.4% 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:** 98.2% of care leavers (aged 19-21) were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2022 with 1 young person in custody. The percentage of care leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to exceed the target set of 30% at 21.8% at the end of December 2022. 20.0% of young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (12.7% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 58.2% young people were in training or employment (27.3% in full time, 30.9% in part time).



## 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

In Q3 2022/23, 85.8% of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is an increase when compared with 67.1% in Q3 2021/22 and relates to double the number of referrals. Although this is still below our 90% target, we have seen a continued improvement over the timeliness of referrals since the start of this reporting year.

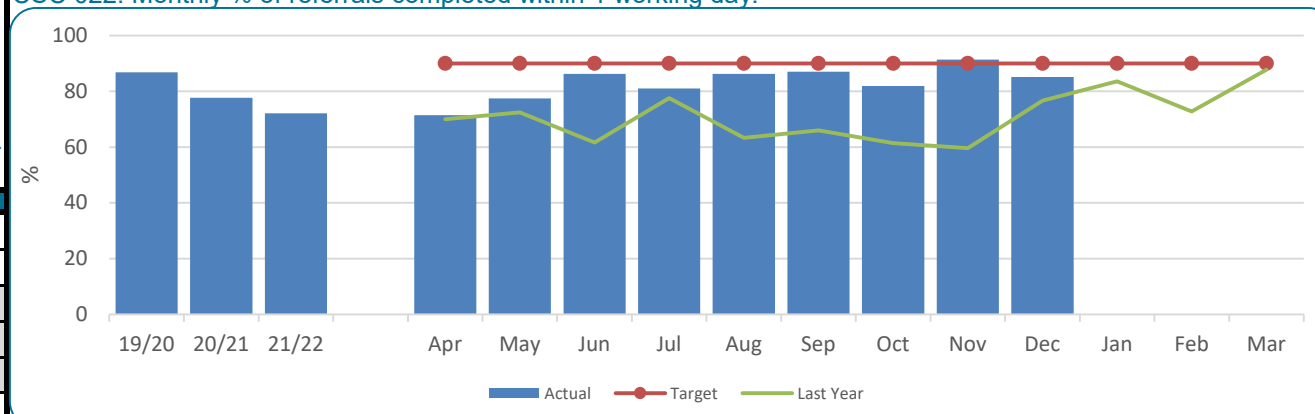
0.4% Referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2022/23 which is performing ahead of our 5% target.

CSC 022 CSC 026

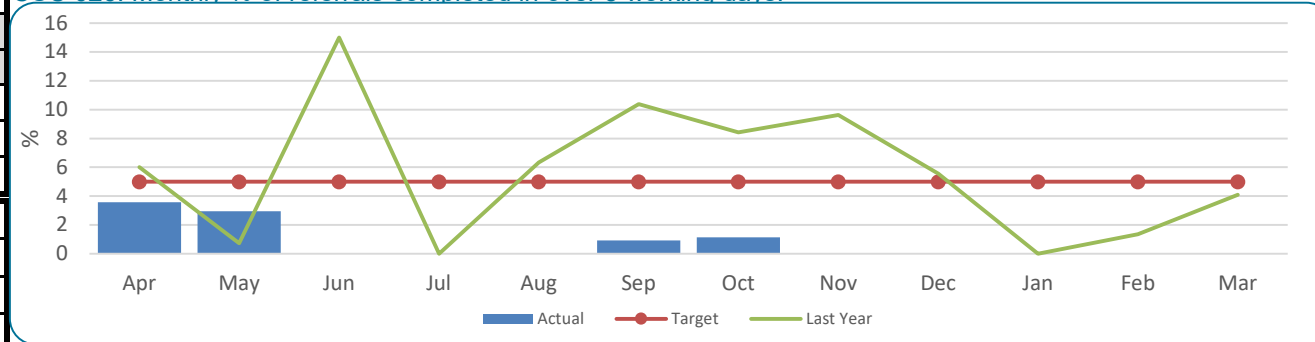
Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.

Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.

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



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



In Month Performance	Target	90%	5%
	Apr-22	71.4	3.6
	May-22	77.5	2.9
	Jun-22	86.2	
	Jul-22	81.1	
	Aug-22	86.3	
	Sep-22	87.0	0.9
	Oct-22	81.9	1.1
	Nov-22	91.4	
	Dec-22	85.1	
	Jan-23		
	Feb-23		
	Mar-23		
Annual Trend	2019/20	86.8	1.6
	2020/21	77.7	4.7
	2021/22	72.1	5.6
	2022/23	83.6%	0.8%

## REFERRALS: RE-REFERRALS

### DEFINITION

Percentage of re-referrals that are received within 12 months of a previous referral (based on referral start dates and in line with DfE definition).  
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

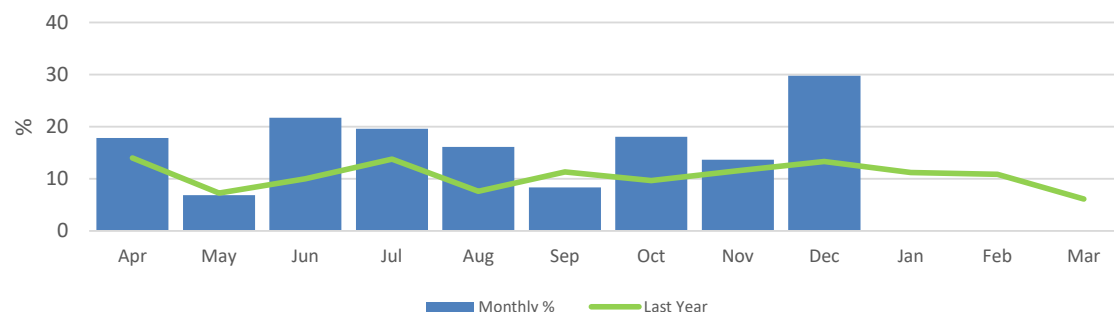
20.3% of the children referred during Q3 2022/23 have been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral. This is an increase in re-referrals compared to Q3 2021/22, Q3 2020/21 and Q3 2019/20. This increase is likely to relate to receiving double the number of referrals during this quarter compared to the previous 3 years.

Cumulatively we are still achieving our internal 18% target with 17.5% of the referrals being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting.

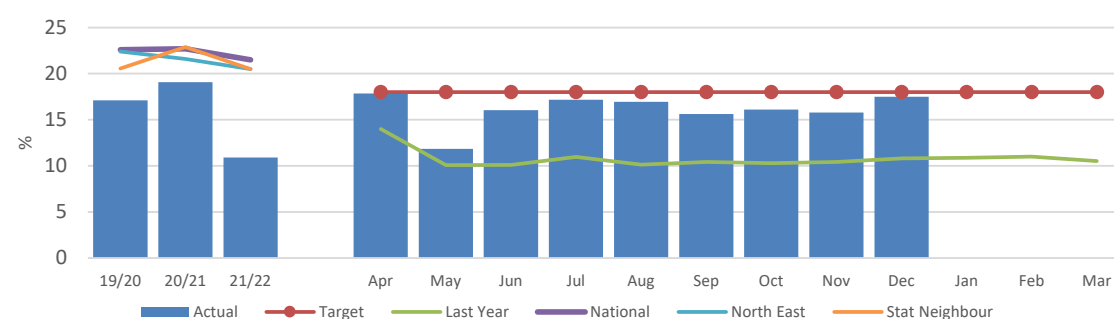
CSC 034 CSC 032

	Target	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)
			18%	
In Month Performance	Apr-22	15	17.9	17.9
	May-22	7	11.8	6.9
	Jun-22	30	16.1	21.7
	Jul-22	29	17.2	19.6
	Aug-22	20	17.0	16.1
	Sep-22	9	15.6	8.3
	Oct-22	32	16.1	18.1
	Nov-22	19	15.8	13.7
	Dec-22	42	17.5	29.8
	Jan-23			
	Feb-23			
	Mar-23			
Annual Trend	2019/20	171	17.1	
	2020/21	143	19.1	
	2021/22	106	10.9	
	2022/23	203	17.5	

% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)



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



## EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

### DEFINITION

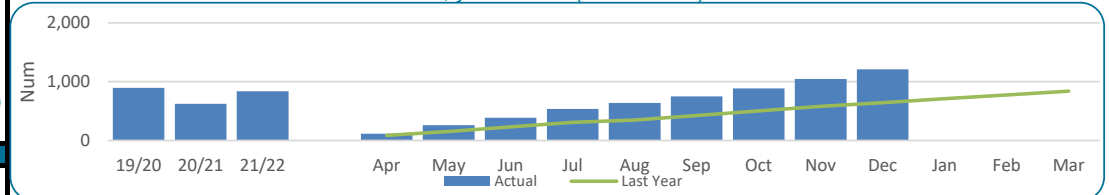
The number of individual Early Help Assessments (EHA) started in month and year to date, including those initiated by external agencies. The start date of the EHA is taken from the form created date in Liquid Logic and the start date of the external EHA is taken from the contact date when the agency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

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

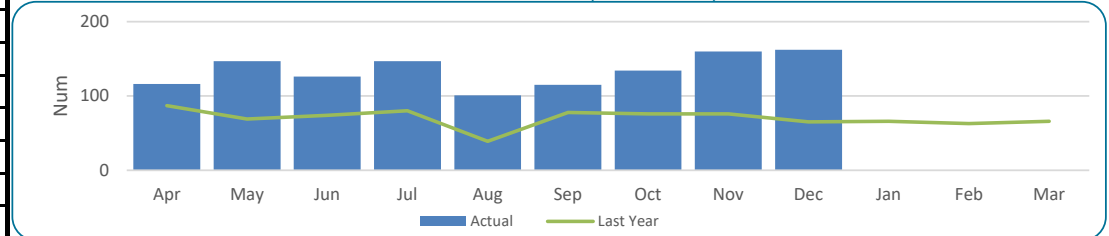
456 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q3 2022/23, 12.1% of which were initiated by external agencies. This is an increase on Q3 2021/22 (217 EHA's) but with a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (22.6%).

		CSC 002		CSC 001	
		Total number of individual EHA's started in month (inc. external)	Number and percentage of the EHA's initiated by external agencies per month	Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external)	
In Month Performance	Target			TBC	
	Apr-22	116	24	20.7%	116
	May-22	147	20	13.6%	263
	Jun-22	126	22	17.5%	389
	Jul-22	147	25	17.0%	536
	Aug-22	101	2	2.0%	637
	Sep-22	115	9	7.8%	752
	Oct-22	134	16	11.9%	886
	Nov-22	160	21	13.1%	1,046
	Dec-22	162	18	11.1%	1,208
	Jan-23				
	Feb-23				
	Mar-23				
Annual Trend	2019/20	893	265	29.7%	893
	2020/21	623	127	20.4%	623
	2021/22	839	161	19.2%	839
	2022/23	1,208	157	13.0%	1,208

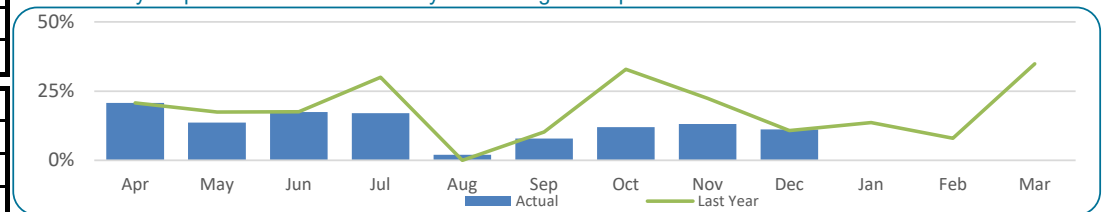
CSC 001: Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external)



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



% of the Early Help Assessments initiated by external agencies per month



**MISSING: EPISODES****DEFINITION**

The number of episodes of children going missing in Darlington, including Children in Care.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

The total number of missing episodes in Q3 2022/23 was 125 involving 55 individual children and young people. This is a reduction on the missing episodes recorded in Q2 2022/23 (245 involving 67 individual CYP). Excluding children open to another LA this equates to 102 missing episodes involving 41 children and young people.

Our CiC young people continue to dominate the number of missing episodes and with 16 of the 55 children accounting for over half of all the missing episodes (68 / 125).

77.6% (97) of the 125 missing episodes had a duration of less than 12 hours from being reported, to the child being located and returned home. 4.8% (6) of the episodes lasted over 72 hours.

In Q3 2022/23, Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) have been offered in 98.9% of the cases, 92.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 72.2% of the children engaged in their RHI. Each are a performance improvement when compared to Q2 2022/23.

CSC 215

CSC 246

		Total number of missing episodes and children involved in month		Missing - Children in Care with DBC		Of which are in a placement more than 20 miles from home	
		Episode	Child	Episode	Child	Episode	Child
<b>In Month Performance</b>	Apr-22	57	27	33	6		
	May-22	62	31	29	9		
	Jun-22	86	38	45	10	1	1
	Jul-22	80	32	47	12		
	Aug-22	96	29	53	11		
	Sep-22	69	27	37	6		
	Oct-22	52	26	32	10	1	1
	Nov-22	45	29	20	7		
	Dec-22	28	15	16	5		
	Jan-23						
	Feb-23						
	Mar-23						
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2019/20	351	136	129	24	32	10
	2020/21	370	152	107	30	15	4
	2021/22	582	174	253	31	22	4
	2022/23	575	137	312	26	2	2

## ASSESSMENTS

### DEFINITION

Monthly and cumulative number of Children & Families (C&F) assessments completed for a child.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

438 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q3 2022/23. This continues to be a large increase on previous years, with 247 in Q3 2021/22, 215 in Q3 2020/21 and 204 in Q3 2019/20.

This increase in C&F assessments will be a result of the increase in referrals we have received during Q3 2022/23.

CSC 036

CSC 035

Number of C&F assessments completed year to date

Rate of C&F assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.

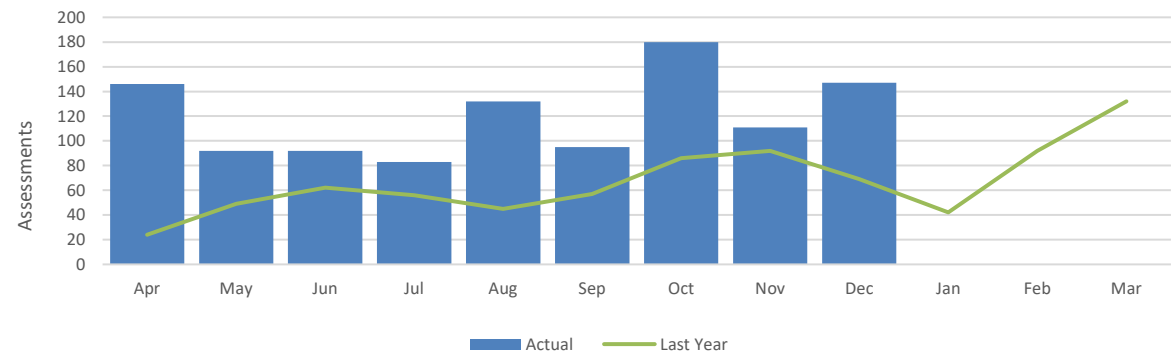
### In Month Performance

Apr-22	146	64.5
May-22	238	102.5
Jun-22	330	145.8
Jul-22	413	182.5
Aug-22	545	240.8
Sep-22	640	282.8
Oct-22	820	362.3
Nov-22	931	411.4
Dec-22	1,078	476.3
Jan-23		
Feb-23		
Mar-23		

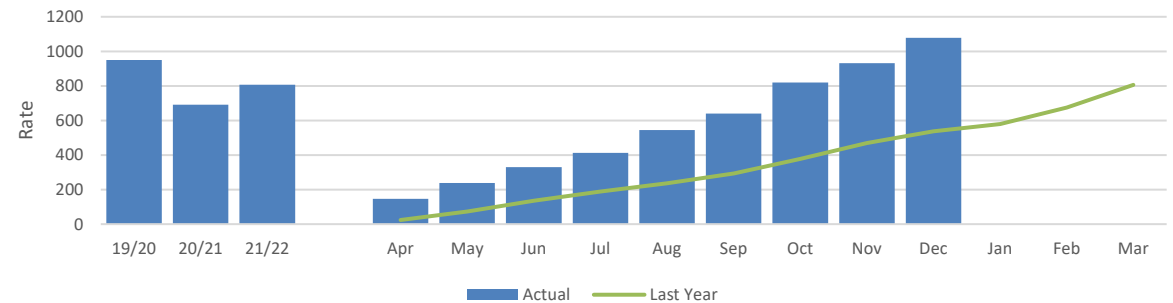
### Annual Trend

2019/20	950	422.7
2020/21	692	308.2
2021/22	806	357.8
2022/23	1,078	476.3

CSC 037: Monthly number of C&F assessments completed



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



## ASSESSMENTS: TIMELINESS

<b>DEFINITION</b>	<p>Of those assessments completed in a period, the percentage completed within 45 working days. Day zero is the first working day on or after the start date of the referral, or strategy discussion decided to initiate S47 enquiries, or where new information indicates that an assessment should be undertaken. The end date is the first working day on or after the recorded date the Team Manager closes the single assessment.</p> <p>A process indicator as a proxy measure for improved child safety and how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. Local authorities should investigate and address concerns in a timely and efficient way.</p>
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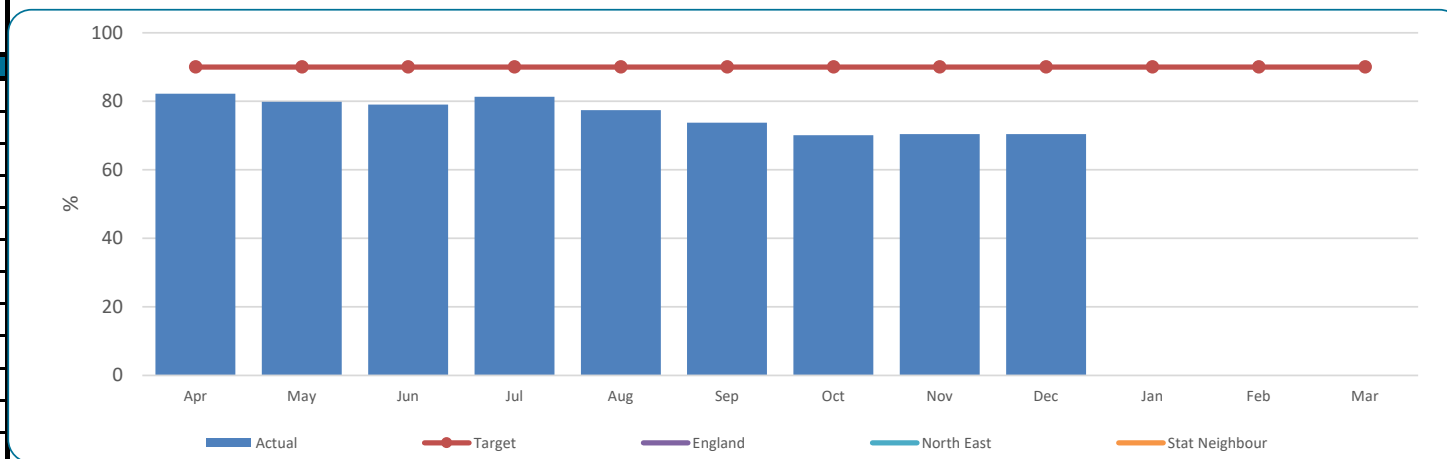
<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>65.3% (286 / 438) of our C&amp;F assessments were completed within timescale in Q3 2022/23. This is below Q2 2022/23 performance of 68.1% in timescale.</p> <p>During Q3 2022/23 additional hours were given to social workers to assist in the completion of outstanding work, which included C&amp;F assessments. This additional resource is likely to have affected the timeliness of the completions.</p>
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CSC 038

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

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

<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90%</b>
	Apr-22	82.2
	May-22	79.8
	Jun-22	79.1
	Jul-22	81.4
	Aug-22	77.4
	Sep-22	73.8
	Oct-22	70.1
	Nov-22	70.5
	Dec-22	70.4
	Jan-23	
	Feb-23	
	Mar-23	
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2019/20	90.9
	2020/21	86.4
	2021/22	84.5
	2022/23	70.4



## SECTION 47 ENQUIRES: 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

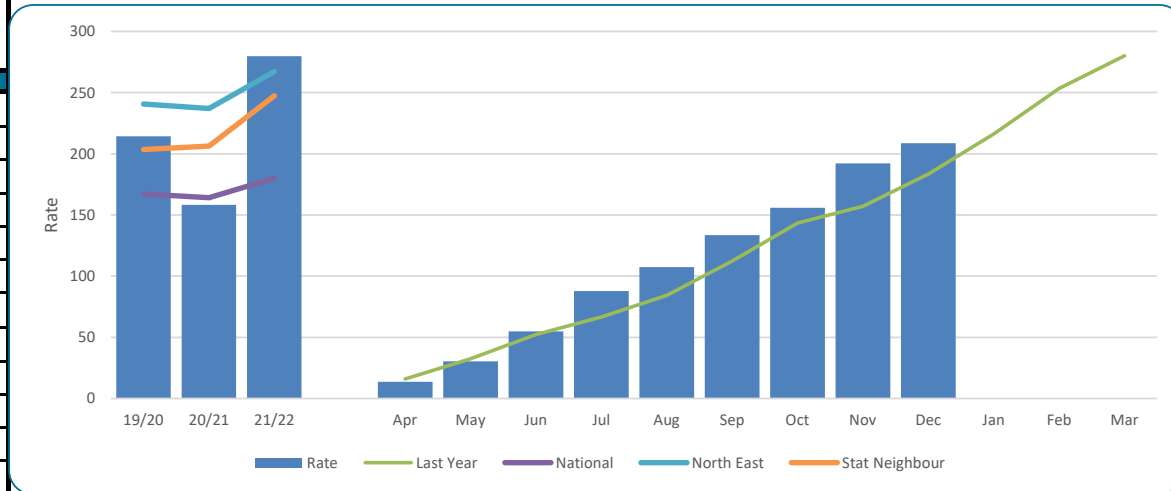
77 section 47 enquires were started in Q3 2022/23, these were involving 170 children.

CSC 166

CSC 164

		Number of children who had a section 47 enquiry	Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (Cumulative)
In Month Performance	Apr-22	31	13.7
	May-22	38	30.5
	Jun-22	55	54.8
	Jul-22	75	87.9
	Aug-22	44	107.4
	Sep-22	59	133.4
	Oct-22	51	156.0
	Nov-22	82	192.2
	Dec-22	37	208.6
	Jan-23		
	Feb-23		
	Mar-23		
Annual Trend	2019/20	486	214.4
	2020/21	358	158.2
	2021/22	633	279.7
	2022/23	472	208.6

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



## INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES: TIMELINESS

### DEFINITION

Of those Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) held within the period (excluding transfer ins), the percentage recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook where Child Protection strategy meeting / section 47 enquiry to ICPC are within 15 days (CPP). This provides an indication of how quickly the safety of the child is considered by a multi-agency meeting.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

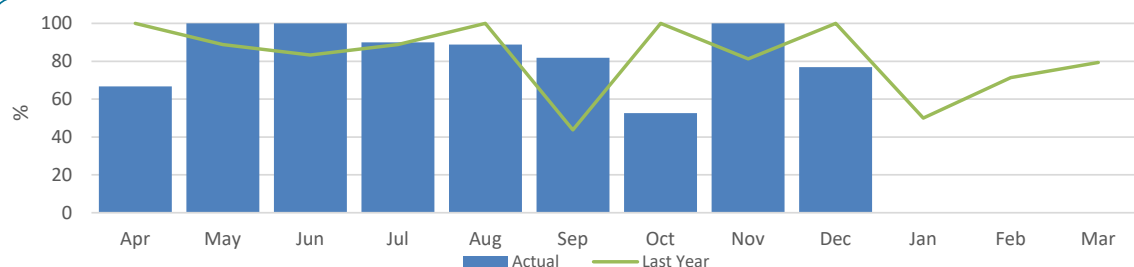
Of the 35 children (who were not transferred in), 23 had their Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) within timescale (65.7%) in Q3 2022/23. This is a decrease on the conference timeliness compared to Q3 2021/22, which saw 83.7% of conferences held in timescale.

CSC 178

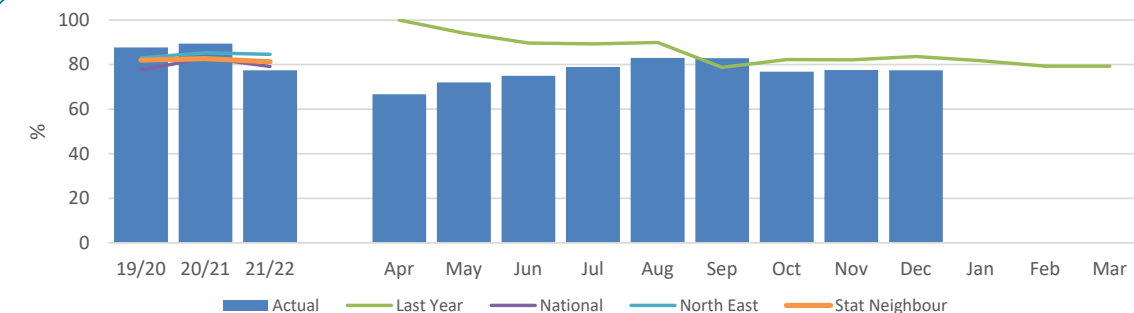
CSC 176

	Target	CSC 178 % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (monthly).		CSC 176 % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (year to date).	
					95%
In Month Performance	Apr-22	14 / 21	66.7	14 / 21	66.7
	May-22	4 / 4	100.0	18 / 25	72.0
	Jun-22	3 / 3	100.0	21 / 28	75.0
	Jul-22	9 / 10	90.0	30 / 38	79.0
	Aug-22	24 / 27	88.9	54 / 65	83.1
	Sep-22	9 / 11	81.8	63 / 76	82.9
	Oct-22	10 / 19	52.6	73 / 95	76.8
	Nov-22	3 / 3	100.0	76 / 98	77.6
	Dec-22	10 / 13	76.9	86 / 111	77.5
	Jan-23				
	Feb-23				
	Mar-23				
Annual Trend	2019/20	150 / 171	87.7	150 / 171	87.7
	2020/21	112 / 126	89.5	112 / 126	89.5
	2021/22	135 / 174	77.5	135 / 174	77.5
	2022/23	86 / 111	77.5	86 / 111	77.5

CSC 178: % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (monthly).



CSC 176: % ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (year to date).





## CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

### DEFINITION

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

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

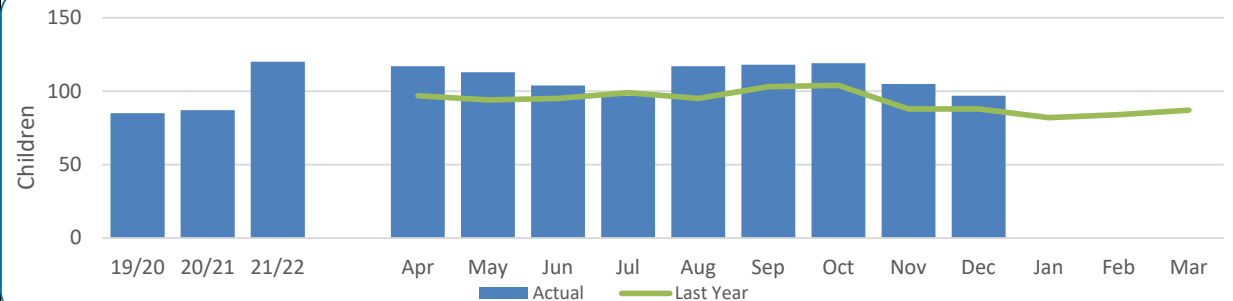
97 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2022 with 29 children starting a CP plan during this time and 46 ceasing their plan.

CSC 182

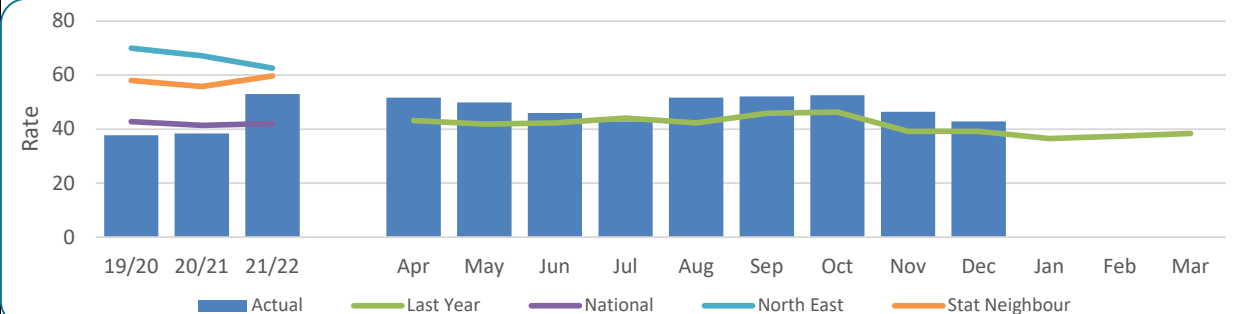
CSC 181

In Month Performance		Number of children subject to a CP plan	Rate of children subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 population
	Apr-22	117	51.7
	May-22	113	49.9
	Jun-22	104	46.0
	Jul-22	97	42.9
	Aug-22	117	51.7
	Sep-22	118	52.1
	Oct-22	119	52.6
	Nov-22	105	46.4
	Dec-22	97	42.9
	Jan-23		
	Feb-23		
	Mar-23		
Annual Trend	2019/20	85	37.7
	2020/21	87	38.4
	2021/22	120	53.0
	2022/23	97	42.9

CSC 182: Number of children subject to a CP plan



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



## CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

### DEFINITION

Reviews are a key element in delivering CP 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 CP plan. "Working Together to Safeguard Children" guidance requires that the first review should be within 3 months of their ICPC and thereafter at intervals of no more than 6 months.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

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

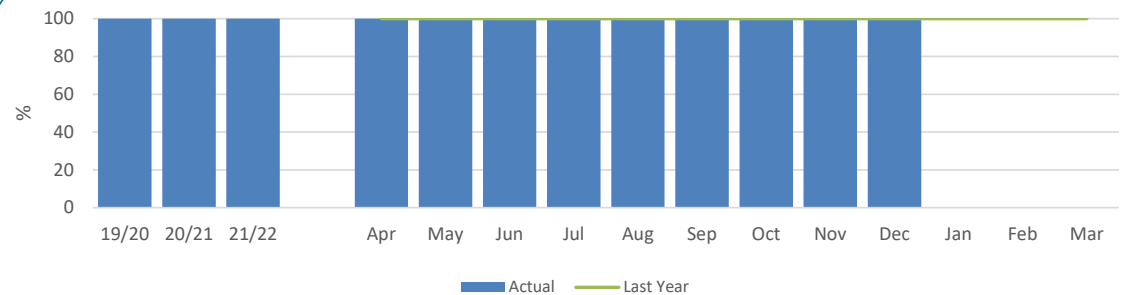
100% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales during Q3 2022/23.

CSC 183

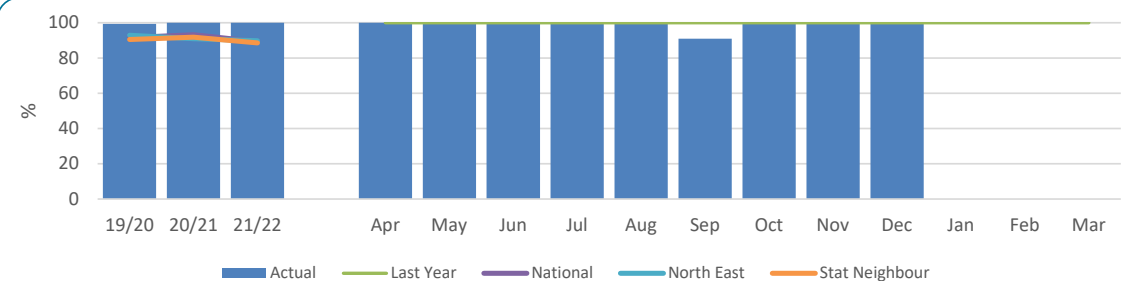
CSC 191a

	Target	CSC 183 % of children with a CP plan allocated to a qualified social worker		CSC 191a CP plan review meetings held in timescale during the month	
		100		100	
In Month Performance	Apr-22	100.0	10 / 10	100.0	
	May-22	100.0	13 / 13	100.0	
	Jun-22	100.0	15 / 15	100.0	
	Jul-22	100.0	20 / 20	100.0	
	Aug-22	100.0	7 / 7	100.0	
	Sep-22	100.0	10 / 11	90.9	
	Oct-22	100.0	15 / 15	100.0	
	Nov-22	100.0	16 / 16	100.0	
	Dec-22	100.0	17 / 17	100.0	
	Jan-23				
	Feb-23				
	Mar-23				
Annual Trend	2019/20	100.0	170 / 171	99.4	
	2020/21	100.0	138 / 138	100.0	
	2021/22	100.0	159 / 159	100.0	
	2022/23	100.0	123 / 124	99.2	

CSC 183: % of children with a CP plan allocated to a qualified social worker



CSC 191a: % of CP plans reviewed within the timescales.



**CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: 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 2 years of a previous plan ending.

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**

No child ceased to be subject to a CP plan during Q3 2022/23 who had been subject to the plan for 2 or more years, reducing our cumulative performance measure to below target (5%) to 2.6%. As of December 2022, no child open to CP has been on their plan for more than 2 years.

During Q3 2022/23, 2 children became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending. This has taken us above our internal target (6%).

CSC 186

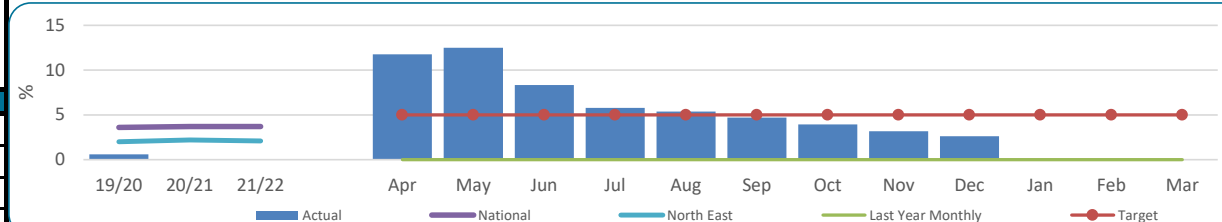
CSC 188

% children ceasing a CP plan who had been subject to CP for 2 or more years (Cumulative)

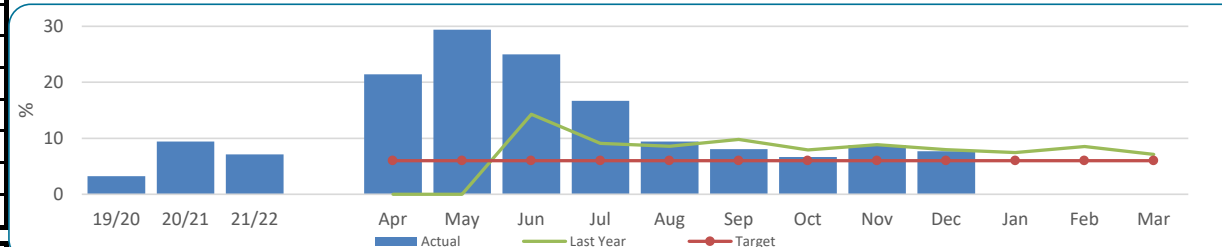
% of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a 2nd or subsequent time **within 2 years of a previous plan ending** (Cumulative)

In Month Performance	Target		5%		6%
	Apr-22	2 / 17	11.8	3 / 14	21.4
	May-22	3 / 28	12.5	5 / 17	29.4
	Jun-22	3 / 36	8.3	5 / 20	25.0
	Jul-22	3 / 52	5.8	5 / 30	16.7
	Aug-22	3 / 56	5.4	5 / 53	9.4
	Sep-22	3 / 64	4.7	5 / 62	8.1
	Oct-22	3 / 76	4.0	5 / 75	6.7
	Nov-22	3 / 95	3.2	7 / 80	8.8
	Dec-22	3 / 114	2.6	7 / 91	7.7
	Jan-23				
	Feb-23				
	Mar-23				
Annual Trend	2019/20	1 / 173	0.6	5 / 156	3.2
	2020/21	0 / 115	0.0	11 / 117	9.4
	2021/22	0 / 121	0.0	11 / 154	7.1
	2022/23	3 / 114	2.6	7 / 91	7.7

Ceasing CP after 2 years on a plan



Becoming CP for subsequent time within 2 years



## CHILD PROTECTION: STATUTORY VISITS

### DEFINITION

Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection (CP) 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

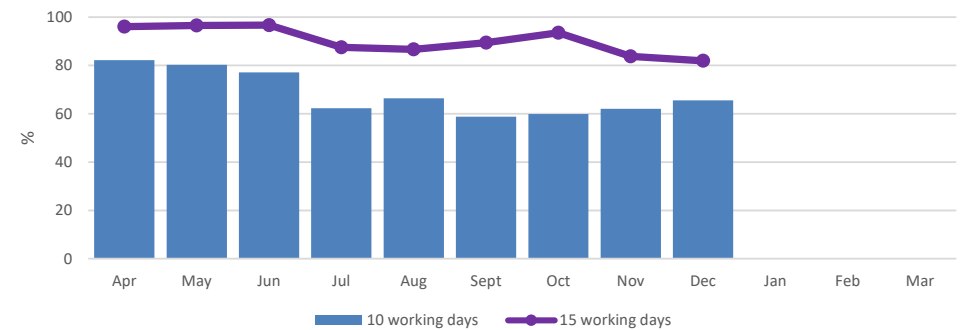
63.3% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days and 86.8% of the visits were completed within 15 working days

CSC 252a

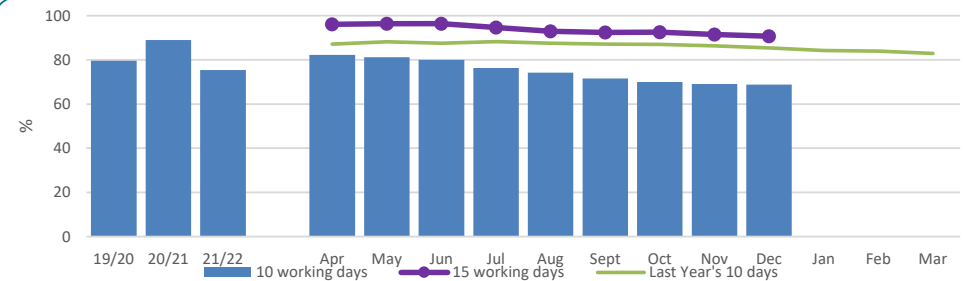
CSC 252b

	Target	% CP visits completed within 10 working days within the month	% CP visits completed within 15 working days within the month	% CP visits completed within 10 working days year to date (cumulative)	% CP visits completed within 15 working days year to date (cumulative)
		90	90	90	90
In Month Performance	Apr-22	82.2	96.1	82.2	96.1
	May-22	80.2	96.5	81.2	96.3
	Jun-22	77.1	96.7	80.0	96.4
	Jul-22	62.2	87.5	76.3	94.6
	Aug-22	66.4	86.7	74.2	93.0
	Sep-22	58.8	89.4	71.6	92.4
	Oct-22	59.8	93.5	70.0	92.5
	Nov-22	62.0	83.8	69.1	91.5
	Dec-22	65.5	81.9	68.9	90.7
	Jan-23				
	Feb-23				
	Mar-23				
Annual Trend	2019/20	79.6	92.0	79.6	93.8
	2020/21	89.0	98.4	89.0	98.4
	2021/22	75.4	95.0	82.9	96.8
	2022/23	65.5	81.9	68.9	90.7

% Child Protection statutory visits completed within the month



% Child Protection statutory visits completed year to date



## CHILDREN IN CARE

### DEFINITION

Number of Children in Care (CiC) at the end of each month and of which are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC).

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

314 children were in care as at December 2022, 18 (5.7%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

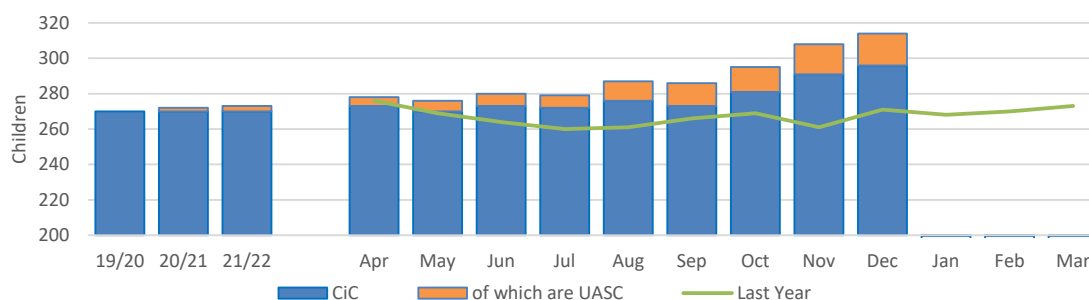
This equates to 296 children, excluding UASC, were in our care at the end of December 2022, an increase from 269 at the end of December 2021 and from 284 at the end of December 2020.

CSC 201

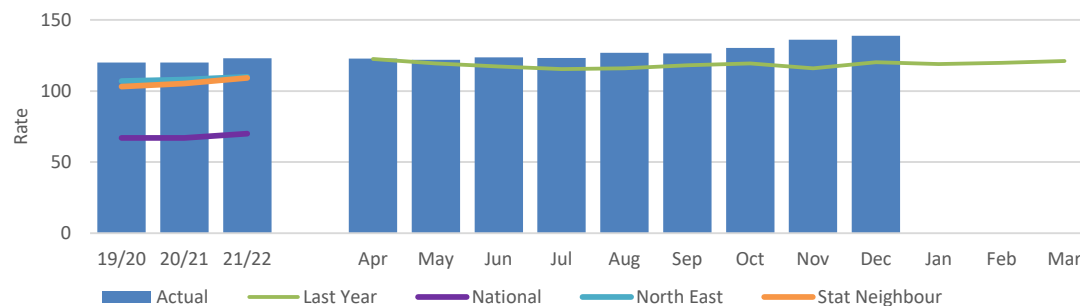
CSC 200

In Month Performance		Total number of Children in Care	Of which are identified as a UASC	Rate of CiC per 10,000 population
	Target			95
	Apr-22	278	5	122.8
	May-22	276	6	122.0
	Jun-22	280	7	123.7
	Jul-22	279	7	123.3
	Aug-22	287	11	126.8
	Sep-22	286	13	126.4
	Oct-22	295	14	130.3
	Nov-22	308	17	136.1
	Dec-22	314	18	138.7
	Jan-23			
	Feb-23			
	Mar-23			
Annual Trend	2019/20	270		120.0
	2020/21	272	2	120.0
	2021/22	273	3	123.0
	2022/23	314	18	138.7

CSC 201: Total number of Children in Care



CSC 200: Rate of CiC per 10,000 population



## 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 where they are an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC). This is further broken down to show their first placement type.

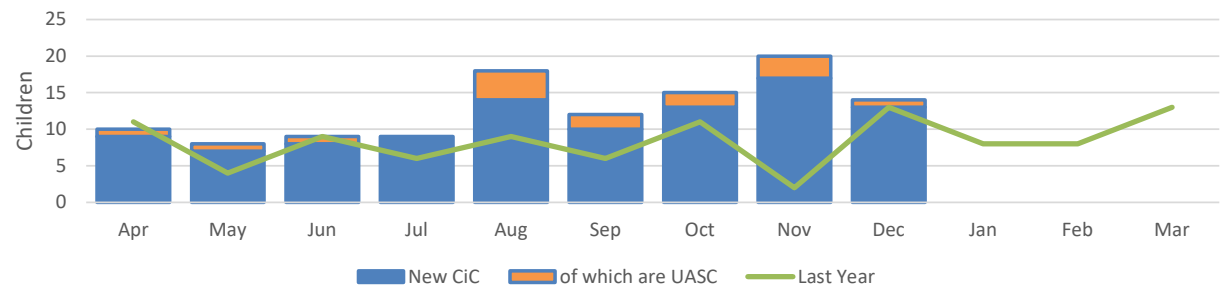
### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

43 children from 22 families came into care in Q3 2022/23, a further 6 young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child). 4 are aged 16 and over are being supported in residential homes and the 2 aged 12 and 15 are with foster carers.

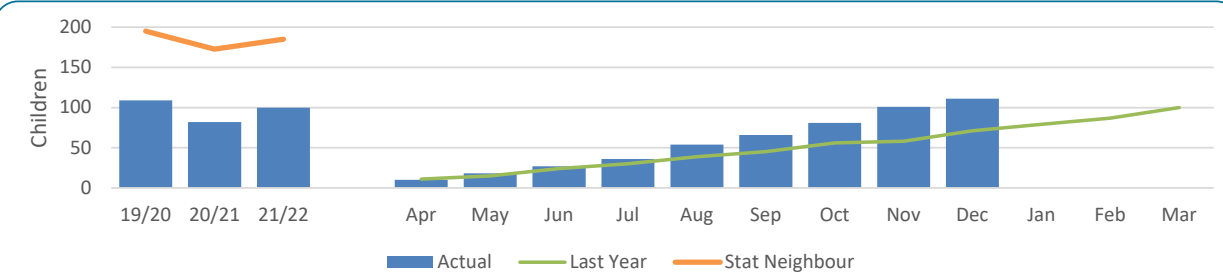
This is an increase when compared with the 26 children who came into care in Q3 2021/22, although a smaller increase when comparing family groups from 21 families in Q3 2022/23 and 18 families in Q3 2021/22.

		CSC 209	CSC 208	
		Monthly number of children coming into care	Cumulative number of children coming into care	of which are UASC
In Month Performance	Apr-22	10	10	1
	May-22	8	18	1
	Jun-22	9	27	1
	Jul-22	9	36	
	Aug-22	18	54	4
	Sep-22	12	66	2
	Oct-22	15	81	2
	Nov-22	20	101	3
	Dec-22	14	111	1
	Jan-23			
	Feb-23			
	Mar-23			
Annual Trend	2019/20	109	109	
	2020/21	82	82	2
	2021/22	100	100	2
	2022/23	115	111	15

Monthly number of children coming into care



Total number of children coming into care within the year



## 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. This could be due to returning home to parent or other person with no PR (planned and unplanned), having a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted by the courts to a carer, adoption or turning 18 years old and becoming a care leaver and supported by a personal advisor. Other reasons why a child could cease care could be due to receiving a custodial sentence or moving out of the area and transferring to a different local authority.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

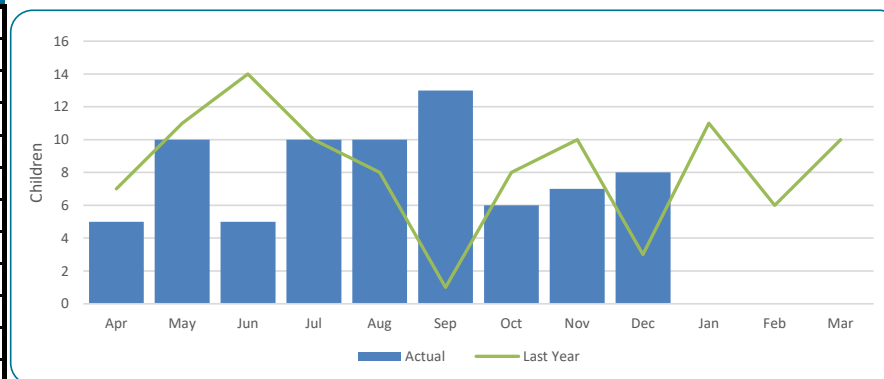
21 children and young people ceased to be in care in Q3 2022/23 from 16 families. This is the same number of children who ceased in Q3 2021/22, a reduction compared to Q3 2020/21 but an increase on Q3 2019/20.

Of the children and young people who did cease CiC:

- 52.4% had a Special Guardianship Order / Child Arrangement Order granted to a relative
- 23.8% returned home to their parent(s).
- 23.8% turned 18 years and became a care leaver.
- No child was adopted during Q3.

		CSC 212	CSC 211
		Monthly number of children ceasing care	Cumulative number of children ceasing care
In Month Performance	Apr-22	5	5
	May-22	10	15
	Jun-22	5	20
	Jul-22	10	30
	Aug-22	10	40
	Sep-22	13	53
	Oct-22	6	59
	Nov-22	7	66
	Dec-22	8	74
	Jan-23		
	Feb-23		
	Mar-23		
Annual Trend	2019/20	102	102
	2020/21	80	80
	2021/22	99	99
	2022/23	74	74

CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing care



## CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

### DEFINITION

The percentage of Children in Care (CiC) which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time and the percentage of Children in Care that were allocated to a qualified social worker at the end of the month. 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

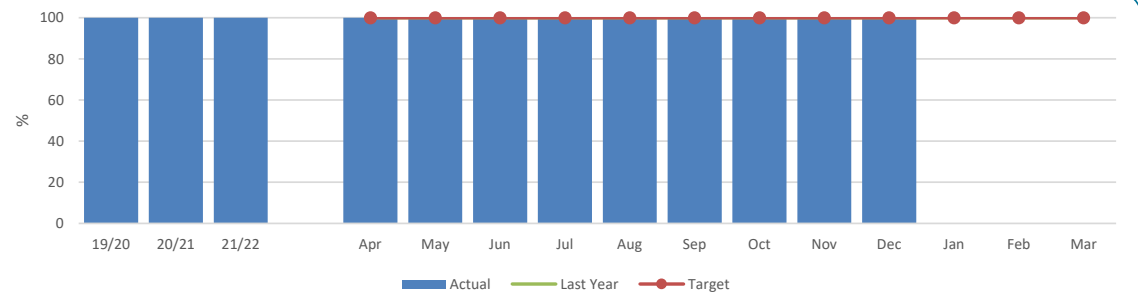
100% of Children in Care (CiC) are allocated to a qualified social worker and 98.1% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales.

CSC 227

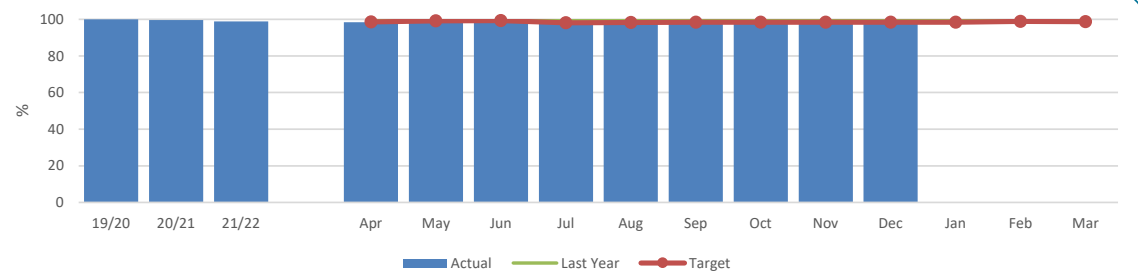
CSC 218

In Month Performance	Target	% Children in Care allocated to a qualified social worker	% of Children whose reviews had been completed within required timescales (as at month end)
	100	100	100
	Apr-22	100.0	98.5
	May-22	100.0	99.1
	Jun-22	100.0	98.8
	Jul-22	100.0	99.0
	Aug-22	100.0	98.7
	Sep-22	100.0	98.9
	Oct-22	100.0	98.9
	Nov-22	100.0	98.9
	Dec-22	100.0	98.1
	Jan-23		
	Feb-23		
	Mar-23		
Annual Trend	2019/20	100.0	100.0
	2020/21	100.0	99.6
	2021/22	100.0	98.8
	2022/23	100.0	98.1

CSC 227: % Children in Care allocated to a qualified social worker



CSC 218: % of Children whose reviews had been completed within required timescales (as at month end)





## CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

### DEFINITION

Percentage of Children in Care (CiC) who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales each month and year to date.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

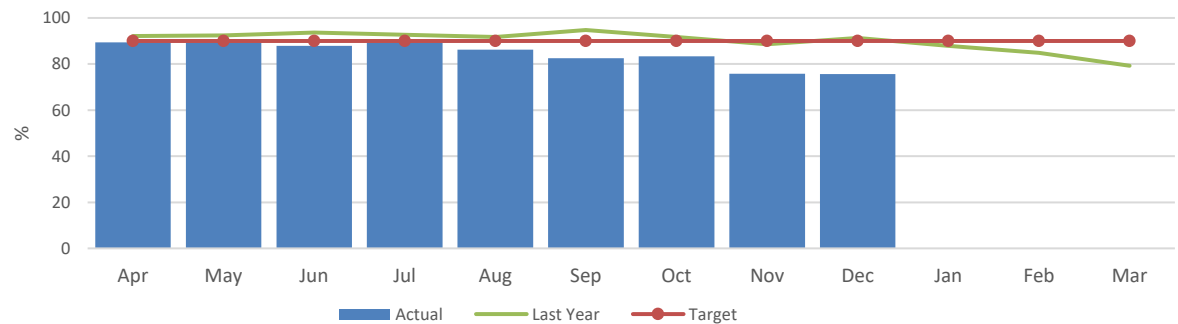
78.4% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q3 2022/23. This is a decrease when compared with Q3 2021/22 (90.5%) and Q3 2020/21 (94.3%).

CSC 260a

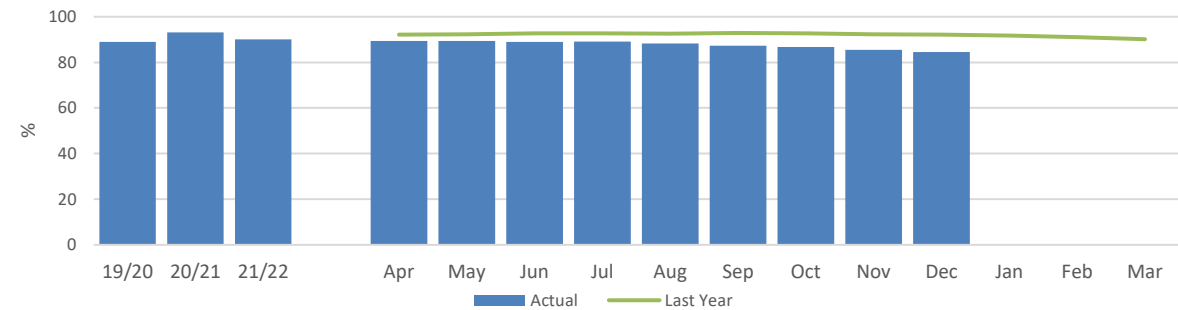
CSC 260b

In Month Performance	Target	% CiC visits completed in timescale within the month	% CiC visits completed in timescale year to date
	90	90	90
	Apr-22	89.4	89.4
	May-22	89.4	89.4
	Jun-22	87.9	88.9
	Jul-22	89.4	89.0
	Aug-22	86.2	88.3
	Sep-22	82.5	87.3
	Oct-22	83.4	86.8
	Nov-22	75.8	85.5
	Dec-22	75.7	84.5
	Jan-23		
	Feb-23		
	Mar-23		
Annual Trend	2019/20	89.0	89.0
	2020/21	93.1	93.1
	2021/22	90.1	90.1
	2022/23	75.7	84.5

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



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



## CHILDREN IN CARE: PLACEMENTS

### DEFINITION

Of those Children in Care (CiC) 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 (under the age of 16 years) had been in their current placement for 2 or more years. and who were placed more than 20 miles away from their home address. 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

14.0% of our Children in Care, as of December 2022, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is above internal target (10.0%), and above the 10.0% as of December 2021.

Currently, 63.8% 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 below our 68% internal target.

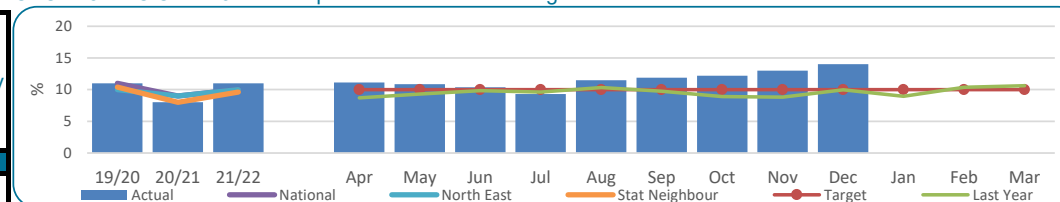
12.8% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2022. This is above target of 10% and of December 2021. All these placements have been confirmed by team managers to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.

CSC 228

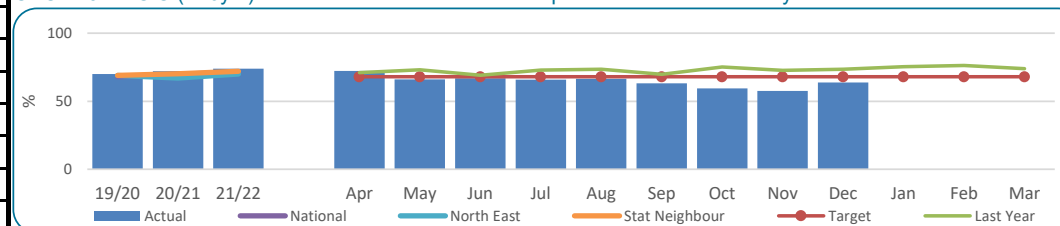
CSC 229

CSC 230

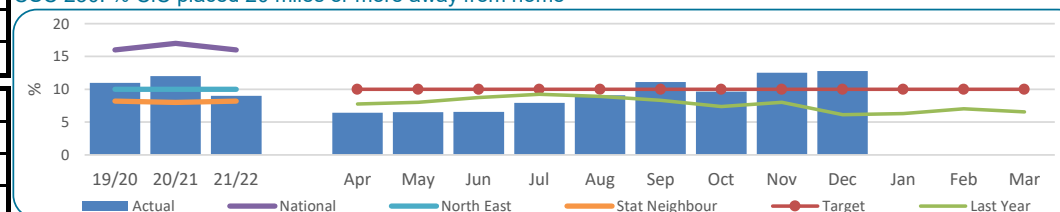
CSC 228: % CiC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months



CSC 229: % CiC (&lt;16yrs) who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years



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



In Month Performance	Target	% CiC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months	% CiC (<16yrs) who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years	% CiC placed 20 miles or more away from home
	Apr-22	11.2	72.3	6.4
	May-22	10.9	66.1	6.5
	Jun-22	10.4	67.0	6.5
	Jul-22	9.3	65.8	7.9
	Aug-22	11.5	66.4	9.1
	Sep-22	11.9	63.3	11.1
	Oct-22	12.2	59.5	9.6
	Nov-22	13.0	57.6	12.5
	Dec-22	14.0	63.8	12.8
	Jan-23			
	Feb-23			
	Mar-23			
Annual Trend	2019/20	11.0	70.0	11.0
	2020/21	8.0	72.0	12.0
	2021/22	11.0	74.0	9.0
	2022/23	14.0	63.8	12.8

## 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. This excludes children / youngpeople coming into care due to being remand or UASC.

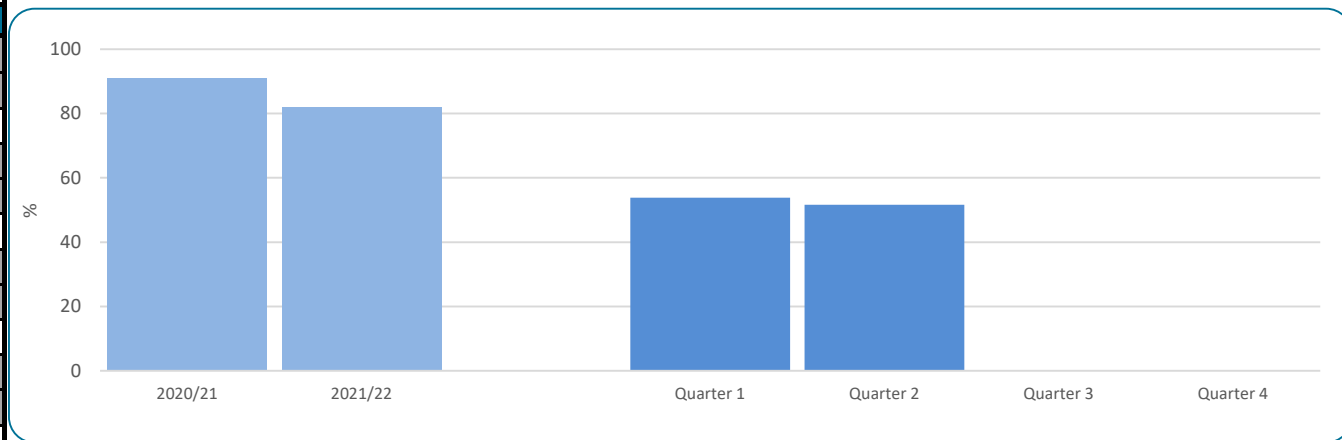
### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The quarterly reports from health have been requested to understand how many of the assessments have gone on to be completed within the 20 day timescale.

Page 35

In Month Performance	Target	Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)
	95	
	Apr-22	
	May-22	
	Jun-22	14 / 26
	Jul-22	
	Aug-22	
	Sep-22	16 / 31
	Oct-22	
	Nov-22	
	Dec-22	TBC /
	Jan-23	
	Feb-23	
	Mar-23	
Annual Trend	2019/20	72.9
	2020/21	90.9
	2021/22	82.1
	2022/23	52.6%

Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)



**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 (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March). 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**

88.0% of children due a review health assessment by December 2022 have had one completed.

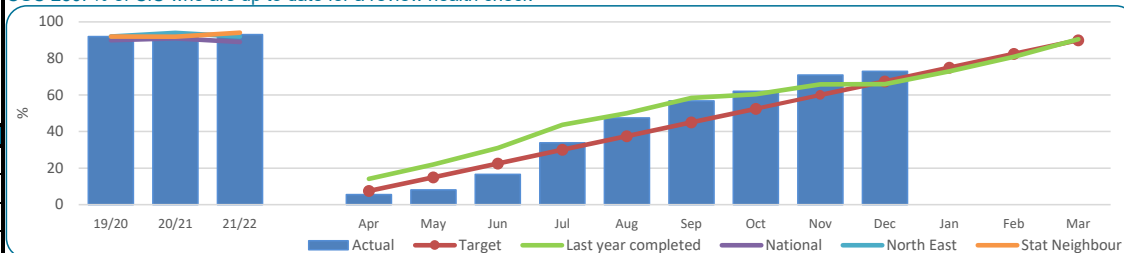
Of the children who have not had their health review, 2.7% of them are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

CSC 250

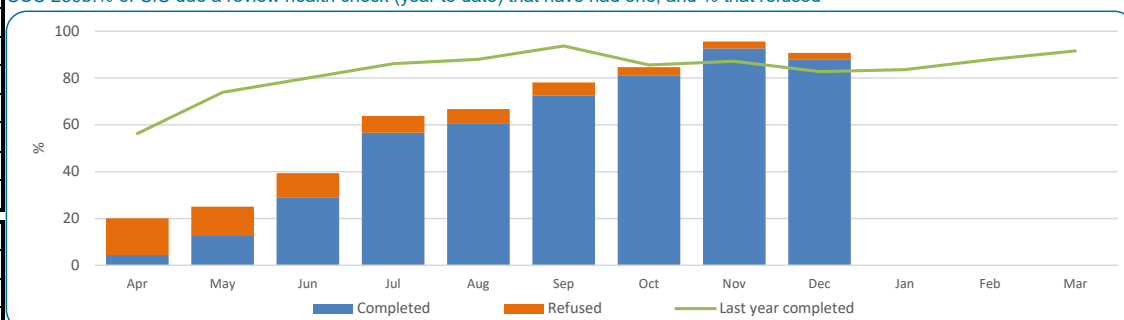
CSC 250b

In Month Performance		% of CiC who have an up to date health checks	% of CiC refusing engagement in their review health check (in month)	% of CiC who had a review health check completed (year to date)
	Target	90%		90%
	Apr-22	5.6	15.6	4.4
	May-22	8.1	12.5	12.5
	Jun-22	16.5	10.6	28.8
	Jul-22	33.9	7.2	56.6
	Aug-22	47.5	6.3	60.4
	Sep-22	56.7	5.7	72.4
	Oct-22	62.0	3.4	81.2
	Nov-22	70.9	3.0	92.6
	Dec-22	73.0	2.7	88.0
	Jan-23			
	Feb-23			
	Mar-23			
Annual Trend	2019/20	92.0	3.1	93.3
	2020/21	94.0	3.7	91.2
	2021/22	93.0	3.7	91.6
	2022/23	73.0	2.7	88.0

CSC 250: % of CiC who are up to date for a review health check



CSC 250b: % of CiC due a review health check (year to date) that have had one, and % that refused



## 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 (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March). 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

52.2% of children due a dental check assessment by December 2022 have had one completed. Work has progressed to secure check-ups with a dentist which has increased the number of checks being completed.

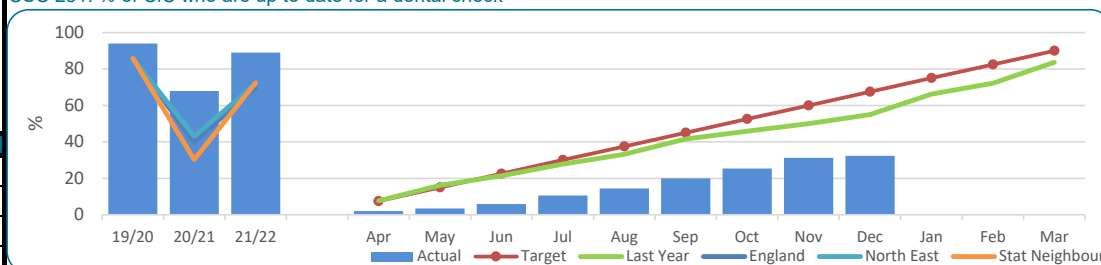
Of the children who have not had their dental check, 1.4% of them are refusing to have one completed at this time. Although they are refusing, they are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

CSC 251

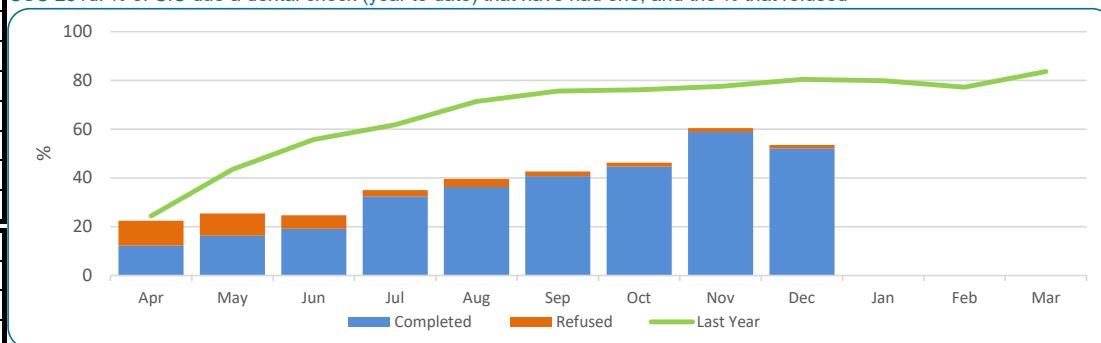
CSC 251d

In Month Performance		% of CiC who have an up to date dental check	% of CiC refusing engagement in their dental check (in month)	% of CiC who had a dental check completed (year to date)
	Target	90%		90%
	Apr-22	2.0	10.2	12.2
	May-22	3.5	9.1	16.4
	Jun-22	5.9	5.5	19.2
	Jul-22	10.6	2.6	32.5
	Aug-22	14.4	3.3	36.3
	Sep-22	19.9	1.9	40.7
	Oct-22	25.3	1.6	44.7
	Nov-22	31.3	1.6	58.9
	Dec-22	32.3	1.4	52.2
	Jan-23			
	Feb-23			
	Mar-23			
Annual Trend	2019/20	94.0	3.1	90.2
	2020/21	68.0	2.8	57.2
	2021/22	89.0	2.6	83.7
	2022/23	32.3	1.4	52.2

CSC 251: % of CiC who are up to date for a dental check



CSC 251d: % of CiC due a dental check (year to date) that have had one, and the % that refused



**CARE LEAVERS****DEFINITION**

Former relevant care leavers split to show the young people who, at 31st March, will be aged 19-21 and those who will be aged 22-25. The percentage who were in suitable accommodation at their most recent contact, and the percentage who were not in employment, education or training at their most recent contact. This measures accommodation and employment outcomes for young people formerly in care - a key group at risk of social exclusion. It is intended to increase the proportion of former care leavers who are in suitable accommodation and employment, education or training.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

98.2% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 98.0% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2022. This was due to young people (1 aged 19-21 and 1 aged 22-25) being in custody.

Of the care leavers, aged 19-21, as of 31st December 2022, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 3.6% NEET because of illness or disability
- 9.1% NEET because of other circumstances
- 9.1% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

This equates to 21.8% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.

Of the care leavers, aged 22-25, 10 of them, as of 31st December 2022, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- 7.8% NEET because of illness or disability
- 7.8% NEET because of other circumstances
- 9.8% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.

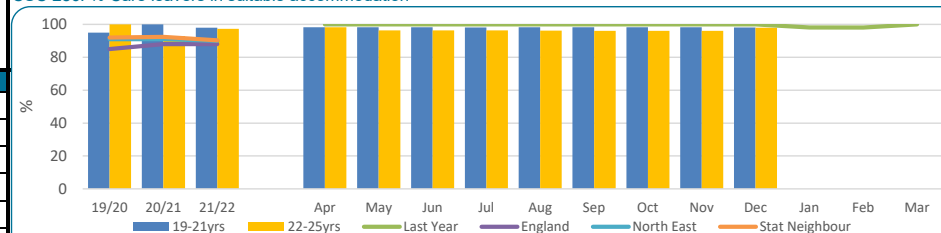
This equates to 25.5%.

20.0% of young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (12.7% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 58.2% young people were in training or employment (27.3% in full time, 30.9% in part time).

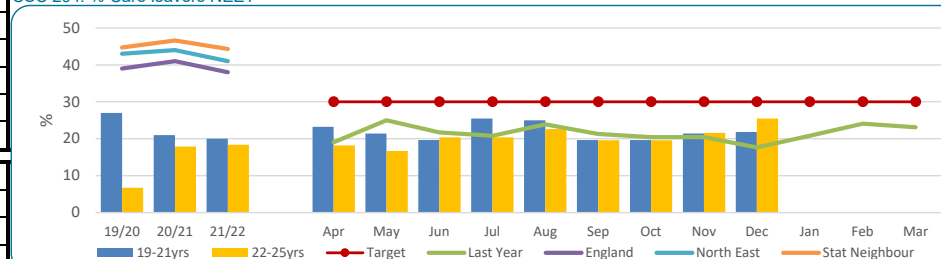
7.8% of young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (5.9% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 66.7% young people were in training or employment (29.4% in full time, 37.3% in part time).

		CSC 286 19-21 year olds		CSC 294 22-25 year olds	
		% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET	% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET
In Month Performance	Target	90%	30%		
	Apr-22	98.2	23.2	98.2	18.2
	May-22	98.2	21.4	96.3	16.7
	Jun-22	98.2	19.6	96.3	20.4
	Jul-22	98.2	25.5	96.3	20.4
	Aug-22	98.2	25.0	96.2	22.6
	Sep-22	98.2	19.6	96.1	19.6
	Oct-22	98.2	19.6	96.1	19.6
	Nov-22	98.2	21.4	96.1	21.6
	Dec-22	98.2	21.8	98.0	25.5
	Jan-23				
	Feb-23				
	Mar-23				
Annual Trend	2019/20	95.0	27.0	100.0	6.7
	2020/21	100.0	21.0	92.9	17.9
	2021/22	98.0	20.0	97.3	18.4
	2022/23	98.2	21.8	98.0	25.5

CSC 286: % Care leavers in suitable accommodation



CSC 294: % Care leavers NEET



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
19 JUNE 2023**

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**THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Scrutiny members with a summary of the Government Response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, entitled "Stable Homes, Built with Love".

**Summary**

2. The Government has published a response to last year's Independent Review of Children's Social Care, entitled "Stable Homes, Built on Love".
3. The response is a strategy which identifies 6 pillars upon which to base reform of Children's Social Care.
4. Darlington are already actively involved in a Regional Fostering Pathfinder Project, along with the other North East Local Authorities. Children's Scrutiny can play a critical role in shaping how Children's Services responds to and implements the other pillars identified in the report.

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that Scrutiny note the contents of the report and consider how the Committee can support the development work of the service moving forward.

**Chris Bell  
Assistant Director Children's Services**

**Background Papers**

6. This summary paper refers to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, completed by Josh McAllister and published in May 2022 and the Government Response to the Independent Review, "Stable Homes, Build on Love" which was published on 2 February 2023.

Author:

S17 Crime and Disorder	This plan will support measures to reduce crime and disorder amongst young people
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports the strategy to improve the health and well-being of children and young people
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report
Diversity	There are no implications arising from this report
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Children and Young People
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This report contributes to the priorities agreed by the Council
Efficiency	This report supports the efficient use of partner resources through shared priorities
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers



## MAIN REPORT

7. There are significant external challenges which are impacting upon Children's Services and the way in which they are delivered, which is recognised at a national level. The challenges are complex and multi-faceted but include long term austerity, the impact of Covid and subsequent lockdowns, cost of living crisis, rising Child poverty and significant challenges to workforces to deliver services. In response to these challenges an Independent Review of Children's Social Care was commissioned by Government and published in May 2022. A key statement from that review summarises the position as follows;
8. "This moment is a once in a generation opportunity to reset children's social care. What we need is a system that provides intensive help to families in crisis, acts decisively in response to abuse, unlocks the potential of wider family networks to raise children, puts lifelong loving relationships at the heart of the care system and lays the foundations for a good life for those who have been in care. What we have currently is a system increasingly skewed to crisis intervention, with outcomes for children that continue to be unacceptably poor and costs that continue to rise. For these reasons, a radical reset is now unavoidable."
9. In response to this report the Government has published a Children's Social Care Reform document earlier in 2023, entitled "Stable Homes, Built on Love". There are a number of key pillars to the Reform strategy but of note is the funding gap between what was estimated to be required by the Independent Review (£2 Billion) and the funding allocated to reform (£200 Million).
10. The strategy identified 6 key pillars to the reform of Children's Social Care:
  - (a) Family Help provides the right support at the right time so that children thrive within their families.
  - (b) A decisive multi-agency child protection system
  - (c) Unlocking the potential of family networks
  - (d) Putting love, relationships and a stable home at the heart of being a child in care
  - (e) A valued, supported and highly skilled social worker for every child who needs one
  - (f) A system that continuously learns and improves, and makes better use of evidence and data
11. There are a number of key actions for each of the pillars, with many being trialled around the country through a series of "Pathfinder" projects to identify best practice. The below summaries some of the key tasks for each of the pillars.
12. **Family Help provides the right support at the right time so that children thrive within their families.**
  - (a) Pathfind a new approach to Family Help.

- (b) Support the Family Help workforce including support to build their knowledge and skills.
- (c) Join up funding and strategy to ensure we have more systematic and strategic join up in how local areas are funded and supported to deliver effective services.

**13. A decisive multi-agency child protection system:**

- (a) Pathfind a more integrated and expert child protection response.
- (b) Consult on new National Multi-Agency Child Protection Standards.
- (c) Strengthen multi-agency leadership by amending guidance to Local Authorities, Police and Health, to be clearer on roles and responsibilities.

**14. Unlocking the potential of family networks:**

- (a) Test how to implement reforms to family group decision-making and Family Network Support Packages; to help identify wider family members and empower them to support children and parents, using resources creatively to overcome financial barriers to support children at home.
- (b) Provide a training and support offer for all kinship carers in this Spending Review Period.
- (c) Publish a national Kinship Care Strategy by the end of 2023.

**15. Putting love, relationships and a stable home at the heart of being a child in care:**

- (a) Deliver a fostering recruitment and retention programme.
- (b) Pathfind Regional Care Cooperatives to plan, commission and deliver care places.
- (c) Develop a programme to support improvements in the quality of leadership and management in the children's homes sector.
- (d) Introduce a financial oversight regime that will cover the largest providers of children's homes and fostering agencies.
- (e) Increase the leaving care allowance and the apprenticeships care leavers' bursary

**16. A valued, supported and highly skilled social worker for every child who needs one:**

- (a) Prioritise high quality career development for social workers by delivering an Early Career Framework. Social Work England will also quality assure all initial education routes for social workers.
- (b) Boost social worker recruitment and explore ways to support the recruitment of up to an additional 500 child and family social worker apprentices nationally.

- (c) Improve social worker retention by supporting local authorities to retain their social workers, including improved working conditions and tackling workload drivers.
17. **A system that continuously learns and improves, and makes better use of evidence and data:**
- (a) Introduce a Children's Social Care National Framework to set out the outcomes children's social care should deliver, alongside a data Dashboard to support learning on outcomes. Practice Guides will set out the best evidenced approaches for achieving the outcomes.
  - (b) Publish a data strategy by the end of this year, to improve the use of technology and data and establish a new children's social care data and digital expert forum.
  - (c) Ensure inspection is aligned to the Children's Social Care National Framework. Work with Ofsted to rebalance how it looks at practice to ensure it acts as a lever for improvement, in line with the reforms.
18. Darlington are already part of a local pathfinder group, with the other 11 Local Authorities in the North East, trialling a regional approach to foster carer recruitment and retention, as part of Pillar 4. This work is in its infancy but has support via the Department for Education.
19. There are similar Pathfinder programs in other parts of the country to support the work behind the other Pillars.
20. The key challenge is to consider how Darlington, as a Children's Service, responds to and reacts to the proposed reforms, considering what areas we are well placed to embrace and which may provide us with more challenge.

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
19 JUNE 2023**

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**SEND WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Scrutiny C on the Ofsted/CQC Inspection on the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEND) support in Darlington and the subsequent development of a Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

**Summary**

2. Between January 2022 and 1 February 2022, the local area of Darlington was inspected by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) and CQC (Care Quality Commission). The inspection was to see how well the area had put in place the changes across all services that the Children and Families Act 2014 requires for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families.
3. In particular, it assessed how well Darlington Borough Council, Schools, Academy Trusts and all parts of the Health Service identify and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, as well as the outcomes they achieve.
4. This inspection is not graded, but a detailed letter is produced. Whilst the lead inspector identified a number of strengths in the local area, there were also two areas of significant weakness identified across Darlington.
5. The significant weaknesses identified were:
  - (a) The ineffectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes.
  - (b) Poor preparation for adulthood and post-19 opportunities for children and young people with SEND.
6. Some 80% of local areas inspected over the past year by Ofsted/CQC have had similar outcomes in their letters, requiring them to produce a Written Statement of Action (WSOA), implementation of which is monitored quarterly by the DfE and NHS England prior to a full reinspection by Ofsted/CQC. All other Tees Valley LAs were required to produce a WSOA following their Local Area Inspection. Together with Health, DBC is required to produce a WSOA to address the issues set out above.
7. Whilst many of the issues are common to most local authorities (reflecting some of the challenges arising from the Children and Families Act 2014), it is recognised that there are

actions which local leaders will need to deliver. We were already undertaking changes prior to the inspection. The report has highlighted the need for us to accelerate these changes and implement the required improvements.

## Recommendation

8. It is recommended that Scrutiny note the written statement of action.

## Reasons

9. The recommendation is supported as the Written Statement of Action is a statutory requirement of the SEND inspection framework

**Tony Murphy**  
**Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion**

## Background Papers

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

Tony Murphy : Extension 5637

S17 Crime and Disorder	The service supports the Council's crime and disorder responsibilities, young people engaged in learning are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour
Health and Wellbeing	The service actively promotes health and wellbeing
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	The service promotes sustainability
Diversity	The service actively supports the diversity agenda
Wards Affected	All wards will be affected
Groups Affected	All families of learners with special education needs
Budget and Policy Framework	Services for SEND are supported through the Dedicated Schools Grant
Key Decision	This is not an executive report
Urgent Decision	This is not an executive report
Council Plan	This work will support the aim to provide excellent services for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) - implement a new SEND strategy, increase the number of SEND places in schools and work to raise SEND funding levels from central government
Efficiency	The work will support efficient use of resources to support SEND
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This work will have a positive impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers

## **MAIN REPORT**

### **Darlington Action Plan**

10. The immediate action taken in response to the inspection outcome was that the SEND Assurance Executive and SEND Implementation Group coordinated a response by education, health and social care to the Ofsted/CQC inspection.
11. The WSoA has been created by the local area partnership and has involved a number of co-production approaches. We have surveyed across the partnership receiving 74 responses from Parent/Carers, Children and Young People, Health, Education and Social Care professionals. We also hosted a co-production event with good participation from Parent/Carers, Health, Education and Social Care professionals.
12. All actions have clear dates and a named lead in the WSoA to ensure that delivery can be clearly monitored through the described governance arrangements with monthly, quarterly and annual check points. The governance will monitor not only actions but the detailed outcome measurements so that as a local area we are clearly aware of the impact of the actions taken.
13. The SEND Assurance Executive will have strategic overview of the WSoA and the implementation of the agreed actions to improve the outcomes for children with SEND in Darlington. The overarching aim is to ensure a joint responsibility for addressing the significant weaknesses highlighted by Ofsted/CQC. The executive will also ensure there is pace to the implementation of improvements and sustainable impact for children and young people with SEND.

### **Monitoring**

14. The WSoA was approved as being fit for purpose by Ofsted on 9 September 2022. The delivery of the WSoA will be subject to quarterly monitoring by DfE/NHS England. The first monitoring visit was undertaken in January 2023 and positive feedback on progress was received. Ofsted and the CQC have introduced a new local Area SEND inspection framework in January 2023. Darlington will receive a full inspection under this new framework within 3 years of the previous inspection.

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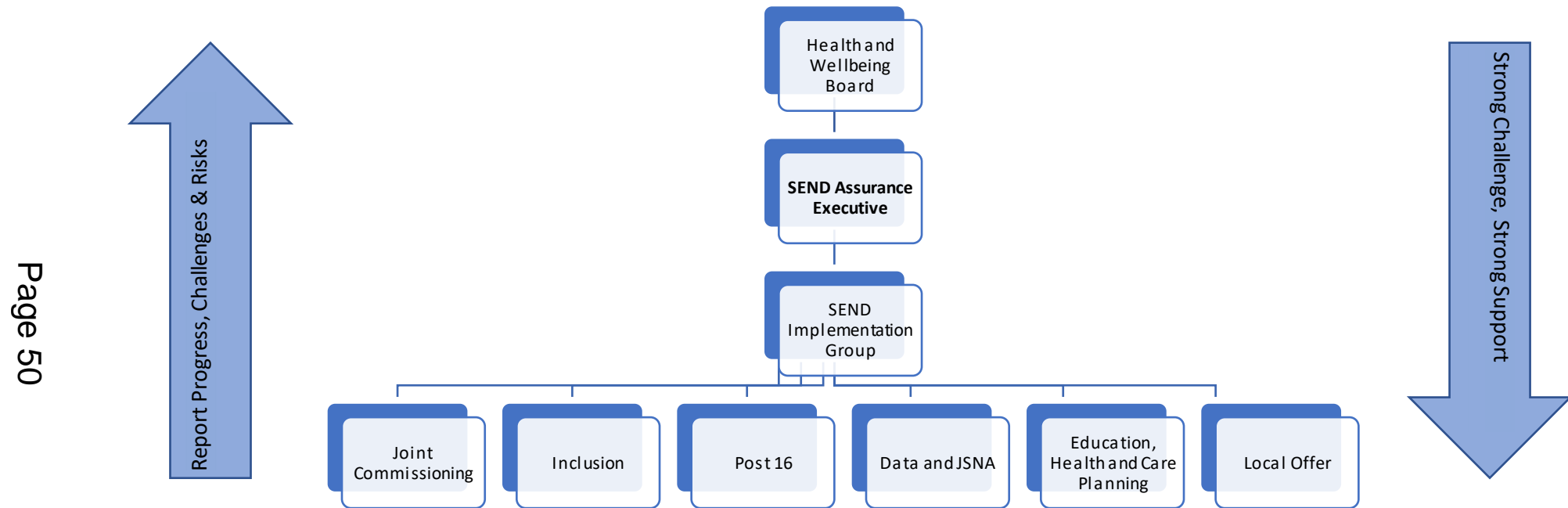
# **Darlington Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Local Area**

## **Written Statement of Action (WSoA)**

**April 2023**

## Governance

The governance structure is in place to ensure progress in the delivery of the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) and the wider SEND agenda.



## Written Statement of Action (WSOA)

The WSoA is Darlington's response to areas of significant weakness identified as part of the OFSTED and CQC inspection, January 2022.

1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes
2. Poor preparation for adulthood and post 19 opportunities for children & Young people with SEND

The written statement has been created by the local area partnership and has involved a range of coproduction approaches. We have surveyed across the partnership receiving 74 responses from Parent/Carers, Children and Young People, Health, Education and Social Care professionals. We also hosted a co-production event with good participation from Parent/Carers. Health, Education and Social Care professionals.

The Written Statement of Action (WSOA) has been created as a high-level implementation and monitoring document. It uses plain English to support and model the coproduction and accessibility of the document which will be available on the Local Offer. The WSoA is an integral part of the continuing improvement journey for children and young people with SEND being undertaken by the Local Area partners.

Monitoring the WSoA

The WSoA is in the form of an action plan and will be used to monitor progress and completion of actions. It will also be used to measure the achieved outcomes to ensure the impact of the actions against agreed targets.

Monitoring Schedule

	Frequency	Forum
Leadership and Operational Delivery	Monthly	SEND Implementation Group
Strategic Assurance	1/4ly	SEND Assurance Executive
Wider “place based” Governance	Annually	Health and Wellbeing Board

Monitoring Actions

Actions will be monitored against progress and delivery within the given time frames using a **BRAGG** rating as below, this will be assessed and updated monthly.

Completed  
Embedded  
Sustained  
(B)

Major concerns  
(R)

On track,  
some concerns  
(A)

On track,  
no concerns  
(G)

Not started,  
not due  
(G)

Monitoring Outcomes

Outcomes will be measured against timeframe and agreed outcome targets using the RAG rating below. Outcome targets are quantified whenever possible in terms of time, a percentage or number of improvements, the RAG rating will be updated monthly. This allows the lead to update the SEND Implementation Group, and governance, of any success, progress, risks, delays or problems. It will help the local area keep a record of how things are going and what happens on our improvement journey.

Impact Not Measured Or Negative Impact	Impact being measured Either Neutral or (not yet measured)	Positive Impact Both Measured and Demonstrable
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**SEND Assurance Executive**

Name	Role	Organisation
Alex Sinclair	Director (Tees Valley)	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Christine Shields	Assistant Director Commissioning	Darlington Borough Council
Carla Scaife	Chair	Darlington Parent Carers Forum
James Stroyan	Group Director of People (Joint DASS/DCSS)	Darlington Borough Council
Jo Heaney	Head of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery - Children and Young People (Tees Valley)	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Jo Littler	Head of SEND and Inclusion (Interim)	Darlington Borough Council
Kate Roe	Principal	Darlington College
Mike Butler	Chief Executive	Education Village AT
Ruth Kimmins	Designated Clinical Officer	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Tony Murphy	Assistant Director Education and Inclusion	Darlington Borough Council
David Watson	Programme Manager	Darlington Borough Council

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**SEND Implementation Group**

Name	Role	Organisation
Sally Hudson	Head	Rise Carr College (PRU)
Caroline Green	Principal	March Bank and Beaumont Hill (Special School)
Helen Dummett	Exec Head	The Federation of Darlington Nursery Schools
Andy Gilpin		Darlington College
Alison Poulter	Head of Service (Children's)	Darlington Borough Council
Debbie Graham	Children and Young Persons SENDIASS	SENDIASS
Jo Heaney	Head of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery - Children and Young People (Tees Valley)	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Jo Littler	Head of SEND and Inclusion (Interim)	Darlington Borough Council
Kevin Kelly	Service Manager Learning Disabilities and Mental Health	Darlington Borough Council
Michele Dickens	Strategic Commissioning Manager – SEND	Darlington Borough Council
Nicole Madden	Commissioning Delivery Manager (Tees Valley)	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Ruth Kimmins	Designated Clinical Officer	North East and North Cumbria ICB

Amy Robinson	Commissioning Officer	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Sukhdev Dosanjh	Head of Commissioning	Darlington Borough Council
Tony Murphy	Assistant Director Education and Inclusion	Darlington Borough Council
David Watson	Programme Manager	Darlington Borough Council

## The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes

DBS

1.1	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	Action Completed	Action Monitoring (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT Monitoring (RAG)
Information to be shared across agencies without the need to keep telling their story	Joint Commissioning  Inclusion  EHCP	Consult with parent/carers, children & young people on alternative methods of collecting/collating/sharing views for statutory assessment and implement agreed process	Jo Littler	October 2022		Dec 2022 In post assessment follow up 90% of parents will say the process was effective in sharing with recognisable coproduction.	
		Implementation of new electronic process - DBC purchase new Education Management System (Liquid Logic Eyes) enabling single family record view and parent/carer portal	Tony Murphy	Sept 2023		Dec 2023 In post assessment follow up, audit of process shows effective transfer of information and tell it once approach	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date
Consultation has taken place and adaptations to practice reflecting this has taken place, there remains the need to assess the progress of this fully against outcome targets. Post assessment survey conducted in Dec 2022 has indicated that 81% of parents felt the process was effective in co-production. However, the survey also highlighted that CYP were often unaware of being assessed. Further work is in development in ensuring that CYP voice is captured in a way that is accessible to all, including the production of user-friendly guides to the EHCP Process. First meeting of this working group scheduled to take place at the end of April 2023. We are looking to utilise our new electronic management system to systematically capture views on coproduction on an ongoing real time basis for all new assessments.							April 2023

Survey in Dec 2022 – 90% of parents felt their view were heard and they had contributed to EHCP. More work to be done on CYP voice – working group established to create aids to capturing CYP voice including those who are nonverbal. Will be made available to parents CYP and professionals as an online resource. Also exploring ways to utilise technology - Mind of my Own app.	
Initial consultation has taken place, creating a report which demonstrates that most families prefer face to face consultations	Dec 2022

1.2	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Responsiveness to understanding and planning for changing needs	Joint commissioning  Data & Performance  EHCP	Develop a comprehensive SEND Data Dashboard for all pupils with SEN and align with SEND Strategy	Nicole Madden  Wendy Excell	Dec 2022		March 2023 Partners use the dashboard to identify existing and emerging need	
		Ensure alignment between the services being commissioned and the data available about needs in Darington	Michele Dickens  Nic Childs	Mar 2023		March 2023 The SEND dashboard is part of the commissioning process for new service provision and delivery	
		Conduct deep dive into recent tribunal to see what lessons can be learned and action plan developed to implement findings	Jo Littler	Dec 2022		April 2023 There will be a 50% reduction in tribunal cases	
		Audit Process to be established to facilitate Placement Planning for predicted and emerging needs.	Jo Littler	Dec 2022		July 2023 There will be a reduction in the percentage of children and young people with an EHC plan receiving their education in out of authority provision to 10%	

story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)						Date
<p>Darlington is currently using a data heavy dashboard which does bring together Data information from Health, Education and Social Care. This has been shared with DfE and seen as very positive example of how a dashboard could work. However, the current dashboard does not create a clear intelligence-based view for Darlington as local area. A working group has been created and is meeting to address these issues, to focus data, outcome measurement and intelligence to produce a dashboard that can more useful across operations, commissioning and in the public domain. The next run of the data for the dashboard will fill several data gaps that have been identified.</p> <p>Initial look to make data more accessible has taken place with a further workshop planned. An audit process to facilitate placement planning is also underway. It is acknowledged that our current Data Dashboard would benefit from use of other technology solutions, an exploration of wider use of data software continues including MS Power BI.</p> <p>Deep dive into tribunal cases completed and report published.</p> <p>Deep dive conducted and action plan implemented. 15 cases logged with tribunal between Jan 22 &amp; March 23, 5 of these in the 3 months following deep dive. Impact not being felt but more indicative of parental lack of faith in mainstream/local offer.</p> <p>Audit process established and implemented. Some challenge by other LA's naming Darlington's local special provision. In terms of target – on track – currently at 11%</p>						April 2023
<p>Darlington does have a data dashboard in place with last iteration in November 2022, group now formed to look at the development moving forward to create approach versions of dashboard for different audiences. Initial timeframe seen as over ambitious.</p> <p>The reset of the Joint Commissioning Board will ensure links from the data team to inform strategic commissioning in terms of future developments. A meeting has been scheduled for the New Year (2023)</p>						Dec 2022



1.3	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Parents, carers and some school leaders are unclear about the Areas plans to ensure appropriate additional support for children with SEN including those with EHCPs	SEND Executive Group	Finalise new SEND Strategy including communication strategy	Tony Murphy  Jo Heaney	Dec 2022		March 23 Routes for accessing information including through the Local Offer, education providers, SENDIASS, partner provider agencies are monitored. Local services report a 50% fall in the number of contacts where parents have not known how children are supported, for example, through the graduated response	
	Inclusion	Further develop and agree the borough wide standard SEND Support Offer linked to graduated response	Helen Ellison	April 2023		Sept 2023A 10% year on year reduction in the numbers of parental referrals for statutory assessment across academic year.	
						Sept 2023 A 20% year on year reduction in the numbers of requests for specialist provision for children and young people whose needs could continue to be met mainstream education.	
	Inclusion	Further develop and agree the borough wide standard SEND Support Offer linked to graduated response	Helen Ellison	April 2023		Sept 2023 A 10% year on year reduction in the numbers of parental referrals for statutory assessment across academic year.	

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						Sept 2023 A 20% year on year reduction in the numbers of requests for specialist provision for children and young people whose needs could continue to be met mainstream education.	
						Sept 2023 100% of requests for managed moves will have been screened for SEND prior to submission and request will reduce overall year on year by 10%	
						Dec 2023 The number of referrals for statutory assessment declined will reduce to 10% or less.	
						Dec 2023 The numbers of statutory assessments carried out that result in an EHC plans being issued will reduce to 75%	
						Dec 2023 The number of EHC plans issued that name mainstream provision will increase to 95%	
						Year End 2023/24 Exclusions and suspensions for pupils with EHC plans and SEN Support will reduce by at least 10%	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date

<p>It was acknowledged, at the WSoA meeting on 17/1/23, that the creation of a truly co-produced strategy cannot be created in the time limits agreed as part of WSoA and that December 2022 was a false hope. Further consultation has taken place over the strategy at the Parent Carer Forum Conference. Active input was gained from the attendance at the event of over 80.</p> <p>Work continues to develop a truly co-produced, meaningful and informed strategy for Darlington.</p>	<p>April 2023</p>
<p>Discussions for revising a new SEND Strategy underway with agreement through a co-production event that “Preparation for Adulthood” will form the central aims of the strategy. The timeframe for production is seen as over ambitious specifically to ensure full co-production takes place. This will be discussed at initial WSoA meeting 17/1/23</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

1.4	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Resourced provision is not used effectively or known about		Consult on all current resource provision and outreach in Darlington. especially with children, young people and families.	Jo Littler Michele Dickens	Dec 2022		Jan 2023 Children, Young People and their parents will have been surveyed and responses collated to inform wider review. Minimum of 50% survey response	
		Conduct a review of all resourced provision and outreach within Darlington to ensure that the resources meet the needs demonstrated by data regarding the uptake and usage of places measured against audit of existing and emerging need.	Jo Littler Michele Dickens	July 2023		Sept 2023 Darlington will be commissioning resourced provision and outreach in line with the review outcome and needs identified by the data dashboard.	

		Ensure all commissioned SEND provision have service level agreements that have an outcomes framework to ensure clarity about expected outcomes. Includes the requirement that children, young people and families are independently surveyed on at least an annual basis to assure satisfaction of service delivery	Jo Littler Michele Dickens	July 2023		Dec 2023 75% of surveys will report satisfaction or above for all commissioned provision in Darlington	
						Dec 2023 All commissioned provision will be meeting the outcomes as specified in SLA's on at least 90% of outcomes measures	
		Review all central and commissioned support services to identify roles responsibility and outcome measures	Jo Littler Michele Dickens	July 2023		Dec 2023 The local authority will have an outcomes based framework in place for quality assurance of commissioned SEND provision with clearly identified roles for this process. Quarterly monitoring visits will be carried out and all provision	

						will have met the required standards in 90% of outcomes measures.	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date
<p>This work on commissioned resource bases has been delayed due to legal obstacles as bases have been commissioned for delivery through Academy Trusts. We currently do not have full agreement of the Academy Trust Leads to reduce the numbers of commissioned places through the high needs place change process in Nov 2022. We remain committed to commissioning the current places until Sept 2024, despite unfilled places. Work is ongoing with the relevant trusts to reach agreement in respect of commissioning intentions, underpinned by needs analysis. Negotiation with Academy Trusts is seeking to alter usage of the current funding to ensure that a more flexible approach to delivery is taken by schools.</p> <p>On a more positive note, there has been widespread consultation on the outreach offer within Darlington, which is allowing us to move forward towards remodelling of these services and will again consult widely on proposed models of delivery to be in place by September 2023. Discussions have been conducted with the leaders concerned and work is progressing. DLT paper submitted with options for bases moving forward then we will consult more widely, with partners and with public.</p>							April 2023
Consultation on resource bases and outreach has commenced but is not complete at present. It is expected to be completed early in the new year.							Dec 2022

[illegible]

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1.6	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Inaccessibility and under promotion of the local offer	The Local Offer	Identify good practice examples of “local offer”	Tony Murphy  Sukhdev Dosanjh	Oct 2022		Nov 2022 Local Offer best practice and upkeep understood	
		Engage with Children, young people and families to identify the best options for a new “local Offer”		Dec 2022		Jan 2023 Best option for local offer identified and design process underway.	
		New “Local Offer” designed, created and launched Ensuring accessibility, promotion and universal use		July 2023		Sept 2023 Footfall on the local offer will increase by 50%	
						Sept 2023 Feedback feature in Local Offer will report 75% satisfaction rate	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date
This as with the note on SEND Strategy is an ambitious target that we are struggling to maintain, some initial consultation work has taken place, but the development of the Local Offer has a link with a wider comms platform within Darlington. Routine updates of information are maintained but a wider recreation is viewed as requiring a greater amount of time . The Implementation group look to get this right rather than rush to a quick fix.  Work previous undertaken pre-pandemic is being revisited, with a clear emphasis on looking at how we make the local offer more dynamic, of greater use for children, young people and their families as well as across the whole local area partnership.							April 2023



Local offers have been identified as good practice including – Middlesborough, Kingston upon Thames and others. Many good local offers appear to be run independently.	Nov 2022
Engagement with families is delayed but will be taking place early in the new year	Dec 2022

[illegible]

<p>satisfactory rate had increased to 93% but again there were inconsistencies on the quality of advice. Of concern is the lack of take up for training to address identified areas for improvement from advice givers.</p> <p>Informal discussion has taken place but without formal consultation. It is proposed that we hold a small-scale trial to gather evidence before wider consultation and implementation in light of issues raised through Deep Dive events.</p> <p>Outcomes of deep dive share with DCO. Further review of the quality of health advice received undertaken jointly with SEN manager and plan to develop and roll out service specific training with clinicians to upskill the workforce as to what good looks like</p>	
<p>Multi Agency QA event successfully ran in Dec 2022. Learning from the audit is compiled and does identify a number of areas for learning and development.</p>	<p>Dec 2022</p>

1.8	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Opportunities to encourage more children and young people with experience of the care system to socialise meet new friends and improve their confidence around others are limited.	Inclusion  Local Offer	Ensure clear links between Care Leavers Local Offer and SEND Local Offer, to ensure flow of information and better access.  (Care leavers OFSTED focused visit Nov 2021 service was seen as very positive)	Tony Murphy  Sukhdev Dosanjh	Sept 2022		Dec 2022 Traffic between Care Leavers local offer and SEND local offer and vice versa measured.	
		Mirror Care leavers local offer across all Children and Young people with experience of the care system in Darlington.	Chris Bell  Tony Murphy	Sept 2023		Dec 2023 All care reviews clearly demonstrate that children and young people have access to opportunities to socialise, meet new friends and improve their confidence.	
		Linking to ongoing work including the "Promise Tree" reporting structure as developed by young people themselves and Darlo Care Crew (Children in Care Council)	Chris Bell  Tony Murphy	Ongoing		Ongoing Checked via Corporate Parenting Panel with engagement from Children in Care, Care Leavers and Council Members	

story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)	Date
<p>Link has been created but it is difficult to fully evidence use of the link.</p> <p>It is noted that in the recent ILACS Inspection of children's Services OFSTED Judged The experience and progress of children in care and care leavers as Outstanding.</p> <p><i>"There is a wide range of opportunities and recreational activities for children to enjoy. Social workers actively engage children in care and care leavers in clubs and participate in many activities with them. Children in care and care leavers feel valued and listened to. There is an enthusiastic looked after children and care leavers' forum who call themselves the 'Darlo Crew'. They regularly participate in corporate parenting panel meetings and value being involved in activities which inform service development and improvement."</i> <a href="https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50200877">https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50200877</a></p>	April 2023
Links create between SEND and Care Leavers Local Offers	Oct 2022

1.9	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Leaders do not use information to plan, provide and review what services are available to children and young people with SEND and their families	Data & Performance  Joint Commissioning	Data dashboard to be reviewed/ used at SEND Implementation Group, Joint Commissioning Board, SEND Assurance Exec and shared with HWB	Jo Heaney  Tony Murphy	Dec 2022		Jan 2023 Darlington has a clear governance system that ensures and assures that the key targets within its SEND strategies are happening and led by data and intelligence	
		Ensure Implementation group has representation across whole system to reflect the breadth of the wider SEND agenda. The Implementation group works together on a strong challenge and strong support basis	Jo Heaney  Tony Murphy	Dec 2022		Jan 2023 The SEND Implementation Group reflects the whole system in Darlington with clear voice of Children, young people and families. The group works collaboratively across the full SEND Agenda	
		New SEND Strategy to be developed based on coproduction, data, SEND inspection, SEND Green Paper and work already undertaken by SEND Implementation Group	James Stroyan  Alex Sinclair	March 2023		April 2023 Darlington has a new SEND Strategy in place that has been co-produced and is owned by the whole partnership.	
		Develop more creative way to hear the Voice of Children and young people e.g., forum, focus groups, wider communication method (internet, social media, etc....)	Jo Heaney  Tony Murphy	Dec 2022		April 2023 Consultation with children and young people will be complete and action plan developed to capture their voice through active engagement	

						July 2023 In survey 75% of children and young people will report that they have been able to participate and influence the whole SEND agenda	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date
Data Dashboard see 1.2							April 2023
SEND Strategy see 1.3							
Voice of children and young people see 1.10							
Data dashboard under review see 1.2							Dec 2022
Membership of both SEND Implementation Group and SEND Assurance Executive have been expanded to ensure clear membership and presence across the wider SEND Local Area – both executive and implementation groups have representation across Education, Health, Social Care and Parent/Carer Forum. The involvement of Children and Young people is being addressed but is currently via representation of CYP SENDIASS							Nov 2022

1.10	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)

Ensuring aspirations of CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE are captured and are reflected in their EHCP's EHCP	Data & Performance	Develop young person SEND Forum to develop good practice guidance for practitioners	Sukhdev Dosanjh	Jan 2023		Jan 2023 Representative group on young people developed with clarity around roles and responsibilities	
		Ensuring ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE have access to SENDIASS if requested	Sukhdev Dosanjh	Jan 2023		Jan 2023 100% of all appropriate requests for SENDIASS support by children and young people are being met	
		SEND Health Facilitator to be appointed to give independent advice & support for children and young people in health matters	Jo Heaney	Jan 2023		April 2023 SEND Health Facilitator will have an action plan for delivery to support children and young people, and their families	
						July 2023 Follow up with survey users will indicate 75% rated the service satisfactory or above	
		Deep dive QA to be implemented on a termly basis	Jo Littler	March 2023		Dec 2023 90% of quality assured plans & related advice will be rated satisfactory or better on preparation for adulthood.	
		QA on all initial plans	Jo Littler	March 2023		Sept 2023 100% of EHC plans will contain children and young person views and aspirations, appropriate to age and development	
		QA on all reviews for Y9 onwards	Jo Littler	March 2023		Dec 2023	



						100% post Year9 reviews will show appropriate discussion of preparation for adulthood and Outcomes	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date
<p>A mechanism to gain a truly representative voice of children and young people remain a problematic area but work is underway between SENDIASS, PCF and others to look at ways to provide this in more meaningful ways. Currently the CYP SENDIASS is providing representation and challenge on behalf of Children and Young People, while a wider and more representative mechanism created.</p> <p>ICB efficiencies has resulted in recruitment to a SEND Health Facilitator post being paused, a new business case was developed the post is now out to advent with closing date 12-6-23</p> <p>Appropriate discussion of Preparation for Adulthood and outcomes for post year 9 are starting from low baseline since this is an area that stakeholders appear less confident in. Even in new plans there is a low threshold but work continues to get Preparation for adulthood firmly established as golden thread for SEND across Darlington, it will feature heavily within the emerging SEND Strategy.</p> <p>The implementation of a new data system for EHC planning on Liquid Logic has given us an opportunity to ensure that as part of the EHC plan process outcomes, voice of the child/young person and aspirations a more readily accessible to support quality monitoring and inform strategic planning and future commissioning.</p> <p>A working group has been formed to address ECHP process and engagement through the pupil voice. This group includes a broad partnership Education, Health, Social Care, PCF, SENDIASS and is working initially around the creation of tools for those who are non-verbal.</p>							April 2023
Young Persons SENDIASS post in place and very actively engaging with Children and Young People across Darlington, played a central role in a recent Preparation for Adulthood event for the local area							Dec 2022

<b>1.11</b>	<b>1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes</b>						
<b>Issue to be addressed</b>	<b>Strategy Link</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actioned by</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Action Status (BRAGG)</b>	<b>Outcome targets</b>	<b>IMPACT (RAG)</b>

Rising absence and suspension from schools need to be addressed	Inclusion	The development of the Inclusion Strategy will contain advice and targets for improving attendance and suspensions in all schools in line with recently produced national guidance	James Stroyan Alex Sinclair	July 2023		Dec 2023 Reduce the persistent absence rates for pupils with an EHC plan by 10%	
		Establish key criteria and legal processes for supporting schools with absences	Dianne Gage	July 2023		Dec 2023 Reduce the number of fixed term suspensions for pupils with SEND in Darlington by 10%	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date

1.12	1. The effectiveness of meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and the impact of this on their outcomes						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)

<p>Children and young people with SEND have not achieved well or attained highly, particularly at the end of Key Stage 4</p>	<p>Inclusion</p>	<p>Ensure monitoring of achievement of children and young people both those with SEN support and those with EHC plans at end of key stage 4 on an individual school basis.</p>	<p>Helen Ellison</p>	<p>Oct 2022</p>	<p>March 2023</p> <p>Children and young people's achievement at specific key stages is part of SEND Data Dashboard and monitored by SEND Governance Model</p>	
		<p>Support schools to share best practice of SEN support within mainstream education by building on SENCO network to influence whole school agenda, rather than specialist support.</p>	<p>Helen Ellison</p>	<p>Jan 2023</p>	<p>Jan 2023</p> <p>Best practice is shared across all Darlington Schools support a reduction in managed moves</p>	
					<p>Sept 2023</p> <p>20% reduction in referrals to specialist provision year on year</p>	
					<p>Sept 2023</p> <p>15% reduction in requests for EHC plans year on year</p>	
					<p>Sept 2023</p> <p>Attainment at key stage 4 at least is in line with national and regional data.</p>	
<p>story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)</p>						<p>Date</p>
<p>Report on SEN support completed and has been submitted to both SEND Implementation group and SEND Assurance Group for approval. Actions within the report to be agreed and implemented</p> <p>Monitoring in place and will form a significant aspect of the SEND Data Dashboard.</p> <p>Data issues complete and a report is now in hand</p>						<p>April 2023</p> <p>Dec 2022</p>

2.1	2. Poor preparation for adulthood and post 19 opportunities for children & Young people with SEND						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Children and young people with SEND, <b>especially those without an EHC plan</b> , want more support to understand the world of work, further education opportunities and training, including apprenticeships, clearly.	Local Offer  Post 16	DBC will work in partnership with Youth Employment UK to map provision, understand YP and their experiences, barriers and challenges and support employers to create quality youth-friendly opportunities for young people including inspiration and work experience activity	Seth Pearson	Dec 2022		Oct 2023 Youth Voice Survey will indicate improved understanding of employment and training opportunities available	
		Review the independent careers information advice and guidance offer in Darlington for all children and young people with SEN support and ECH plans  Ensure this is captured in the local offer  Ensure this is available for those not accessing provision within Darlington (through attending Out of Area, or	Paul Richardson	Jan 2023		Oct 2023 the proportion of young people who are NEET in Darlington will be at least in line with regional and national rates or below.  Sept 2023 100% of children and young people with SEN support and EHC plans show evidence of independent careers information advice and guidance in Darlington	

		absent from their provision, or NEET)				Sept 2023 Independent careers information advice and guidance offer in Darlington will have a clear presence on the Local Offer, with the footfall increasing month on month.	
Page 77		Review the work experience offer in Darlington for all children and young people with SEN support and ECH plans	Paul Richardson	Jan 2023		Oct 2023 The proportion of young people who are NEET in Darlington will be in line with regional and national rates or below.	
		Ensure this is captured in the local offer				Sept 2023 Revised work experience opportunities will be available in Darlington for 100% children and young people with SEN support and EHC plans	
		Ensure this is available for those not accessing provision within Darlington (through attending Out of Area, or absent from their provision, or those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)				Sept 2023 Work experience opportunities in Darlington will have a clear presence on the Local Offer with the footfall increasing month on month.	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date
Careers advice is supported across Darlington as part of a wider Tees Valley Combined Authority commissioning piece and so creates a difficulty for a single authority to fully influence work undertaken across a wider regional area. However, with the formation of an Employment/Employability Forum the providers SEND lead has been co-opted to be part of the working group. This is understood as an area of need of improvement.							April 2023

<p>As a local area we are working closely with NDTi around Supported Internships but as a part of this work they are supporting Darlington to look at the wider employment and employability offer.</p> <p>There is a clear willingness from Youth Employment UK to look at the website that has been developed for Darlington, as part of the wider youth friendly Darlington initiative, to ensure that it is addressing the needs of young people with SEND, with and without EHC plans</p> <p><a href="https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-advice-help/youth-friendly-places-in-the-uk/darlington/">https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-advice-help/youth-friendly-places-in-the-uk/darlington/</a></p>	
<p>Very positive – co-production event facilitated by NDTi took place in November and has produced an initial version of an audit of PfA in Darlington. There still remains a lack of cohesion across the post 19 which is recognised as a genuine focus area. There are small pockets of genuinely positive practice such as Project Search but access to more mainstream offers remains poor this is recognised and does form part of the work being undertaken as part of the wider “Youth Employment” initiatives in Darlington</p>	<p>Dec 2022</p>

2.2	2 Poor preparation for adulthood and post 19 opportunities for children & Young people with SEND						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Support for young people transitioning into adulthood to access appropriate health care.	Post 16	Develop Health Transition Pathways across all children & young people's acute services	Ruth Kimmins	Dec 2022		Dec 2022 Health transition pathway developed and in place across all services within acute setting	
		Test transition pathway/model across paediatrics and OT services				April 2023 Transitions plans will have been piloted with 5 children and young people and their families in Paediatrics and OT. The learning will be used to inform the wider roll out across all services within the acute setting	
						Sept 2023 50 % of children and young people identified as needing to transition to Adults Services will have commenced on transitions pathway	
		Process will be developed to ensure all children and young people with a Learning Disability will be flagged on GP records and will be invited for their 14 plus annual health check	Ruth Kimmins	April 2023		April 2024 The numbers of children and young people taking up annual health check will be at least maintained but be stretched to 86% by April 2024 to allow for a full year effect	

[illegible]



An initial review of provision has taken place to determine what models of delivery are implemented across the tees and regional authorities

A report will be presented to DLT in January to review options for consideration

2.4	2 Poor preparation for adulthood and post 19 opportunities for children & Young people with SEND						
Issue to be addressed	Strategy Link	Actions	Actioned by	By when	Action Status (BRAGG)	Outcome targets	IMPACT (RAG)
Post 19 offer	Post 16	Ensure Darlington's Youth Employment Initiative service identifies, and targets support for unemployed YP with SEND between the ages of 18 and 25 (initiative covers 18-29)	Tony Murphy	Dec 2022		Sep 2022 Baseline dataset established of current employment support levels for young people with SEND	
						April 2023 20% increase of young people supported with a personal plan	
		Review current response to employment support for those young people furthest from employment, including supported employment, supported internships, Traineeships and support towards work.	Paul Richardson	Dec 2022		Jan 2023 Clear understanding of destinations across young people with SEND	
		Map local opportunities for education, training and employment, post 18, for young people with SEND and publish on local offer	Paul Richardson Kevin Kelly	Dec 2022		Jan 2023 Comprehensive gap analysis better support towards work. This will form the basis of further action.	

		To have a clear, co-produced preparation for Adulthood pathway which details roles and responsibilities of all key stakeholders	Paul Richardson Kevin Kelly	Mar 2023		April 2023 A clear plan of delivery of better support towards work based around broadly on "preparation for adults". This will form the basis of further action.	
		Updated post 16 and post 19 information available via Local Offer	Paul Richardson Kevin Kelly	July 2023		Dec 2023 Young people and families can access clear information of opportunities, services, support and advice available.	
						Dec 2023 Footfall on this area will be monitored and will see an increase of 50%	
						Dec 2023 More than 75% of those responding with feedback after accessing this area of the local offer will respond positively	
		Establish Darlington SEND employment partnership to develop the best routes into employment for young people with SEND. This will include young people, parents, employers, colleges,	Paul Richardson Kevin Kelly	April 2023		April 2023 Partnership established and baseline dataset identified of current number of young people with SEND accessing a full range of employment opportunities	

		supported employment providers and Darlington Borough Council.				April 24 20% increase in the number of young people accessing a full range of employment opportunities	
story so far (success, progress, risks, delays)							Date
<p>An initial list of Post16 opportunities is embedded below and we continue to work on this as new provision is discovered.</p> <div data-bbox="179 606 235 662" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Post 16 EET Opportunities SEND.d</p> <p>There is a page for careers and post 16 options on the local authority website at: <a href="https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/11-19-partnership/careers-and-post-16-options/">https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/11-19-partnership/careers-and-post-16-options/</a>. Most post 16 providers also have their details on the local offer, however a lot of mainstream providers do not differentiate between those with SEN and those without on their information. In post-16 the SEN support definition is not used rather learners self-declare whether they have a 'learning disability and/or difficulty' (LDD).</p> <p>A Send Employment and Employability Partnership has been formed and had an initial meeting, it is formed from a wide partnership across Darlington and is exploring how to influence the wider employment agenda in Darlington. Links with wider youth employment initiatives have been established and will form a clear part of the governance of this group moving forward.</p> <p>Work continues around supported internships with NDTi and will develop over the coming months.</p> <p>Mapping work has commenced but is not complete at this time .</p> <p>Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood has been identified as a specific priority for the People Group in Darlington BC, work is underway bringing together Adult Services, Children's Services and Education to bring together an overarching transformation programme to address this issue across the local authority and area.</p> <p>Meetings have taken place with Project Search (supported Internships) and Triage ( Work and Health Programme)</p>							April 2023

Darlington YEI programme does offer support to those who have been identified as in receipt of EHC plans but this is limited currently. There remains difficulty in identifying individuals who have been in receipt of SEN support pre 16 in the system and there are no educational markers that follow them post 16. Work is underway to look how this can be improved to provide evidence of progression route for those in receipt of SEN support.  See 2.1	Dec 2022
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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**19 JUNE 2023**

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**WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

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**SUMMARY REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2023/24 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 2023/24 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: Paul Dalton Ext. 4805

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 and Climate Change	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 2024, 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.

### Forward Plan and Additional Items

8. Once the Work Programme has been agreed at this meeting, any Member seeking to add a new item to the Work Programme will need to complete a Quad of Aims (**Appendix 2**).
9. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

## APPENDIX 1

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
<b>Performance Management and Regulation</b>	Q3 19 June 2023 Q4 21 Aug Q1 23 Oct Q3 8 Jan 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
<b>SEND Written Statement of Action</b>	19 June 2023	Tony Murphy		To continue to update scrutiny committee on the implementation and progress of the SEND Written Statement of Action developed following the Ofsted/CQC Inspection on the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEND) support in Darlington.
<b>Children's Residential Services</b>	19 June 2023	Christine Shields		To update Members on the review of Residential Assurance due to be completed in March 2023  <i>Item deferred to 21 August 2023 per Officer request as further information required from Ofsted.</i>
<b>The Government Response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care</b>	19 June 2023	Chris Bell		To update Members on the Governments response to the White Paper

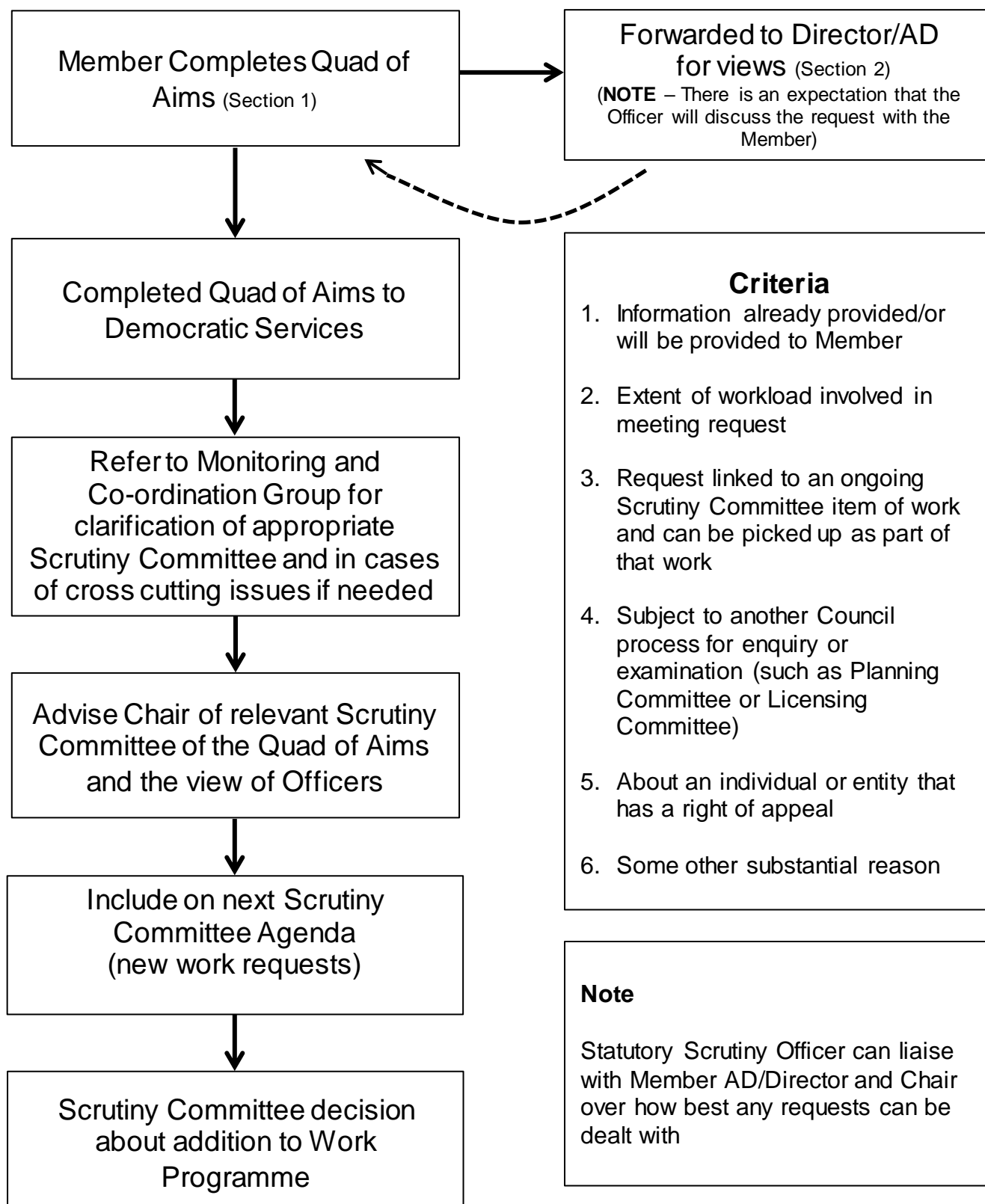
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
<b>Local Designated Officer Annual Report</b>	21 August 2023	James Stroyan/ Marian Garland		To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned
<b>Children and Young People Public Health Overview and Childhood Healthy Weight Plan</b>	21 August 2023	Ken Ross	PBH 009 PBH 013c PBH 016 PBH 018 PBH 020 PBH 021 PBH 054	Annual Monitoring
<b>Children's Services Self-Assessment - Overview</b>	23 October 2023	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
<b>Learning and Skills Service Annual Report</b>	23 October 2023	Paul Richardson		Annual Report to demonstrate challenge
<b>Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report 2021/22</b>	23 October 2023	Vicky Davidson-Boyd, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley		Annual monitoring
<b>Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2022/23</b>	23 October 2023	Martin Graham	CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit.



Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	8 January 2024	Ann Baxter, Independent Chair		Annual monitoring
2023/24 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	19 February 2024	Tony Murphy/Nicola Davies		Annual Report
Refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan	June 2024	Christine Shields		To update Members on the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan

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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?

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)**

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

**PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**Signed** ..... **Position** ..... **Date** .....

**PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD: 1 JUNE 2023 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Decision Maker and Date</b>
Adaptation Plan	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Ingenium Parc - Proposed Development of Plot 1	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Introduction of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Representation on Outside Bodies 2023/24	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Schedule of Transactions	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Skerningham Garden Village Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Council 20 Jul 2023
	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2022-23	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Council Plan 2020/23 Performance Report - Quarter 4	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
House Building - Proposed Joint Venture	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Premises at Brignall Moor Crescent, Darlington - Proposed long lease extension	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2022/23	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Renewal of Dog Public Space Protection Order	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Revenue Budget Outturn 2022/23	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Asset Management Plan	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter One 2023/24	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter One	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
School Term Dates 2025/26	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023