



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Monday, 15 April 2024  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

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

1. Introductions / Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 February 2024 (Pages 3 - 6)
4. Council Plan 2024-27 - Draft for Consultation – Report of the Chief Officers Executive (Pages 7 - 24)
5. Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2023/24 – Report of the Group Director of People (Pages 25 - 56)
6. Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education – Report of the Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion (Pages 57 - 62)
7. Work Programme 2023-2024 – Report of the Assistant Director, Law and Governance (Pages 63 - 72)
8. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
9. Questions



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

**Friday, 5 April 2024**

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

**Membership**

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

**Statutory Co-optees**

Carly Stonier

**Non Statutory Co-optees**

Maura Regan, 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, Democratic and 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](mailto:paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk) or telephone 01325 405805

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 February 2024

**PRESENT** – Councillors Allen, Crudass, Durham, Johnson, Kane, Layton, Storr and Toms.

**APOLOGIES** – Councillor Ali and Renton.

**ABSENT** – Councillor Carly Stonier, Maura Regan, Janet Woodcock, John Armitage and Sally Hudson.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Wallis and Snedker.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Chris Bell (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion) and Paul Dalton (Democratic and Elections Officer).

### **CYP39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

### **CYP40 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2024 AND 15 JANUARY 2024**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 8 January 2024 and 15 January 2024.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 8 January 2024 and 15 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### **CYP41 SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND THE ASSOCIATED SERVICES**

The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion, submitted a report (previously circulated) which provided Members an update on the current arrangements for the Council's Home to Transport Policy and outlined the changes made in recent statutory guidance.

The submitted report highlighted that Darlington Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide free home to school transport in certain circumstances.

Discussion ensued on the different budgets involved in the provision of the service and the sharing of information on the recent changes with appropriate staff. Members were also keen to understand how information regarding the policy and the recent changes was communicated to parents.

Members raised questions in relation to the number of children that transport was provided for, the average cost per pupil, and whether any checks were undertaken to ascertain whether parents had the wherewithal to transport their own children accordingly. The transport provision for those receiving specialist provision elsewhere was analysed, with Members questioning whether it might be more efficient to provide the specialist provision within the Borough.

Members also requested greater clarity around the timetable, consultation and decision-making in relation to the policy, and expressed a desire for the policy to come back to Scrutiny prior to the final decision being made.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the Scrutiny Committee note the arrangements current in place.

(b) That the Scrutiny Committee note the changes to the statutory guidance relating to home to school transport.

#### **CYP42 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REVIEW 2023-24**

The Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform members of the findings of the 2023-24 Childcare Sufficiency Review.

The submitted report set out the Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities that they require the Local Authority to secure sufficient childcare. Local Authorities should report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty.

The report highlighted how the Darlington Childcare Market is made up of private day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders out of school clubs, nursery schools and nursery units and that since the Pandemic it has made the Childcare Market more complex and less predictable and that in the autumn term of 2023 the early years entitlement has declined.

The submitted report has demonstrated that there is sufficient overall capacity demand throughout the period of review. It still will be continually monitored to ensure parents are able to access training and work in the coming months/years.

Members entered into discussion on the limitations to provision, and whether any limitations were related to infrastructure, resources or staffing. Members were keen to hear the feedback received from providers in relation to the National Childcare Expansion Programme, and the Committee were pleased to note that providers appreciated the Council's early action and surety around funding, and that there was no sense of undue alarm in relation to April's phased changes, however Members heard that there was not the same confidence in relation to future tranches of the programme.

Discussion ensued on the potential for expansion of the Council's own maintained nurseries, and the funding streams available to meet the cost of any future expansion. Members further explored the additional demands around recruitment, which included additional Government funding and the piloting of a retention and recruitment scheme, which included a bursary scheme with an incentive payment for those qualifying or returning to the sector. Members were keen to understand any contingency arrangements should childcare provided by extended family, such as grandparents, reduce.

**RESOLVED** – That the findings of the 2023-24 Childcare Sufficiency Review be noted.

#### **CYP43 WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

The Assistant Director, Law and Governance, submitted a report (previously circulated)

requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved Work Programme.

Members expressed concern in relation to the lack of items on the Work Programme for future meetings. Members were reminded that should they wish to request items for the Work Programme they should complete and submit a Quad of Aims, and that they may wish to give consideration to items that they would like to see on the Work Programme for the new Municipal Year.

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

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
15 APRIL 2024**

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**COUNCIL PLAN 2024-27 – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To introduce the draft Council Plan to the Committee and seek comments.

**Summary**

2. The Council Plan is an official document that outlines the long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities of the council to deliver over the next three years (2024-2027).
3. The plan gives strategic direction to the Council - and council services - defining priorities and shaping delivery. It gives clarity to residents, businesses and stakeholders on our values, what is important and what we will do.
4. The public consultation for the draft plan is now open and runs from 6 March to 25 April. The council is seeking views from residents, businesses, charities and key stakeholders. It is intended that the final plan goes to Cabinet and Council in May for approval and adoption.

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that the Committee:-
  - (a) Review the plan and provide feedback views in the meeting
  - (b) Share the plan with your networks and encourage people to complete the survey.

**Chief Officers Executive**

**Background Papers**

Draft Council Plan and Survey available at: <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/councilplan>

Author: Lynne Davies. Extn: 5070

S17 Crime and Disorder	The Council Plan prioritises the safety of our residents and communities. The Communities Priority identifies key actions that we will deliver in partnership. The performance monitoring framework will include measures to demonstrate progress against this outcome.
Health and Wellbeing	The Council Plan prioritises the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities. The Health and Wellbeing Priority identifies many actions and good health will be an important outcome across the plan. The performance monitoring framework will include measures to demonstrate progress against this outcome improving health and reducing health inequalities.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	The Council Plan prioritises addressing carbon impact and climate change. Addressing climate change is a core value and will be considered in everything the council does. The performance monitoring framework will include measures to demonstrate progress against this outcome.
Diversity	Addressing inequalities is a core value within the plan. A desktop Equality Impact Assessment has not identified any significant negative impacts on protected characteristics. The key deliverables referenced in the plan will be progressed through other strategies and plans and will involve separate equality impact assessments where appropriate.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	The Council plan will be part of the policy framework and will be the primary strategy that strategies and plans demonstrate their contribution to the vision, ambition and priorities of the Council Plan
Key Decision	This is a key decision because following consultation, agreement to the recommendations will result in the Local Authority adopting a plan which will have an effect on the communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the area of the local authority.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision as it will require adoption by full Council after consultation.
Council Plan	This is the draft Council Plan for 2024-2027 for consultation.
Efficiency	The draft Council Plan prioritises efficient and effective resources as a key value and will be considered in all council business.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The Council remains committed to ensuring the best outcomes for Looked After Children, and contains a number of priorities and actions that will have a positive impact on this group.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

#### Council Plan – Draft for Consultation

6. The draft Council Plan is a strategic document that gives direction to the Council and council services by defining priorities and shaping delivery; and gives clarity to residents, businesses and stakeholders on our values, what is important and what we will do.
7. The draft plan proposes a long term vision and ambitions for Darlington, and priorities for delivery over the life of the plan. Three core values feed into the plan: addressing inequalities, tackling climate change and efficient and effective use of resources. These are important principles we'll consider in everything we do.
8. The six priorities are given equal importance:
  - (a) Economy: A strong, sustainable economy and highly skilled workforce with opportunities for all.
  - (b) Homes: Affordable and secure homes that meet current and future resident need.
  - (c) Living well: A healthier and better quality of life for longer supporting those who need it.
  - (d) Children and young people: best start in life, realising potential and raising aspirations.
  - (e) Communities: Healthier, safer and more engaged communities.
  - (f) Environment: A well connected, clean and sustainable borough.
9. Each priority has a number of key deliverables to be progressed over the life of the plan. The plan is ambitious and requires a Team Darlington approach by strengthening our relationships and building new partnerships with our stakeholders and communities.
10. The public consultation for the draft plan is now open and runs from 6 March to 25 April. The council is seeking views from residents, businesses, charities and key stakeholders.
11. A survey has been published alongside the plan allowing for feedback. It is on the consultations page of the Darlington Borough Council website alongside a Questions and Answers paper. Printed copies of the plan and survey are available in Darlington Library, Cockerton Library and the Dolphin Centre and upon request. The March edition of One Darlington which is distributed across the borough also contains an article on the Council Plan with information on how to complete the survey.
12. Awareness raising will primarily take place through social media, ward surgeries of local councillors, at relevant stakeholder meetings and other suitable opportunities that arise. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in May. It is intended that the final plan goes to Cabinet and Council in May for approval and adoption.

## Monitoring the Council Plan

13. Delivery is structured around the six priorities and three core values and will be progressed in a cross-council collaborative approach through key strategies and plans. The deliverables in the plan will be owned by key strategies and plans, in particular those highlighted in the council plan:

- (a) Climate change action plan
- (b) Inclusive economy strategy
- (c) Homes strategy
- (d) Health and wellbeing strategy, and
- (e) Children and young people’s plan.

14. Political accountability for the priorities and core values will be collaborative with a Cabinet member leading each priority and core value, working with relevant portfolio leads to deliver.

Priority / Core Value	Lead Cabinet member	Portfolio Holders
Economy	Cllr McEwan	Adults Children and Young People Economy Local Services Stronger Communities
Homes	Cllr Roche	Adults Children and Young People Health and Housing Stronger Communities
Living Well	Cllr Curry and Cllr Porter	Adults Health and Housing Resources
Children and Young People	Cllr Wallis	Children and Young People Economy Resources Stronger Communities
Communities	Cllr Riley	Adults Children and Young People Economy Local Services Stronger Communities
Environment	Cllr McCollom	Adults Economy Local Services
Addressing inequalities	Cllr Riley	All
Tackling climate change	Cllr McEwan	All
Efficient and effective resources	Cllr Porter	All

15. Progress will be reported in a six monthly report to Cabinet. The process for reporting is currently in development whilst the public consultation is ongoing. It is expected to:
  - (a) Structure around the 6 priorities and 3 core values
  - (b) Include a core set of longer term indicators with a wellbeing approach designed to reflect the plan's focus on thriving, fair and sustainable lives and places. Taking a life course approach with a focus on understanding inequalities and their causes
  - (c) Contain a clear narrative for the priorities, deliverables and core values that demonstrate progress.
  
16. This performance report will be supplemented annually by a refreshed Darlington profile report that analyses the most up to date published data and intelligence, including feedback from key surveys. We are in the process of evolving the Darlington profile report to align with the proposed new structure of the Council Plan. It will provide a more detailed analysis of key data to help us understand how lives are improving now and in the future. This will be prepared for use as a shared evidence base for the core strategies and plans that will deliver this council plan.

### **Outcome of the Consultation**

17. There will be regular reporting to Chief Officers Executive and members of Cabinet on consultation feedback throughout the consultation period and a final report will be produced when the consultation closes. It is intended that that final plan will go to Cabinet and Council for approval and adoption in May 2024.

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# Council Plan 2024-27

Draft For Consultation  
6 March 2024



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Foreword

It is an honour to be Leader of Darlington Borough Council and to have the opportunity to share with you our draft Council Plan for 2024-2027. This plan sets out our long term ambitions for Darlington and priorities for the next few years. We want to hear your views.

Darlington is a great place to live and work. We are committed to making Darlington fairer and greener for everyone, building on opportunities and successes and facing up to the difficult challenges.

However, over the previous decade inequalities across our communities have worsened. The North East has seen the highest increase in child poverty over much of the previous decade. Child poverty restricts the chances for children to flourish. This is just a one example of inequalities that results in not everyone having the same life opportunities.

At the heart of the plan is our vision to be one of the best places in the UK to live, learn, work and invest - with a strong economy, healthy thriving communities and opportunities for all.

This means Darlington will have an inclusive and sustainable economy; people living well and staying healthy; thriving places and connected communities. This is a long term vision and the beginning of our journey that we want to make together.

Three core values feed into this plan:

- **Addressing inequalities** - Darlington is a wonderful place to live and work and we want these opportunities to be accessible to everyone. We will develop a long term focus on understanding and addressing the causes of inequality ensuring our communities are safe and can thrive.
- **Tackling climate change** - the changing climate will impact all our lives. We will play our part by making the council carbon neutral by 2040 and working with others to deliver a more resilient Darlington.
- **Efficient and effective resources** - we will remain focussed on the financial sustainability of the council, ensuring good governance and delivering the best services possible with the resources we have for our residents, communities, and business.

The Council faces unparalleled financial challenges. Reductions in public spending between 2010 and 2019 meant the Council's budget was reduced by £46m in real terms, a 36% reduction in budget. After covid, we have seen the cost of living increasing, income deprivation and poverty rising, high inflation and interest rates along with a significant increase in demand for adult and children's services consuming over two thirds of our budget.

You will see the plan sets out six priorities for the Council for the next three years: economy, homes, living well, children and young people, communities and the environment.

This is ambitious and requires collaborative effort to deliver with existing partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Public Sector Executive Group and Voluntary and Community Sector Executive Steering Group to new partnerships focussed on the economy.

The health, wealth and wellbeing of our residents is really important to us. At the heart of our Council Plan is a determination to have a focus on addressing inequalities. This can only be achieved by the Council working in partnership with our communities.

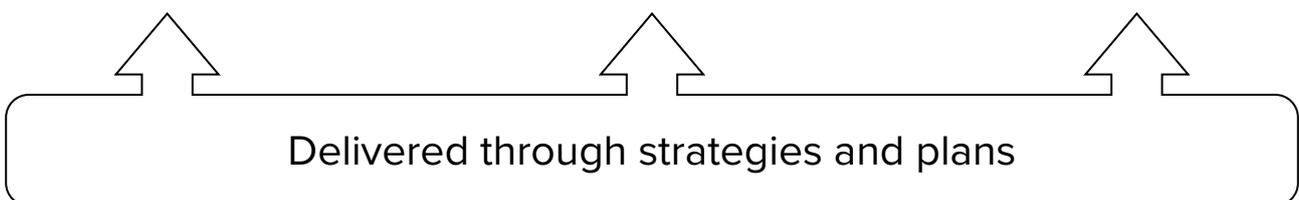
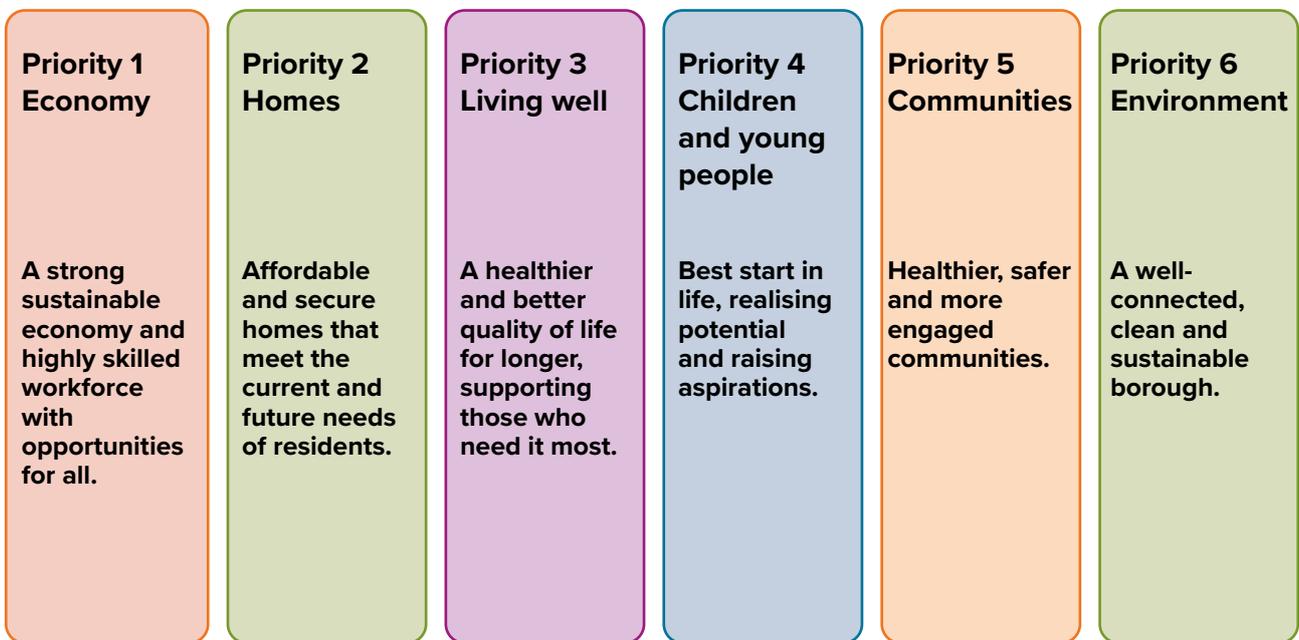
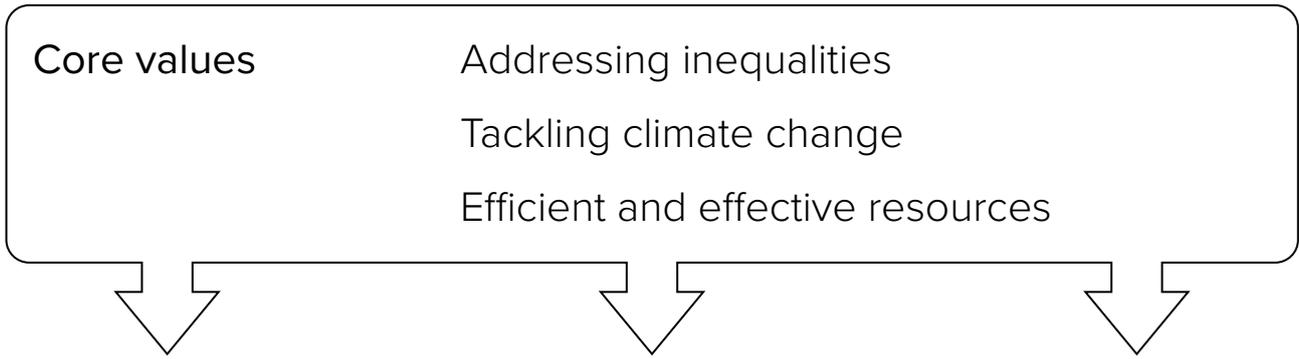
These are both exciting and challenging times for Darlington, and we want your views on our proposals in this plan to help shape our priorities and how we deliver.



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# Our Plan For Darlington



# What long term success looks like

## **An inclusive and sustainable economy will have:**

- More people of all ages in good work
- Key sectors and sites innovating and growing by creating jobs, attracting more business and investment
- A healthy, productive and vibrant business community
- A business friendly public sector supporting businesses to locate and grow
- Increased skills levels in the resident labour market
- Vibrant town and neighbourhood centres providing services, retail and work for all generations
- A growing economy that supports our environment and heritage.

## **Living well and staying healthy will mean:**

- Health outcomes are improved and inequalities reduced
- Children and young people have the best start in life
- People are supported to be independent
- Homes are affordable, healthy, secure and meet needs
- Households are more financially secure
- Residents live longer, healthier, more productive lives
- People are active and involved.

## **Thriving places and connected communities will have:**

- Climate resilience where places are prepared for change and can adapt, with reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Access to good services
- Happy, safe and secure communities with improved safety in public spaces
- Cultural, heritage and community assets
- Well-connected people and communities, with links to places within and outside the borough
- Digitally connected residents who are benefitting from opportunities offered online
- Attractive, relevant and welcoming places
- Sustainable and integrated transport across the borough and beyond.

# Core values

We are committed to making Darlington a fairer and greener place for everyone. We are focussed on ensuring everyone has the opportunity for a good job, home and social connections. Our three core values are important principles we will consider in everything we do.

## Addressing inequalities

Darlington is a wonderful place to live and work. We have a high quality of life and our economy is resilient and growing, but this is not felt by everybody. There are widening inequalities, and the gap between the people and places with the best and worst outcomes is unacceptably high. There are unacceptably high levels of child poverty and disadvantage, demonstrated by 25% of Darlington's children living in low income families, with the highest ward reaching nearly 47%. We want opportunities to be accessible to everyone. To achieve this will require a collaborative approach with our partners. We will:

- Develop a cross-council approach based on an in-depth understanding of inequalities and their causes, with a focus on local communities experiencing disadvantage
- Ensure all new strategies and plans consider inequalities, starting with the development of an inclusive growth strategy and a review of the health and wellbeing strategy
- Strengthen partnership working with key stakeholders and the voluntary and community sector with a long term focus on opportunity and addressing the causes of inequality; and short term focus on reducing the burden of the cost of living.

## Tackling climate change

The climate is changing, which has an impact on our lives from the risk of flooding and more extreme weather to health impacts for our most vulnerable residents. We are also all facing increasing energy costs and potential threats to energy security. We cannot address these challenges alone, but we know we have an important role to play. One of the first things we did when we came to office was bring forward by 10 years the Council's commitment to being carbon neutral. We will:

- Deliver the climate change action plan to make Darlington Borough Council carbon neutral by 2040
- Involve all parts of the council in a cross-council approach to sustainability and climate change
- Work alongside our business community collaborating with groups such as the Darlington Employers Environmental Partnership to transition to net zero
- Work with partners, government, public and private sectors and residents for a resilient Darlington so we are able to respond and adapt to change.

## Efficient and effective resources

The council is facing unparalleled financial challenges with rising costs and a significant increase in demand for services. We have a responsibility to ensure residents get value for money for their council tax and that every pound is spent efficiently and effectively. We will remain focussed on the financial sustainability of the council, ensuring good governance and delivering the best services possible with the resources we have for our residents, communities, and businesses. Our people are our best asset and will lead a culture of collaboration, innovation and creativity, and compassion, whilst maintaining focus on continuous improvement. We will:

- Deliver a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan and positive Value For Money outcome
- Deliver high quality governance and decision making
- Review and refresh the Asset Management Plan and Procurement Strategy
- Build on the Capital Project Management process by introducing an enhanced ICT system to improve efficiency and effectiveness
- Review and deliver the workforce strategy
- Maximise income through new joint venture companies, increase levels of business rates by growing the local economy; and maximising grant opportunities
- Explore opportunities to exploit digital assets to create efficiencies and increase productivity, including online delivery
- Continue to build strong relationships with partners, residents and communities.

# Key deliverables

## Priority 1 - Economy

- Develop and deliver an inclusive economic growth strategy to create the conditions for businesses and the economy to thrive and provide good work opportunities for residents
- Establish a place-based partnership to support the continued renewal of the town centre delivering more jobs and more homes
- Complete the refurbishment of the historic indoor market
- Accelerate bringing key sites to the market to attract private sector investment including Central Park, Ingenium Parc and Symmetry Park
- Deliver the Towns Fund projects, including the refurbishment of the Northern Echo building to secure new business occupiers
- Provide more education and skills opportunities for residents by delivering the Adult Skills Centre and collaborating with providers and Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA)
- Ensure that the borough is safe, clean and maintained to levels that support the economy and encourage inward investment
- Work with employers, national and local employability providers, and TVCA to promote good jobs and career opportunities for all, particularly young people and those with barriers to work, to access good employment outcomes.

## Priority 2 - Homes

- Develop and deliver a new homes strategy to deliver current and future housing needs including social and affordable homes across the borough, in accordance with the Local Plan
- Review and refresh the preventing homelessness and rough sleeping strategy, working with partners to ensure the provision of the right support and services to help people avoid homelessness and support those who are
- Review our approach to empty homes across the town so more quality homes are available
- Support the delivery of more social houses and supported accommodation by building more council homes and working with other social landlords and charities
- Continue to improve the quality of housing through healthy home design principles, ensuring developers meet the new Building Regulations requirements to create greater energy efficiency in new homes. Continue investment in the Council's existing and new housing stock to ensure greater energy efficiency
- Introduce additional licencing for homes of multiple occupation, a voluntary landlords charter and work towards the introduction of selective licencing in areas with a high number of private rented sector homes
- Ensure effective use of the Disabled Facilities Grant to enable people to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

### **Priority 3 - Living well**

- Health and Wellbeing Board to agree and deliver a new strategy to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities, and lead the creation of a health and wellbeing network
- Develop and implement a new public health strategy, focussed on tackling health inequalities. Including developing strategies on domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol and physical activity
- Continue to develop joint working with the NHS and key partners to support people to lead healthier lives, stay in their homes for longer and reduce hospital stays
- Widen participation in recreation and leisure facilities including the Dolphin Centre and Eastbourne Sports Complex
- Shape a sustainable and accountable care market which delivers support focussed on promoting, regaining and maintaining people's independence and wellbeing
- Develop an Adult Social Care engagement strategy to ensure people requiring care and support, and their carers are involved in service development and commissioning activity
- Deliver the key aims of the adult social care transformation plan to prevent, reduce and/or delay the need for care by supporting people to manage their own independence and wellbeing.

### **Priority 4 - Children and young people**

- Refresh and deliver the Children and Young People's Plan working with services across the council, key stakeholders in Darlington, and children and young people
- Develop more meaningful services by ensuring children and young people are involved in service development and commissioning activity
- Work with the Department for Education and the successful academy trust sponsor to ensure the free school for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is developed on schedule providing vital additional specialist capacity in Darlington
- Continue the successful management of the Safety Valve plan to improve outcomes for young people with SEND, eliminate the historic deficit on funding and deliver a financially sustainable system
- Work with multi-academy trusts and schools to develop a high quality and inclusive education sector in Darlington
- Widen access for children in receipt of benefits related school meals to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme with a focus on health, wellbeing and raising aspirations
- Work in partnership with the early years sector and health services to promote school readiness and the delivery of the expansion of funded childcare entitlement
- Increase the number of local in-house placements for looked after children who are cared for by the council.

## Priority 5 - Communities

- Support and strengthen partnership working with voluntary and community groups with a focus on addressing the causes of inequality, financial inclusion, social exclusion, and vulnerable families with children and young people
- Work with partners to reduce the burden of the cost of living with a focus on food and fuel insecurity
- Work with the voluntary and community sector to develop a strategy for informal volunteering which empowers people to volunteer and directs volunteering to areas of greatest need, including working with Darlington Cares to deliver an enhanced volunteering programme
- Support communities to remain safe and resilient by working with key agencies and communities to address anti social behaviour and crime issues in the community
- Support a strong Community Safety Partnership to ensure the issues affecting the safety and security of our communities are addressed collectively, including addressing hate crime
- Ensuring business activity is regulated, licensed and enforced effectively to protect the health and wellbeing of residents, visitors and businesses.

## Priority 6 - Environment

- Celebrate the opening of Hopetown and deliver a successful 2025 festival programme that helps to promote Darlington as a destination for visitors and investment
- Work with local stakeholders and businesses to promote a diverse and accessible programme of events that maximises footfall in the town centre and has a positive impact on the local economy
- Deliver revised supplementary planning documents that guide better design in new developments and contribute to a sense of pride in place
- Enable improvements in transport systems by working in partnership with TVCA and public transport operators to deliver the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement programme, including the improvement of bus facilities and the reliability of services
- Introduce food waste collections and encourage residents to increase overall recycling rates to move towards the national average
- Work with statutory bodies to progress studies of flood risk in Darlington and enable funding to be sought to mitigate the impact of climate change.

# Monitoring the plan

Progress in delivering the plan will be regularly reported to Cabinet. It is anticipated this will include a combination of qualitative and quantitative indicators that demonstrate progress against the long-term ambitions, priorities and deliverables. Some long-term indicators, which we know will take time to move, are likely to be included.

The Council Plan performance report will be supplemented annually by the Darlington Profile report that analyses the most up to date published data and intelligence, and feedback from surveys.

## Have your say

We want to support the Borough to be the best it can be and have set out our long term ambitions and short term actions for you to review and have your say. This consultation is the beginning of a conversation with you on the future of Darlington and our priorities.

We want to know what you think of the plan and what is most important to you.

Follow the link below or scan the QR code to complete the short survey:



**<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/consultations/>**

The survey is open from 6 March 2024 and closes on 25 April 2024.

Printed copies of the plan are available to view and comment on at Darlington Library, Cockerton Library and the Dolphin Centre. Please email **[strategy@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:strategy@darlington.gov.uk)** if you would like a copy of the draft Council Plan in an alternative format.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 APRIL 2024

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### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 3 2023/24

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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 2023 – December 2023) 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. 1.9% of referrals in Q3 2023/24 took over 3 working days to be completed, exceeding our target of 5%.
6. The Building Stronger Families Team continues to increase their work with our families, with 221 families (452 children) engaging at the end of Q3 2023/24. Additionally, external agencies were supporting 37 families (72 children).
7. In Q3 2023/24, all children who had gone missing (excluding children from other authorities) had been offered a Return Home Interview (RHI) with 87.5% being offered within 72 hours. 71.4% of the children engaged in their RHI, which is similar to Q3 2022/23 (72.2%) and an increase when compared with Q3 2021/22 (47.9%).
8. 142 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2023 (a rate of 63.8 per 10,000 population). This is an increase on the rate of 42.9 for the 97 children who were subject to CP at the end of December 2022. The increase in active CP plans contrasts the reduction of the current number of children in care.
9. 100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker and 100% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.
10. Of the 65 children who became subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24, 1 was for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending, which equates to 4.2% and remains below the 6% target.

11. 327 children were in care as at December 2023; 21 (6.4%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. 13 children from 10 families came into care in Q3 2023/24, a further 5 young people came into our care as UASC through the NTS. This is a substantial reduction compared with 43 children (excluding UASC) who came into care in Q3 2022/23.
12. 45 children and young people, from 30 families ceased to be in care in Q3 2023/24. This is a large increase when compared with the 21 children ceasing in Q3 2022/23. The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) continues to increase when compared with previous quarters.
13. 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 90.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales at December 2023.
14. 85.2% of children due a review health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed.
15. 98.4% of our care leavers (aged 19-21) and 96.3% (aged 22-25) were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2023. At the end of December 2023, the percentage of care leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to be less than the 30% target at 25.8% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 20.4% for those aged 22-25. 24.2% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 50.0% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 7.4% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 72.2% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

#### Where do we need to improve?

16. In Q3 2023/24, 82.5% of children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is below our 90% target although there was an increase in both timeliness and referrals when compared to the last quarter (78.9%). 1.9% referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2023/24 which is achieving our target of 5%.
17. 358 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q3 2023/24, only 10.1% (36) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is less than Q3 2022/23 where 456 EHA's were started (12.3% led by external partners).
18. We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals with 25.1% of the referrals received so far this year having had a previous referral within the past 12 months. This has, in part, been due to the increase in contacts being made; it was expected that the number of children referred will increase. However this means that we have exceeded our internal target of having no more 18% of referrals being re-referrals. Re-referrals are being scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.
19. 437 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q3 2023/24. This is slightly lower when compared with Q3 2022/23 (447) but an increase on Q3 2021/22 (247) and Q3 2020/21 (215). Of the 437 C&F assessments completed in Q3 2023/24, 63.8% were

completed within timescale. This is far below the target of 90% and a lot of work has been carried out by the social workers and managers to address the outstanding assessments and improve timeliness of their completion. Although the year to date timeliness at the end of December 2023 was 57.5% data captured since then indicates an improvement from January 2024.

20. In Q3 2023/24, 70.2% 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). Work continues to reduced late requests for conferences.
21. 1 family (4 children) ceased to be subject to a Child Protection plan in Q3 2023/24 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years. This has taken us just above target with 5.1% at the end of December.
22. 70.5% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q3 2023/24 with a total of 91.4% being completed within 15 days. When compared with Q3 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has increased (from 609 to 767 visits) due to the increased number of children on a plan. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.
23. 80.7% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q3 2023/24. This is an increase when compared with Q3 2022/23 when there were 78.5% of visits completed in timescale, but still below target (90%). Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.
24. Currently, 66.7% 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% target, however, there has been an improvement since the start of the year due to targeted work to help support carers and children before a move is required.
25. 13.8% of Children in Care (CiC), as of December 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is not meeting the internal target of 10% but is a reduction compared with the last quarter.
26. 51.8% of children due a dental health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed.
27. 12.4% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2023, which exceeds our target of 10%. Although care is taken to avoid this, on occasion a young person may need to be placed in residential care due to their disability / placed with family / or placed for adoption, and this provision is not available within 20 miles.

## **Recommendation**

1. 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**  
**Director of Children and Adult Services**

**Background papers**

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

Sharon Raine Head of Performance and Transformation: Extension 6091

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the 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 Report

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**December 2023      Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec)**

**Scrutiny**

# Scrutiny

## Q3 2023-24 Performance Summary

**Referrals:** In Q3 2023/24, 82.5% of children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is below our 90% target but an increase in both timeliness and referrals when compared to last quarter (78.9%). 1.9% referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2023/24 which is achieving our target of 5%.

**Re-Referrals:** We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals with 25.1% of the referrals received so far this year, have had a previous referral within the past 12 months. This has, in part, been due to the increase in contacts being made, it was expected that the number of children referred will increase, however this means that we have missed our internal target of having no more 18% of referrals being re-referrals. Re-referrals are being scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practice and learning outcomes are shared.

**Building Stronger Families:** At the end of Q3 2023/24, there were 221 families with 452 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 37 families with 72 children were open to an external agency supporting the families. 358 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q3 2023/24, 10.1% (36) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q3 2022/23 (456 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (12.3%).

**Missing:** In Q3 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered, 87.5% were offered within 72 hours and 71.4% of the children engaged in their RHI. This is comparable to the percentage of children engaging with their RHI in Q3 2022/23 (72.2%), and an increase when compared to Q3 2021/22 (47.9%). We have seen a decrease in the proportion of missing episodes recorded by children in care compared to last quarter (38.4% down to 24.8% of the episodes), however the increase has been seen in children not open to social care and those open to another local authority. 83.2% of the missing episodes were for less than 12 hours and only 1 episode was for longer than 72 hours.

**Children & Families Assessments:** 437 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q3 2023/24. This is slightly lower when compared to Q3 2022/23 (447) but an increase on Q3 2021/22 (247) and Q3 2020/21 (215). Of the 437 C&F assessments completed in Q3 2023/24, 63.8% were completed within timescale. This is far below the target of 90% and a lot of work has been carried out by the social workers and managers to address the outstanding assessments and improve timeliness of their completion. Although the year to date timeliness at the end of December 2023 is at 57.5%, the last couple of months have seen a significant improvement which has continued into January's data.

**Section 47 Enquiries:** 99 section 47 enquiries were started in Q3 2023/24 involving 197 individual children.

**Child Protection Conference timeliness:** 70.2% 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 2023/24. Work continues with the aim to reduced late requests for conferences.

**Child Protection Plans:** 142 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of December 2023 with a rate of 63.8 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase to the rate of 42.9 for the 97 children who were subject to CP at the end of December 2022. The increase in active CP plans contrasts the reduction of the current number of children in care. 100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker and 100% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.

Of the 65 children who became subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24, 1 child became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending and 13 children from 7 families became subject to a CP plan for a subsequent time ever. 1 family (4 children) ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years.

**Child Protection Statutory visits:** 70.5% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q3 2023/24 with a total of 91.4% being completed within 15 days. When compared with Q3 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has increased (from 609 to 767 visits) due to the increased number of children on a plan. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

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**Children in Care:** 327 children were in care as at December 2023, 21 (6.4%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. 13 children from 10 families came into care in Q3 2023/24, a further 5 young people came into our care as UASC through the NTS. This is a substantial reduction compared to 43 children (excluding UASC) who came into care in Q3 2022/23.

45 children and young people, from 30 families ceased to be in care in Q3 2023/24. This is a large decrease when compared with the 21 children ceasing in Q3 2022/23. The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) continues to increase when compared to previous quarters.

**Children in Care Reviews:** 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 90.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales at December 2023.

**Children in Care Statutory visits:** 80.7% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q3 2023/24. This is an increase when compared with Q3 2022/23 when there were 78.5% of visits completed in timescale. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams have occurred and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

**Children in Care Placements:** 13.8% of Children in Care (CiC), as of December 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is not meeting the internal target of 10% but is a reduction compared to last quarter.

Currently, 66.7% 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% target, however, there has been an improvement since the start of the year due to targeted work to help support carers and children before a move is required.

12.4% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2023. 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:** 69.2% of the children whose IHA form was sent to Health, received a health assessment by them within 20 days during Q3 2023/24.

**Health and Dental Reviews:** 85.2% of children due a review health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed. Currently only 1.1% of the children are refusing to have a health review completed. 51.8% of children due a dental health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed. Currently only 0.9% of the children are refusing to have a dental check-up completed. The young people are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

**Care Leavers:** 98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 96.3% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2023. The percentage of care leavers who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to be positively below the target set of 30% at 25.8% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 20.4% for those aged 22-25 at the end of December 2023. 24.2% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 50.0% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 7.4% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 72.2% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

## 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**

206 referrals were processed during Q3 2023/24 for 361 children. This is a slight increase compared to last quarter (189 referrals for 337 children) but a decrease compared to Q3 2022/23 (246 referrals for 457 children). However, cumulatively year to date, we are on a similar trajectory to last year.

In Q3 2023/24, 82.5% of children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is below our 90% target but an increase in both timeliness and referrals when compared to last quarter (78.9%).

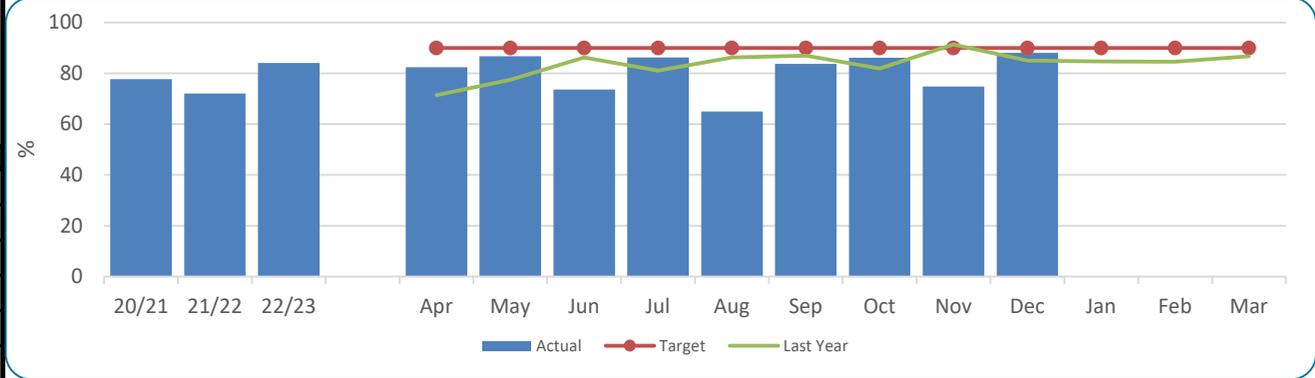
7 (1.9%) referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in Q3 2023/24 which is achieving our target of 5%.

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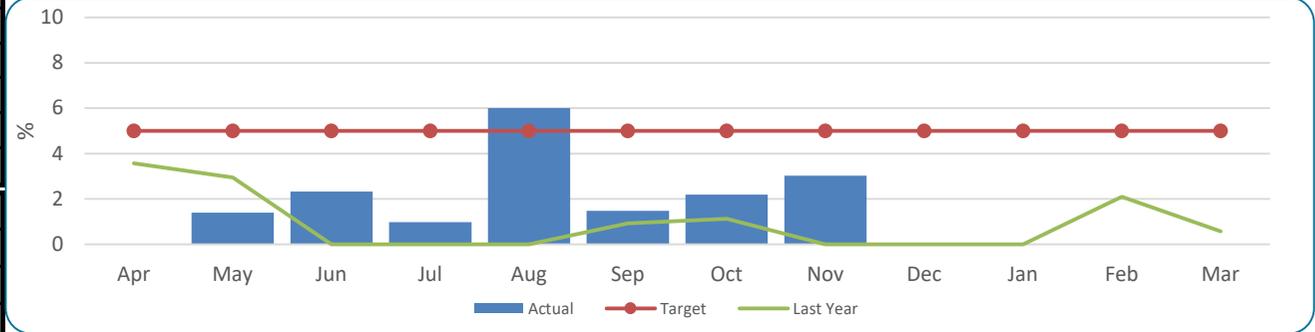
CSC 022    CSC 026

	CSC 022		CSC 026	
	Target	Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.	Target	Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.
<b>In Month Performance</b>	Target	90%	5%	
	Apr-23	82.4		
	May-23	86.7	1.4	
	Jun-23	73.6	2.3	
	Jul-23	86.3	1.0	
	Aug-23	65.0	6.0	
	Sep-23	83.7	1.5	
	Oct-23	86.1	2.2	
	Nov-23	74.8	3.0	
	Dec-23	88.0		
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	77.7	4.7	
	2021/22	72.1	5.6	
	2022/23	84.1	0.8	
	2023/24	80.9	1.9	

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



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



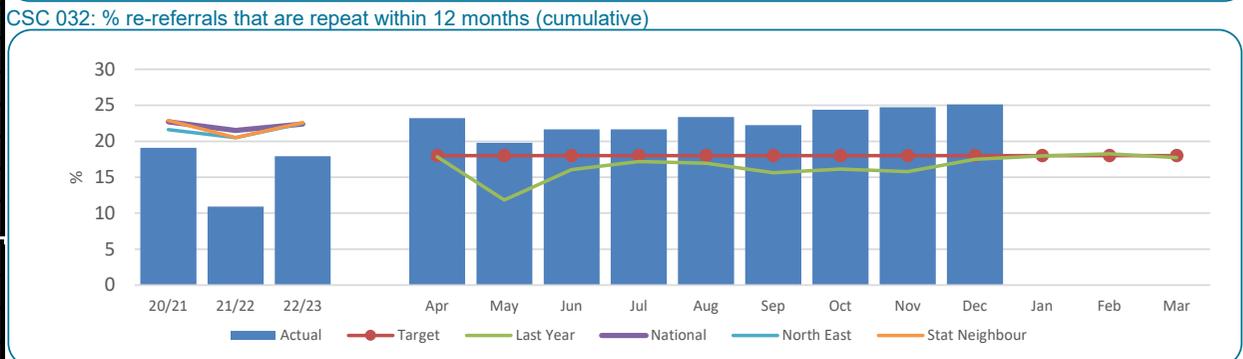
## REFERRALS: RE-REFERRALS

<b>DEFINITION</b>	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.
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>We have continued to see an increase in re-referrals 25.1% of the referrals received so far this year, have had a previous referral within the past 12 months. This has, in part, been due to the increase in contacts being made, it was expected that the number of children referred will increase, however this means that we have missed our internal target of having no more 18% of referrals being re-referrals.</p> <p>The Service Manager is working with Quality leads to further scrutinise the re-referrals in order to highlight any reoccurring themes or how we can improve our processes and decision-making to reduce the need for families to come back into our service and are also scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practice and learning outcomes are shared.</p>
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		CSC 034	CSC 032	
		Monthly number of re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative)	% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>		<b>18%</b>	
	Apr-23	29	23.2	23.2
	May-23	24	19.8	16.8
	Jun-23	33	21.7	25.6
	Jul-23	22	21.6	21.6
	Aug-23	32	23.4	32.0
	Sep-23	24	22.2	17.8
	Oct-23	49	24.4	35.8
	Nov-23	35	24.7	26.5
	Dec-23	27	25.1	29.3
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	143	19.1	
	2021/22	106	10.9	
	2022/23	286	17.9	
	2023/24	275	25.1	



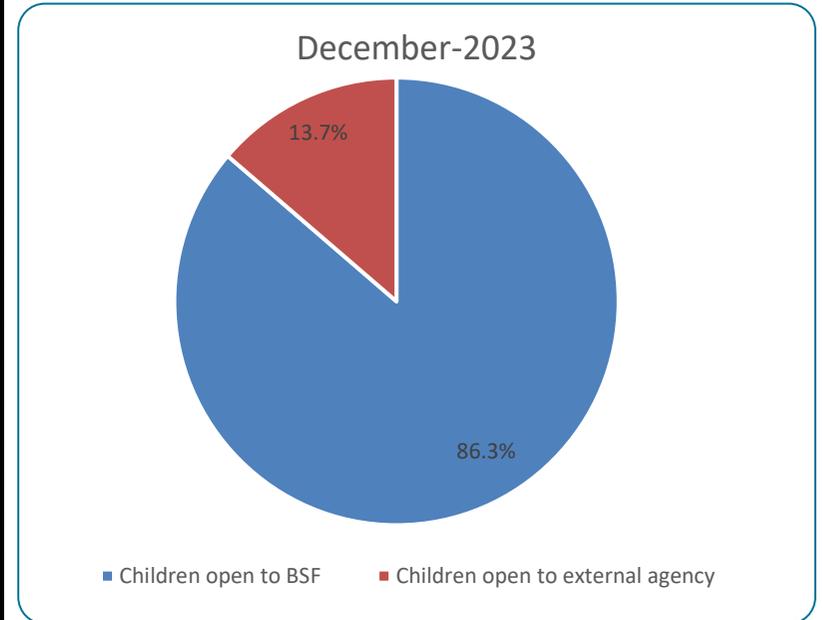
**BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES: OPEN EPISODES**

**DEFINITION** The number of children and families that have an open episode with the Building Stronger Families (BSF) team at the end of each reporting month. Also reported is the number of children and families that have an open episode with an external agency. The proportion of children open to BSF is then calculated using the total cohort and displayed as a percentage.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** At the end of Q3 2023/24, there were 221 families with 452 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 37 families with 72 children were open to an external agency supporting the families.

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	Open to BSF at month end		Open to an external agency at month end		% of children open to BSF	
	Children	Families	Children	Families		
<b>In Month Performance</b>	Apr-23	487	223	123	65	79.8%
	May-23	491	230	124	68	79.8%
	Jun-23	511	240	97	52	84.0%
	Jul-23	472	225	97	57	83.0%
	Aug-23	468	225	87	51	84.3%
	Sep-23	460	223	60	35	88.5%
	Oct-23	377	179	55	30	87.3%
	Nov-23	375	182	65	32	85.2%
	Dec-23	452	221	72	37	86.3%
	Jan-24					
	Feb-24					
	Mar-24					
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	253	123	93	43	73.1%
	2021/22	411	191	73	35	84.9%
	2022/23	490	218	125	68	79.7%
	2023/24	452	221	72	37	86.3%



**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** 358 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in Q3 2023/24, 10.1% (36) of which were initiated by external agencies. This is a decrease when compared to Q3 2022/23 (456 EHA's) and a decrease on the proportion of externally started EHA's (12.3%).

		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-23	106	11	10.4%	106
	May-23	115	17	14.8%	221
	Jun-23	146	3	2.1%	367
	Jul-23	115	16	13.9%	482
	Aug-23	89	4	4.5%	571
	Sep-23	110	2	1.8%	681
	Oct-23	122	11	9.0%	803
	Nov-23	119	15	12.6%	920
	Dec-23	117	10	8.5%	1,039
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
Annual Trend	2020/21	623	127	20.4%	623
	2021/22	839	161	19.2%	839
	2022/23	1,650	223	13.5%	1,650
	2023/24	1,039	89	8.6%	1,039

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**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	The number of episodes of children going missing in Darlington, including Children in Care, Children in Care with another authority and children who are not currently open to Social Care. The percentage of Return Home Interviews (RHI) completed within 72 hours and the level of engagement by the child. The number of episodes missing is cumulated to give a year to date figure but the children are only counted once for the year to date total.
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>The total number of missing episodes in Q3 2023/24 was 113 involving 41 individual children and young people.</p> <p>In Q3 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered, 87.5% were offered within 72 hours and 71.4% of the children engaged in their RHI. This is comparable to the percentage of children engaging with their RHI in Q3 2022/23 (72.2%, and an increase when compared to Q3 2021/22 (47.9%).</p> <p>We have seen a decrease in the proportion of missing episodes recorded by children in care compared to last quarter (38.4% down to 24.8% of the episodes), however the increase has been seen in children not open to social care and those open to another local authority.</p> <p>83.2% of the missing episodes were for less than 12 hours and only 1 episode was for longer than 72 hours.</p>
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		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-23	24	17	10	7		
	May-23	57	30	28	12		
	Jun-23	38	26	22	10	2	2
	Jul-23	63	30	27	11	2	2
	Aug-23	40	15	14	5	3	1
	Sep-23	43	19	15	6		
	Oct-23	54	24	14	6	1	1
	Nov-23	45	17	9	6	1	1
	Dec-23	14	13	5	4		
	Jan-24						
	Feb-24						
	Mar-24						
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	370	152	107	30	15	4
	2021/22	582	174	253	31	22	4
	2022/23	691	162	383	31	2	2
	2023/24	378	104	144	25	9	4

**ASSESSMENTS**

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

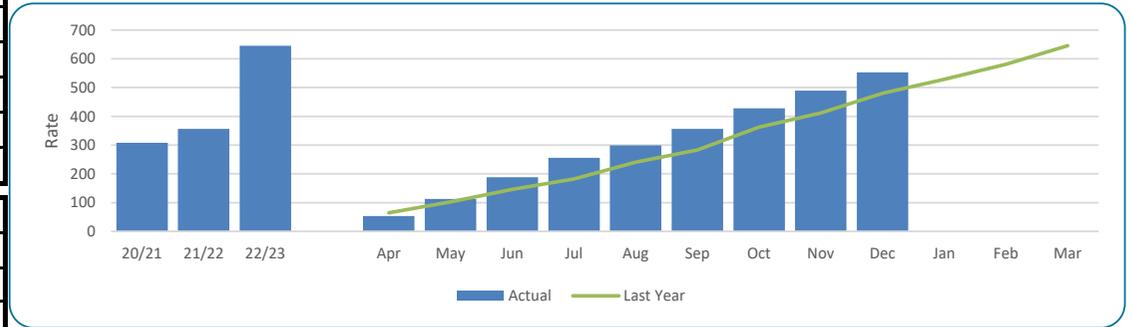
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 437 children had a C&F assessment completed in Q3 2023/24. This is slightly lower when compared to Q3 2022/23 (447) but an increase on Q3 2021/22 (247) and Q3 2020/21 (215).

		CSC 037	CSC 036	CSC 035
		Monthly number of C&F assessments completed	Number of C&F assessments completed year to date	Rate of C&F assessments completed per 10,000 of the 0-17 population.
<b>In Month Performance</b>	Apr-23	119	119	53.5
	May-23	133	252	113.2
	Jun-23	166	418	187.8
	Jul-23	148	566	255.7
	Aug-23	100	666	299.3
	Sep-23	128	794	356.8
	Oct-23	159	953	428.3
	Nov-23	135	1,088	488.9
	Dec-23	143	1,231	553.2
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	692	692	308.2
	2021/22	806	806	356.1
	2022/23	1,461	1,461	645.5
	2023/24	1,231	1,231	553.2

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**

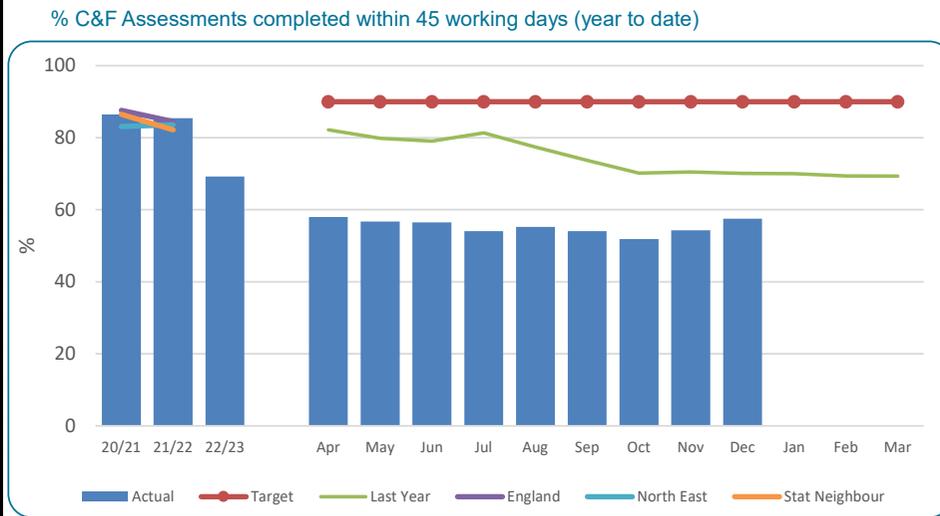
**DEFINITION**

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

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

Of the 437 C&F assessments completed in Q3 2023/24, 63.8% were completed within timescale. This is far below the target of 90% and a lot of work has been carried out by the social workers and managers to address the outstanding assessments and improve timeliness of their completion. Although the year to date timeliness at the end of December 2023 is at 57.5%, the last couple of months have seen a significant improvement which has continued into January's data.

		CSC 038	CSC 040
		% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date)	Monthly % completed within 45 working days
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>90%</b>
	Apr-23	58.0	58.0
	May-23	56.8	55.6
	Jun-23	56.5	56.0
	Jul-23	54.1	47.3
	Aug-23	55.3	62.0
	Sep-23	54.0	47.7
	Oct-23	51.8	40.9
	Nov-23	54.3	71.9
	Dec-23	57.5	81.8
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	86.4	
	2021/22	85.4	
	2022/23	69.2	
	2023/24	57.5	81.8



**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**

99 section 47 enquires were started in Q3 2023/24 involving 197 individual children.

Our rate of enquires per 10,000 population was 246.3 at the end of Q3 2023/24. This was above that at Q3 2022/23 (213.4) and as a result of the increased strategies held this year.

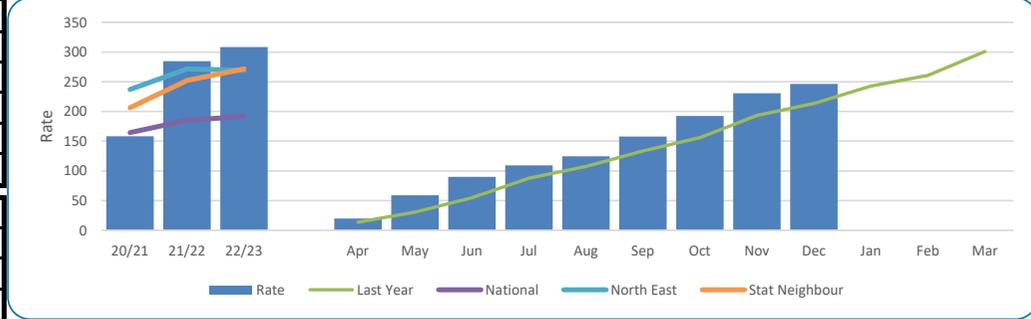
Page 40

		CSC 166		CSC 164	
		Section 47 enquires started in the month	Number of children who had a section 47 enquiry	Of which also had an open CPP plan	Rate of section 47 enquiries started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (Cumulative)
<b>In Month Performance</b>	Apr-23	24	44	3	19.8
	May-23	48	87	1	58.9
	Jun-23	39	69		89.9
	Jul-23	19	43		109.2
	Aug-23	18	34		124.5
	Sep-23	39	74	5	157.7
	Oct-23	38	77	1	192.3
	Nov-23	45	85		230.5
	Dec-23	16	35	1	246.3
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	195	358	7	158.2
	2021/22	317	633	14	284.5
	2022/23	351	681	30	308.3
	2023/24	286	548	11	246.3

Number of children; showing the total including and excluding those already on CPP



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.

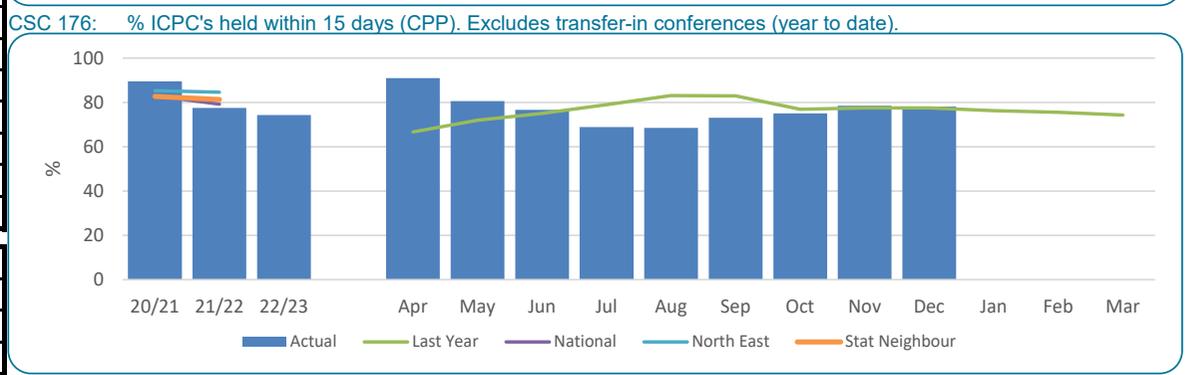
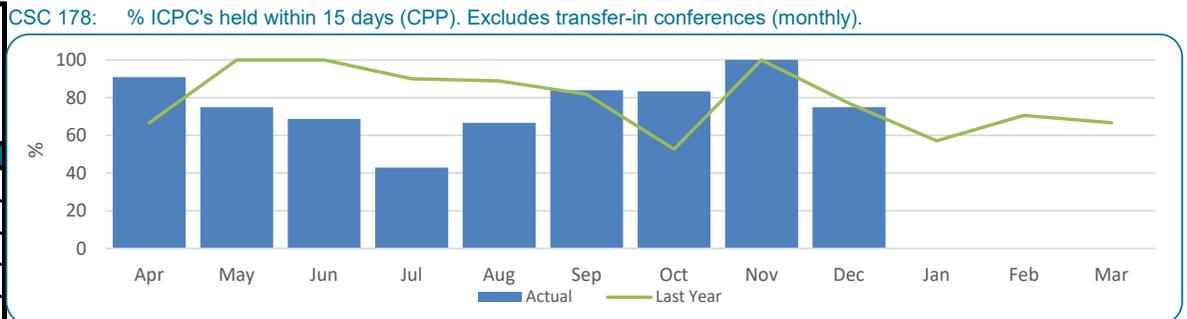
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

Of the 69 children (who were not transferred in), 59 had their Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) within timescale (85.5%) in Q3 2023/24. Of the families who did not have their ICPC within timescale, the reasons provided were due to the late conference notification by the social worker.

This measure continues to be below the target of 95% but is an improvement on the last quarter (70.2%).

Page 41

		CSC 178		CSC 176		
		% ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (monthly).		% ICPC's held within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences (year to date).		
In Month Performance	Target				95%	
	Apr-23	10 / 11	90.9	10 / 11	90.9	
	May-23	15 / 20	75.0	25 / 31	80.7	
	Jun-23	11 / 16	68.8	36 / 47	76.6	
	Jul-23	6 / 14	42.9	42 / 61	68.9	
	Aug-23	8 / 12	66.7	50 / 73	68.5	
	Sep-23	26 / 31	83.9	76 / 104	73.1	
	Oct-23	20 / 24	83.3	96 / 128	75.0	
	Nov-23	21 / 21	100.0	117 / 149	78.5	
	Dec-23	18 / 24	75.0	136 / 174	78.2	
	Jan-24					
	Feb-24					
	Mar-24					
Annual Trend	2020/21	112 / 126	89.5	112 / 126	89.5	
	2021/22	135 / 174	77.5	135 / 174	77.5	
	2022/23	116 / 156	74.4	116 / 156	74.4	
	2023/24	135 / 173	78.2	136 / 174	78.2	



## CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

### DEFINITION

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

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

142 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) at the end of December 2023 with a rate of 63.8 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase to the rate of 42.9 for the 97 children who were subject to CP at the end of December 2022.

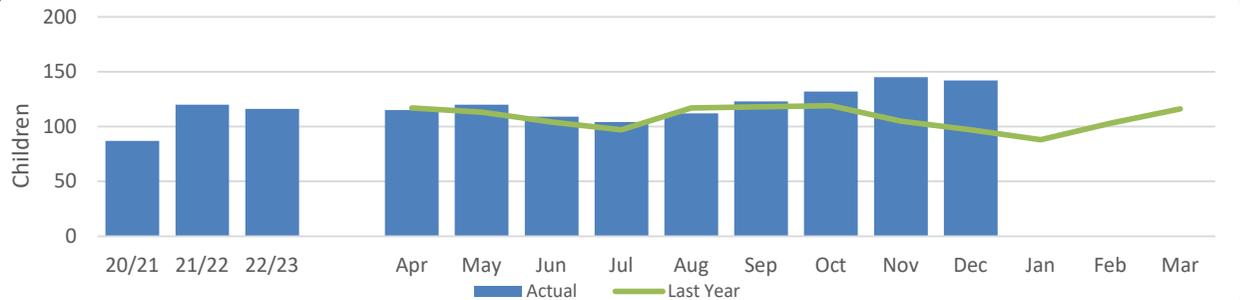
The increase in active CP plans contrasts the reduction of the current number of children in care.

CSC 182

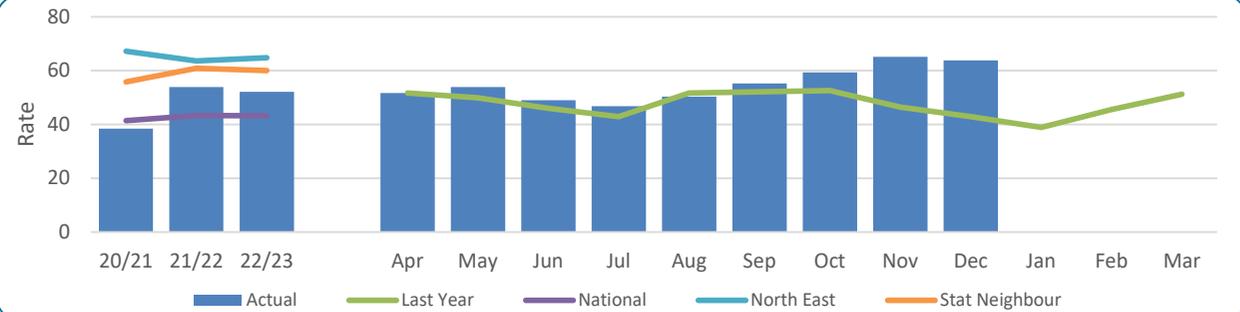
CSC 181

	Number of children subject to a CP plan	Rate of children subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 population
Apr-23	115	51.7
May-23	120	53.9
Jun-23	109	49.0
Jul-23	104	46.7
Aug-23	112	50.3
Sep-23	123	55.3
Oct-23	132	59.3
Nov-23	145	65.2
Dec-23	142	63.8
Jan-24		
Feb-24		
Mar-24		

CSC 182: Number of children subject to a CP plan



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



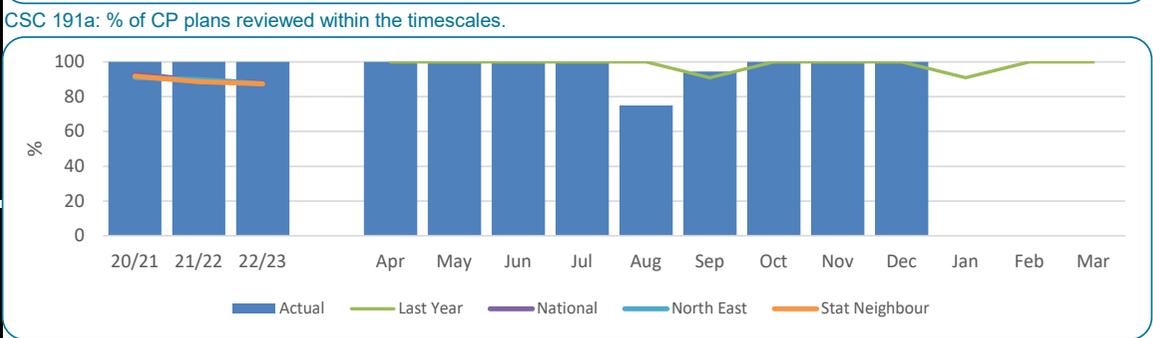
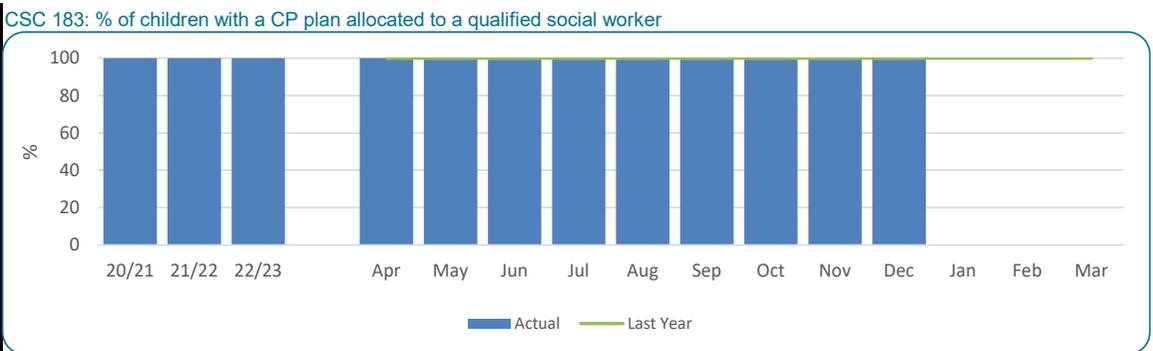
### CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

**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.

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		CSC 183	CSC 191a
		% of children with a CP plan allocated to a qualified social worker	CP plan review meetings held in timescale during the month
		Target	100
In Month Performance	Apr-23	100.0	14 / 14
	May-23	100.0	13 / 13
	Jun-23	100.0	17 / 17
	Jul-23	100.0	19 / 19
	Aug-23	100.0	6 / 8
	Sep-23	100.0	17 / 18
	Oct-23	100.0	16 / 16
	Nov-23	100.0	11 / 11
	Dec-23	100.0	21 / 21
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
Annual Trend	2020/21	100.0	138 / 138
	2021/22	100.0	159 / 159
	2022/23	100.0	155 / 155
	2023/24	100.0	134 / 137

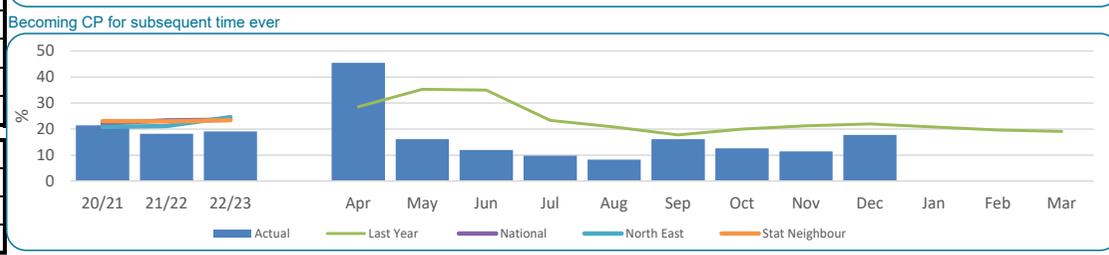
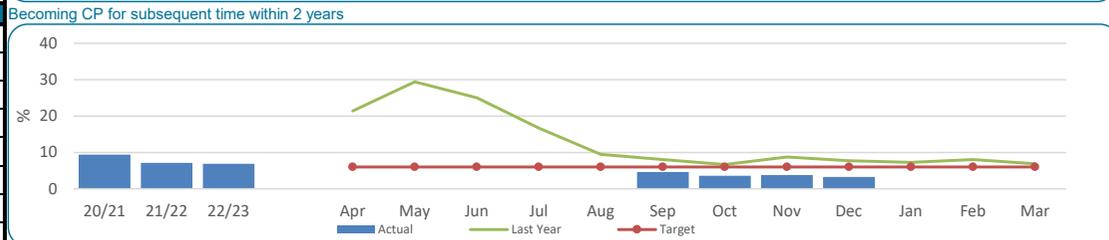
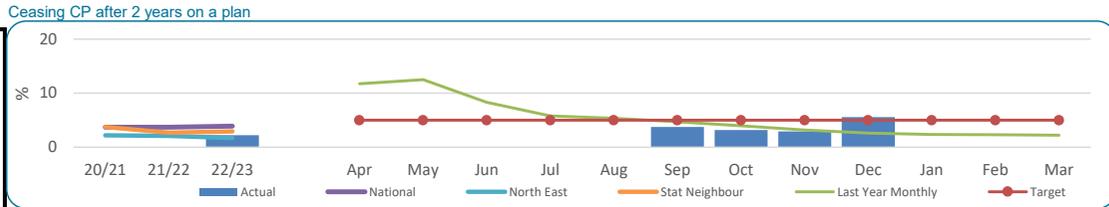


**CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: TIME PERIODS**

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

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**  
 Of the 65 children who became subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24, 1 child became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending and 13 children from 7 families became subject to a CP plan for a subsequent time ever.  
 1 family (4 children) ceased to be subject to a CP plan in Q3 2023/24 after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years.

		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)		% of children becoming subject to a CP plan for a 2nd or subsequent time ever (Cumulative)	
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>		5%		6%		
	Apr-23	0 / 12	0.0	0 / 11	0.0	5 / 11	45.5
	May-23	0 / 27	0.0	0 / 31	0.0	5 / 31	16.1
	Jun-23	0 / 49	0.0	0 / 42	0.0	5 / 42	11.9
	Jul-23	0 / 63	0.0	0 / 51	0.0	5 / 51	9.8
	Aug-23	0 / 65	0.0	0 / 61	0.0	5 / 61	8.2
	Sep-23	3 / 80	3.8	4 / 87	4.6	14 / 87	16.1
	Oct-23	3 / 95	3.2	4 / 111	3.6	14 / 111	12.6
	Nov-23	3 / 103	2.9	5 / 132	3.8	15 / 132	11.4
	Dec-23	7 / 126	5.6	5 / 152	3.3	27 / 152	17.8
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	0 / 115	0.0	11 / 117	9.4	25 / 117	21.4
	2021/22	0 / 121	0.0	11 / 154	7.1	28 / 154	18.2
	2022/23	3 / 135	2.2	9 / 131	6.9	25 / 131	19.1
	2023/24	7 / 126	5.6	5 / 152	3.3	27 / 152	17.8



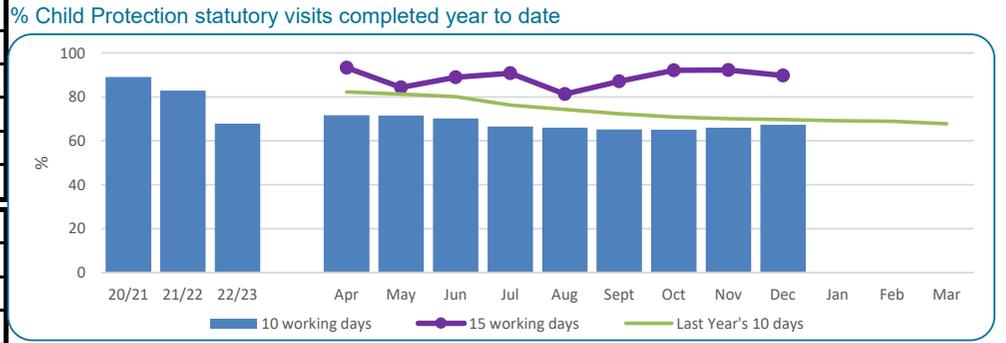
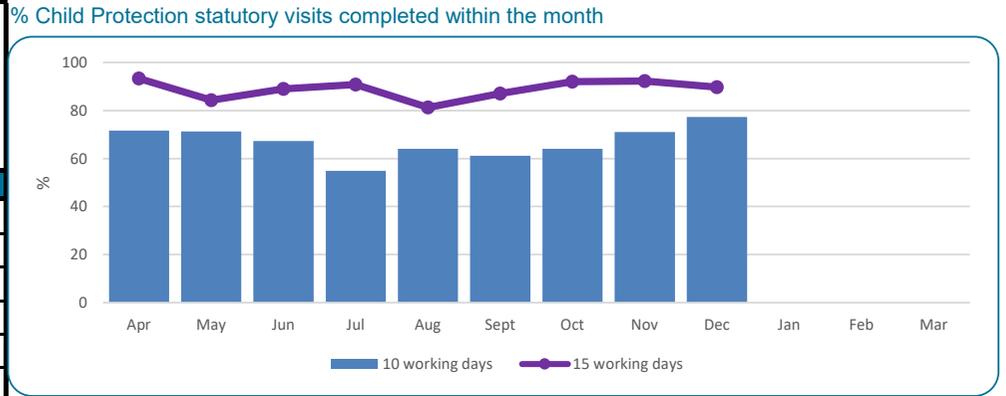
## CHILD PROTECTION: STATUTORY VISITS

**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** 70.5% of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in Q3 2023/24 with a total of 91.4% being completed within 15 days. When compared with Q3 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has increased (from 609 to 767 visits) due to the increase number of children on a plan.

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		CSC 252a		CSC 252b	
		% 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)
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>
	Apr-23	71.7	93.3	71.7	93.3
	May-23	71.3	84.3	71.5	84.3
	Jun-23	67.3	88.9	70.1	88.9
	Jul-23	54.9	90.8	66.5	90.8
	Aug-23	64.1	81.3	66.0	81.3
	Sep-23	61.2	87.1	65.2	87.1
	Oct-23	64.0	92.0	65.0	92.0
	Nov-23	71.0	92.2	65.9	92.2
	Dec-23	77.4	89.7	67.3	89.7
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21			89.0	98.4
	2021/22			82.9	96.8
	2022/23			67.8	90.0
	2023/24	77.4	89.7	67.3	89.7



## CHILDREN IN CARE

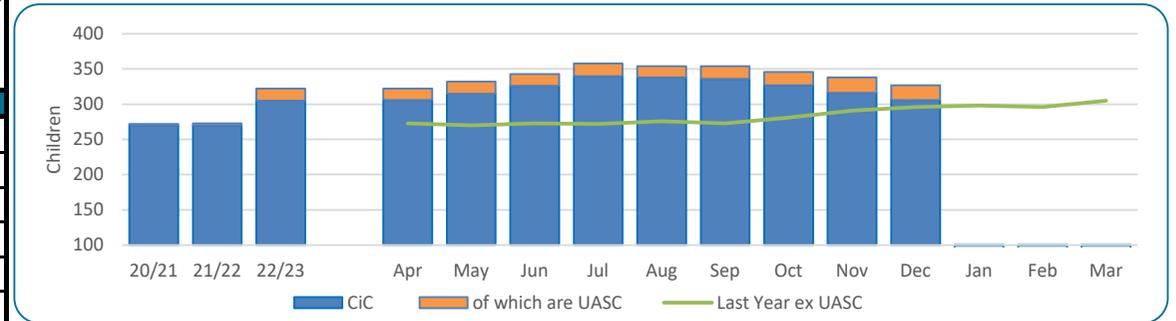
**DEFINITION** Number of Children in Care (CiC) at the end of each month and of which are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC).

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**  
 327 children were in care at the end of December 2023, 21 (6.4%) of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers.

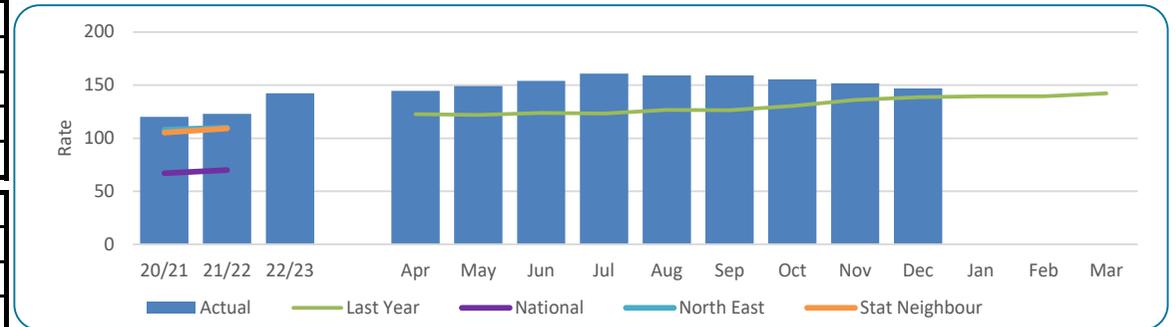
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		CSC 201	CSC 207	CSC 200
		Total number of Children in Care	Of which are identified as a UASC	Rate of CiC per 10,000 population
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>			<b>95</b>
	Apr-23	322	16	144.7
	May-23	332	17	149.2
	Jun-23	343	17	154.1
	Jul-23	358	18	160.9
	Aug-23	354	16	159.1
	Sep-23	354	18	159.1
	Oct-23	346	19	155.5
	Nov-23	338	22	151.9
	Dec-23	327	21	147.0
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	272	2	120.0
	2021/22	273	3	123.0
	2022/23	322	17	142.3
	2023/24	327	21	147.0

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.

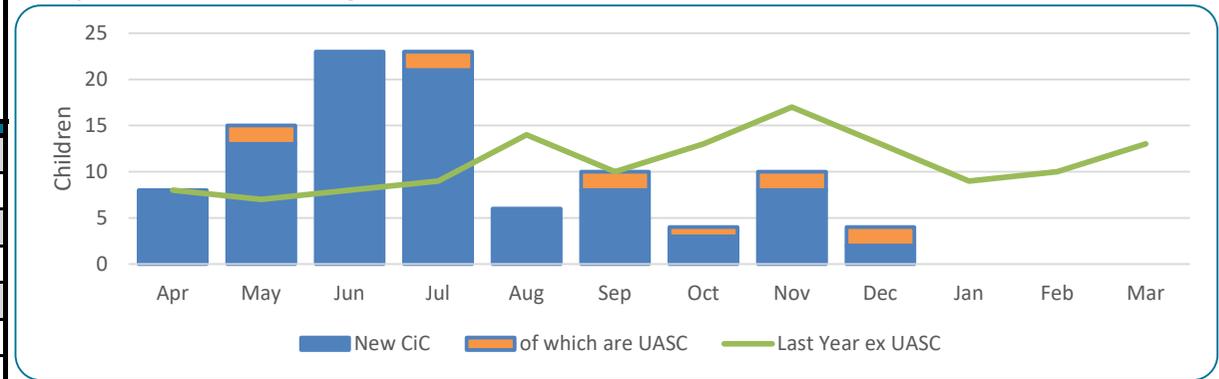
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 13 children from 10 families came into care in Q3 2023/24, a further 5 young people came into our care as UASC through the NTS. This is a large reduction compared to 43 children (excluding UASC) who came into care in Q3 2022/23.

The primary and secondary presenting issues for the children coming into care are predominantly due to; physical abuse (12.7% (7), UASC (9.1%), parental substance misuse (5.5%, none of which was alcohol related), mental health concerns of the parent / carer (3.6%).

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		CSC 209	CSC 208b	
		Monthly number of children coming into care	Cumulative number of children coming into care	
<b>In Month Performance</b>	Apr-23	8	8	
	May-23	15	23	2
	Jun-23	23	46	
	Jul-23	23	68	2
	Aug-23	6	75	
	Sep-23	10	85	2
	Oct-23	4	89	1
	Nov-23	10	99	2
	Dec-23	4	103	2
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	82	82	2
	2021/22	100	100	2
	2022/23	149	149	18
	2023/24	103	103	11

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**

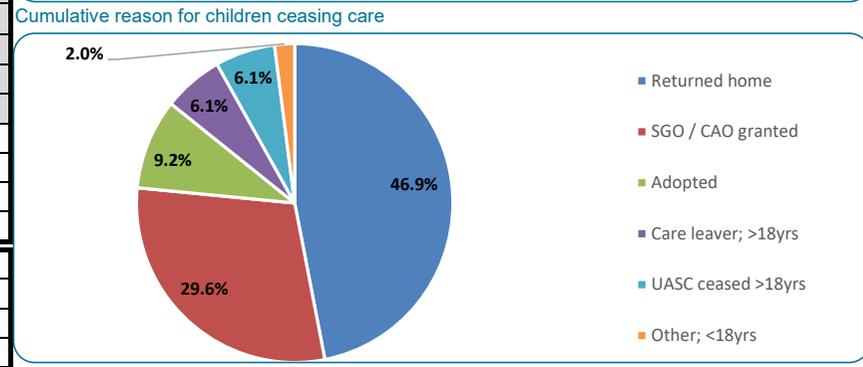
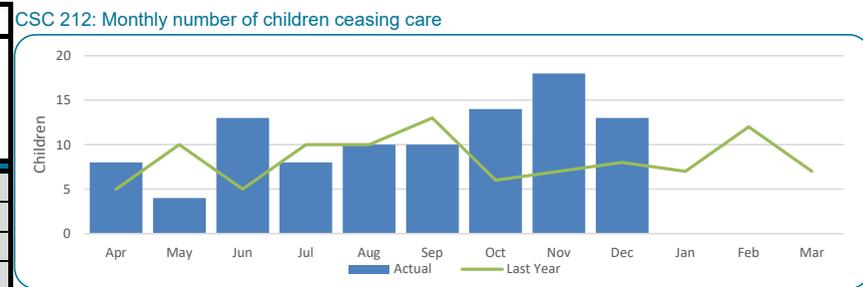
45 children and young people, from 30 families ceased to be in care in Q3 2023/24. This is a large decrease when compared with the 21 children ceasing in Q3 2022/23.

Of the 45 children and young people who did cease CiC:

- 46.7% returned home to their parent(s).
- 40.0% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative.
- 4.4% were adopted
- 4.4% due to turning 18 and becoming a care leaver (all were UASC)
- 4.4% due to moving out of area to live with family and transferring to their new local authority.

The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) continues to increase when compared to previous quarters.

	GSC 212	GSC 211	Reason for ceasing to be a Child in Care					
	Monthly number of children ceasing care	Cumulative number of children ceasing care	Returned home	SGO / CAO granted	Adopted	Care leaver; >18yrs	UASC ceased >18yrs	Other; <18yrs
<b>In Month Performance</b>								
Apr-23	8	8	6	1			1	
May-23	4	12	1	1	1	1		
Jun-23	13	25	5	3	4	1		
Jul-23	8	33	5	2			1	
Aug-23	10	43	5	1		2	2	
Sep-23	10	53	3	3	2	2		
Oct-23	14	67	7	7				
Nov-23	18	85	10	6	2			
Dec-23	13	98	4	5			2	2
Jan-24								
Feb-24								
Mar-24								
<b>Annual Trend</b>								
2020/21	80	80	22	39	7	9		3
2021/22	99	99	28	34	15	19		3
2022/23	100	100	21	39	17	21		2
2023/24	98	98	46	29	9	6	6	2



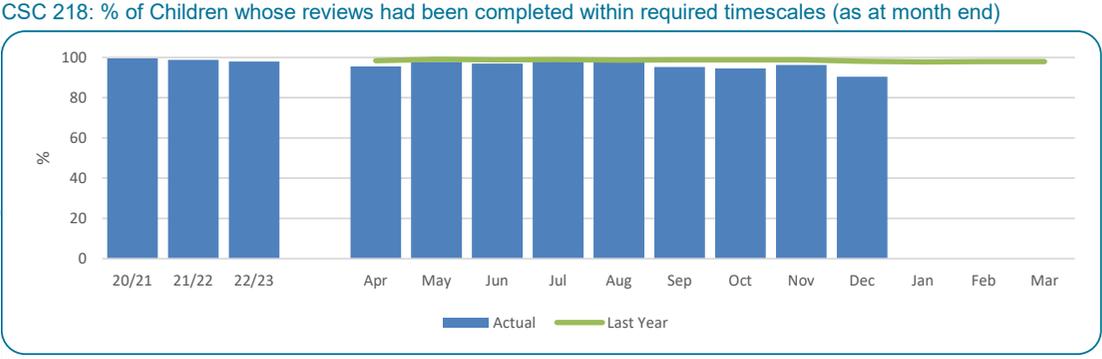
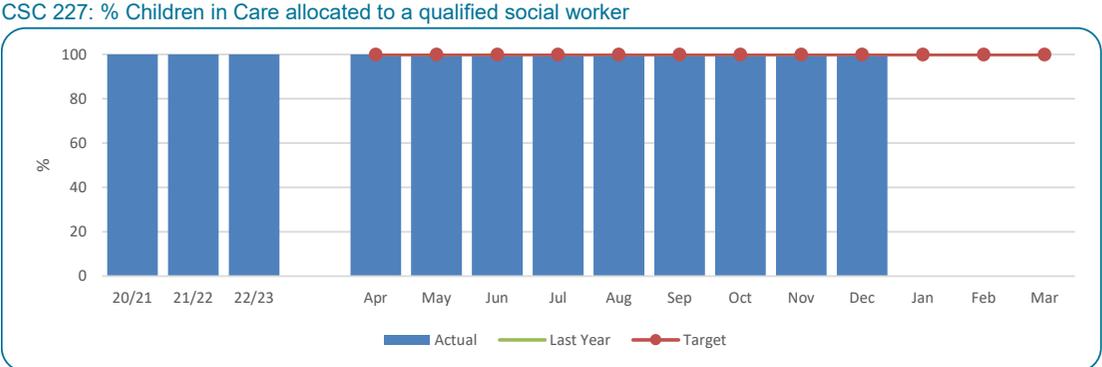
**CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS**

**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.  
 285 of the 315 open reviews (90.5%), were completed within required timescales as at December 2023.

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		CSC 227		CSC 218	
		% Children in Care allocated to a qualified social worker		% of Children whose reviews had been completed within required timescales (as at month end)	
In Month Performance	Target	100	Num	%	
	Apr-23	100.0	65 / 68	95.6	
	May-23	100.0	139 / 142	97.9	
	Jun-23	100.0	194 / 200	97.0	
	Jul-23	100.0	252 / 255	98.8	
	Aug-23	100.0	291 / 292	99.7	
	Sep-23	100.0	321 / 337	95.3	
	Oct-23	100.0	315 / 333	94.6	
	Nov-23	100.0	309 / 321	96.3	
	Dec-23	100.0	285 / 315	90.5	
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
Mar-24					
Annual Trend	2020/21	100.0	249 / 250	99.6	
	2021/22	100.0	243 / 246	98.8	
	2022/23	100.0	297 / 303	98.0	
	2023/24	100.0	285 / 315	90.5	



## CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

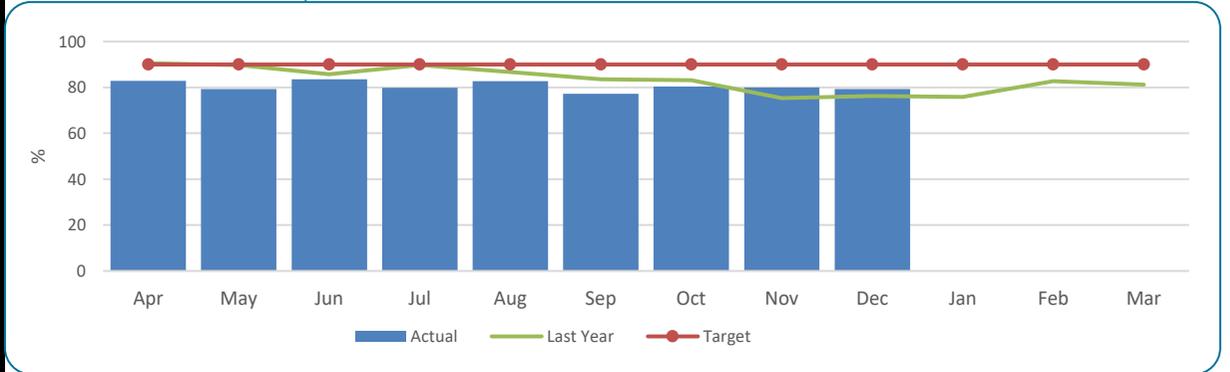
<b>DEFINITION</b>	Percentage of Children in Care (CiC) who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales each month and year to date.
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>80.7% of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in Q3 2023/24. This is an increase when compared with Q3 2022/23 when there were 78.5% of visits completed in timescale.</p> <p>We continue to be below our target of 90% of visits completed in timescale.</p>
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		CSC 260a	CSC 260b
		% CiC visits completed in timescale within the month	% CiC visits completed in timescale year to date
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>
	Apr-23	82.9	82.9
	May-23	79.4	81.0
	Jun-23	83.5	81.9
	Jul-23	79.9	81.4
	Aug-23	82.8	81.6
	Sep-23	77.3	80.8
	Oct-23	80.4	80.7
	Nov-23	80.0	80.7
	Dec-23	79.3	80.8
	Jan-24		
	Feb-24		
	Mar-24		
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21		93.1
	2021/22		90.1
	2022/23		83.4
	2023/24	79.3	80.8

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**

13.8% of our Children in Care, as at December 2023, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is not meeting the internal target of 10% but is a reduction compared to last quarter.

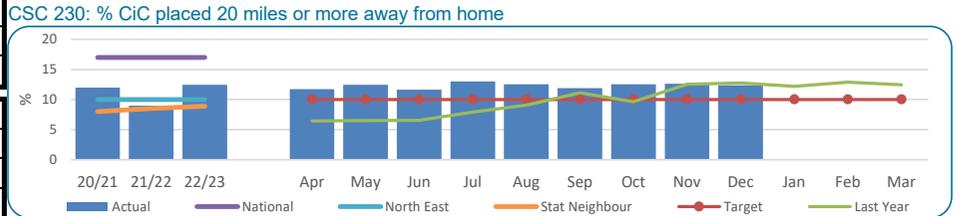
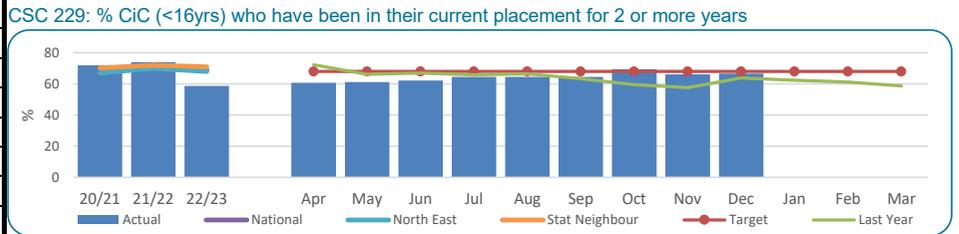
Currently, 66.7% of our Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is below our 68% target, however there has been an improvement since the start of the year due to targeted work to help support carers and children before a move is required.

12.4% of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2023 which is above our target of 10%. These children are either placed in a children’s home, with a connected carer, with IFA carer, with internal foster carer, placed with parents or in a mother and baby unit.

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.

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	Target	CSC 228		CSC 229		CSC 230	
		% 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	
		Children	%	Children	%	Children	%
Apr-23	42	13.0	77	60.6	35	11.7	
May-23	44	13.3	77	61.1	38	12.5	
Jun-23	47	13.7	77	62.1	37	11.6	
Jul-23	56	15.5	80	64.5	43	13.0	
Aug-23	52	14.7	80	64.5	41	12.5	
Sep-23	52	14.7	80	64.5	39	11.9	
Oct-23	49	14.2	82	69.5	40	12.5	
Nov-23	49	14.5	82	66.1	39	12.6	
Dec-23	45	13.8	84	66.7	37	12.4	
Jan-24							
Feb-24							
Mar-24							
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21		8.0		72.0		12.0
	2021/22	30	11.0	88	74.0	25	9.0
	2022/23	44	13.7	74	58.7	37	12.5
	2023/24	45	13.8	84	66.7	37	12.4



## CHILDREN IN CARE: INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

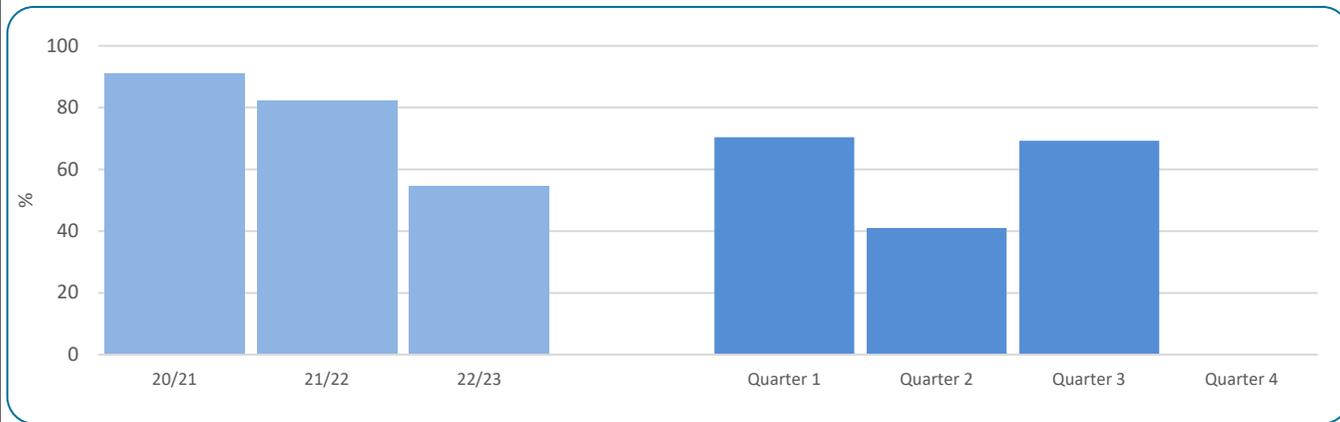
**DEFINITION** Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child coming into our care year to date (data from Health), and percentage of IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days. This excludes children / young people coming into care due to being remand or UASC.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** 69.2.% of the children had their IHA completed within 20 days of coming into care by Health in Q3 2023/24.

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		Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>95</b>
	Apr-23	
	May-23	
	Jun-23	31 / 44
	Jul-23	
	Aug-23	
	Sep-23	16 / 39
	Oct-23	
	Nov-23	
	Dec-23	9 / 13
	Jan-24	
	Feb-24	
	Mar-24	
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	90.9%
	2021/22	82.1%
	2022/23	54.5%
	2023/24	58.3%

Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)



## CHILDREN IN CARE: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

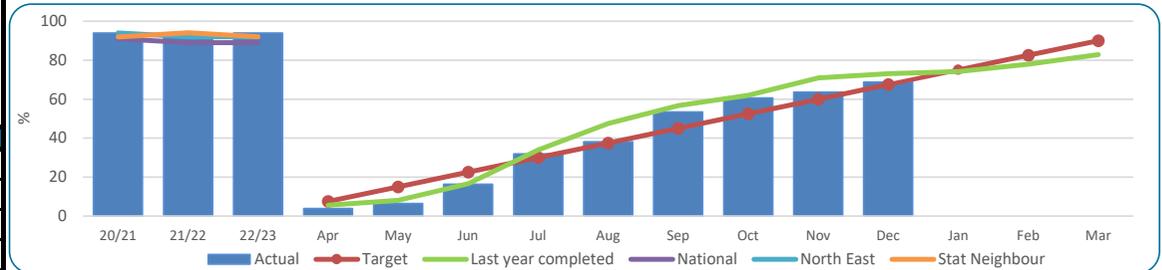
**DEFINITION** Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed and the percentage who have an up to date Health Check (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March). Children 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** 85.2% of children due a review health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed.  
Currently only 1.1% of the children are refusing to have a health review completed. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

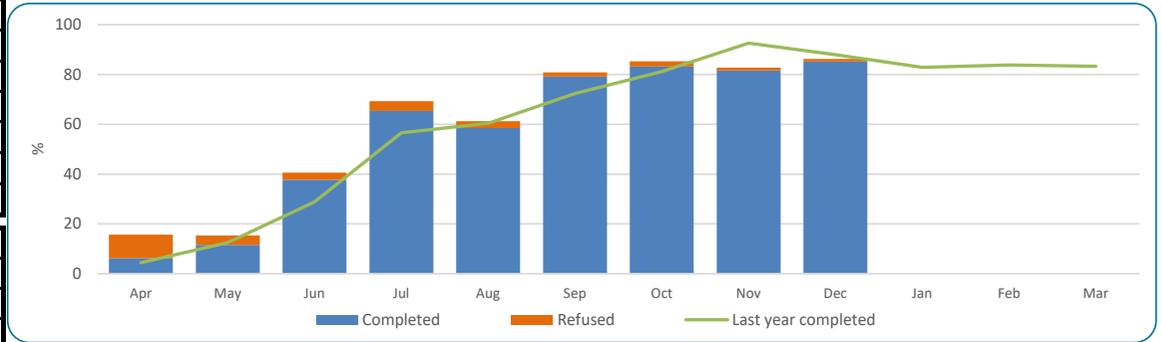
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		CSC 250		CSC 250b	
		% of CiC who have an up to date health checks	% of CiC refusing engagement in their review health check (in month)	% of CiC who had a review health check completed (year to date)	
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90%</b>		<b>90%</b>	
	Apr-23	3.8	9.4	6.3	
	May-23	6.4	3.8	11.5	
	Jun-23	16.4	2.9	37.7	
	Jul-23	32.0	4.0	65.3	
	Aug-23	38.2	2.8	58.5	
	Sep-23	53.5	1.7	79.2	
	Oct-23	60.6	2.1	83.2	
	Nov-23	63.6	1.2	81.6	
	Dec-23	68.7	1.1	85.2	
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
	Mar-24				
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	94.0	3.7	91.2	
	2021/22	93.0	3.7	91.6	
	2022/23	94.0	1.6	83.3	
	2023/24	68.7	1.1	85.2	

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**

51.8% of children due a dental health assessment by December 2023 have had one completed.

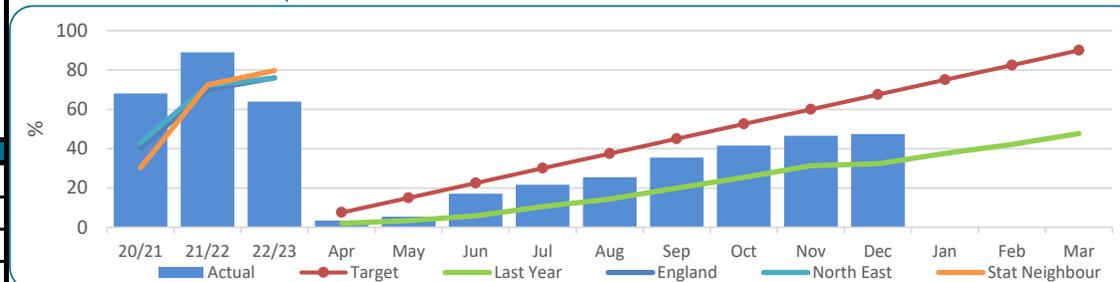
Currently only 0.9% of the children are refusing to have a dental check-up completed. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

CSC 251

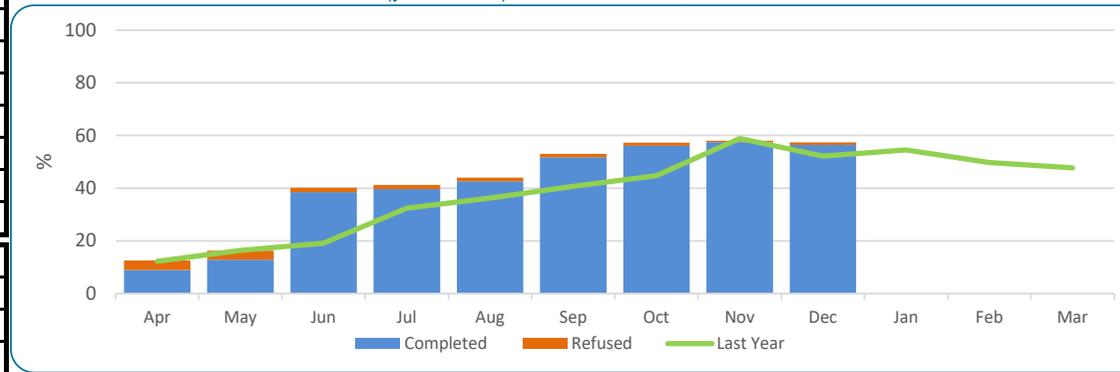
CSC 251d

		% 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)
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90%</b>		<b>90%</b>
	Apr-23	3.5	3.6	8.9
	May-23	5.5	3.4	12.8
	Jun-23	17.1	1.7	38.5
	Jul-23	21.7	1.5	39.7
	Aug-23	25.4	1.3	42.7
	Sep-23	35.5	1.2	51.8
	Oct-23	41.6	1.1	56.2
	Nov-23	46.6	0.5	57.6
	Dec-23	47.5	0.9	56.5
	Jan-24			
	Feb-24			
	Mar-24			
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	68.0	2.8	57.2
	2021/22	89.0	2.6	83.7
	2022/23	64.0	1.4	47.7
	2023/24	47.5	0.9	56.5

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

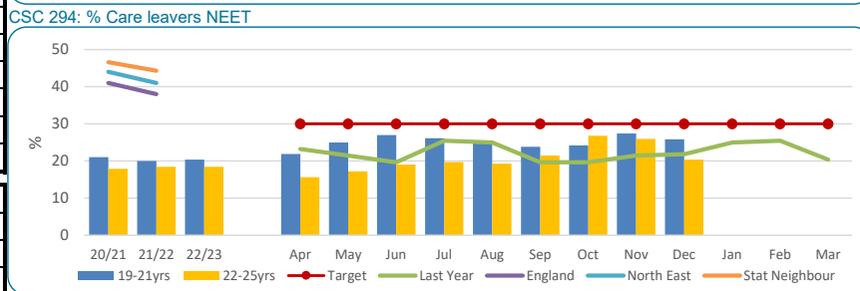


**CARE LEAVERS**

<b>DEFINITION</b>	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.
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 96.3% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of December 2023.</p> <p>Of the care leavers, aged 19-21 and as of 31st December 2023, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.5% NEET because of illness or disability</li> <li>• 12.8% NEET because of other circumstances</li> <li>• 6.5% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.</li> </ul> <p>This equates to 25.8% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.</p> <p>Of the care leavers, aged 22-25 and as of 31st December 2023, were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.7% NEET because of illness or disability</li> <li>• 11.1% NEET because of other circumstances</li> <li>• 5.6% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.</li> </ul> <p>This equates to 20.4%.</p> <p>24.2% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 50.0% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).</p> <p>7.4% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (all of which are in studies beyond A level) and 72.2% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).</p>
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		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
<b>In Month Performance</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>30%</b>		
	Apr-23	98.4	21.9	95.3	15.6
	May-23	98.4	25.0	95.3	17.2
	Jun-23	98.4	27.0	95.2	19.0
	Jul-23	100.0	26.2	95.1	19.7
	Aug-23	98.4	25.4	94.7	19.3
	Sep-23	98.4	23.8	94.6	21.4
	Oct-23	98.4	24.2	96.4	26.8
	Nov-23	98.4	27.4	94.4	25.9
	Dec-23	98.4	25.8	96.3	20.4
	Jan-24				
	Feb-24				
Mar-24					
<b>Annual Trend</b>	2020/21	100.0	21.0	92.9	17.9
	2021/22	98.0	20.0	97.3	18.4
	2022/23	96.3	20.4	95.9	18.4
	2023/24	98.4	25.8	96.3	20.4



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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
15 APRIL 2024**

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**RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To summarise the current and future guidance from the Department for Education on relationships and sex education

**Summary**

2. The report gives an overview on statutory guidance relating to relationships and sex education which schools are obliged to implement and also covers the recently issued draft non statutory guidance relating to gender questioning children.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) Scrutiny Committee note the arrangements currently in place
  - (b) Scrutiny Committee note the proposed changes to non- statutory guidance

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

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

Authors: Tony Murphy - Extension 5637  
Ken Ross - Extension 6200

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report 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 report actively promotes health and wellbeing
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	The report promotes sustainability
Diversity	The report actively supports the diversity agenda
Wards Affected	All wards will be affected
Groups Affected	All families of school age children
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	N/A
Efficiency	N/A
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

4. The document Statutory guidance **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) (Secondary)** which was updated 13 September 2021 sets out the statutory guidance that schools and teachers are required to follow and take note of when designing their PHSE and SRE curriculum.
5. Gender identity is highlighted as a subject that needs to be included within the curriculum as part of age appropriate and inclusive approach.
6. The guidance document sets out the detailed statutory guidance that schools and teachers are required to follow and take note of when designing their PHSE and SRE curriculum.

### Background

7. The current guidance states that by the end of primary and secondary school the PHSE and SRE curriculum should cover:
  - Mental wellbeing
  - Internet safety and harms
  - Physical health and fitness
  - Healthy eating
  - Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
  - Health and prevention
  - Basic First Aid

- The changing adolescent body including puberty

Relationship Education by the end of Primary	Relationship Education by the end of Secondary
Families and people who care for me	Families
Caring friendships	Respectful relationships including friendships
Respectful relationships	Online and media
Online relationships	Being safe
Being Safe	Intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health

8. The DfE’s 2019 RSHE guidance sets out expectations that:

“By the end of Primary pupils should know- how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.”

“By the end of Primary pupils should know – that each person’s body belongs to them and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.

“Families can include for example, single parents families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures.”

9. The statement below from the guidance highlights that the subject of gender identity is covered throughout the guidance:

*“Pupils should be taught the facts and the law about sex, sexuality, sexual health and **gender identity** in an age-appropriate and inclusive way. All pupils should feel that the content is relevant to them and their developing sexuality. Sexual orientation and **gender identity** should be explored at a timely point and in a clear, sensitive and respectful manner. When teaching about these topics, it must be recognised that young people may be discovering or understanding their sexual orientation or **gender identity**. There should be an equal opportunity to explore the features of stable and healthy same-sex relationships. This should be integrated appropriately into the RSE programme, rather than addressed separately or in only one lesson.”*

10. The subjects of gender, gender reassignment and gender identity are also covered throughout the detailed DfE guidance document *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers* in specific chapters and paragraphs detailed below. I have highlighted these terms relating to gender in bold so that it can be clearly identified where it appears in the text :-

- a) *Under the provisions of the Equality Act, schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, **gender reassignment**, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (collectively known as the protected characteristics) P13 para 28 (Equality)*
- b) *Pupils should be taught the facts and the law about sex, sexuality, sexual health, and **gender identity** in an age-appropriate and inclusive way. All pupils should feel that the*

*content is relevant to them and their developing sexuality. Sexual orientation and **gender identity** should be explored at a timely point and in a clear, sensitive, and respectful manner. When teaching about these topics, it must be recognised that young people may be discovering or understanding their sexual orientation or **gender identity**. There should be an equal opportunity to explore the features of stable and healthy same sex relationships. This should be integrated appropriately into the RSE programme, rather than addressed separately or in only one lesson. P 25 para 75. (Relationships and Sex Education (RSE): Secondary)*

- c) *Pupils should be made aware of the relevant legal provisions when relevant topics are being taught, including for example: **gender identity** P 30 Para 82 (The Law)*
- d) *In teaching Relationships Education and RSE, schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, (please see *The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice*), under which sexual orientation and **gender reassignment** are amongst the protected characteristics. Page 15 para 36 (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT))*
- e) *Under the provisions of the Equality Act, schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, **gender reassignment**, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (collectively known as the protected characteristics) P13 para 28 (Equality)*
11. These statements have been taken directly from different paragraphs and sections of the guidance document with some being abridged from longer statements or paragraphs.
12. In December 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) published its draft non-statutory guidance for Schools and Colleges on Gender Questioning Children. They subsequently sought views, as part of a 12 week consultation for organisations such as schools/colleges and individuals such as governors, parents and students. The consultation closed on 12 March 2024.
13. The draft non statutory guidance on Gender Questioning Children subject to consultation contained the following statements.
- “There is no general duty to allow a child to ‘social transition’”,
  - “Some forms of social transition will not be compatible with schools and colleges’ statutory responsibilities.”
  - “Requests from younger children in primary schools should be treated with greater caution”.
  - “If a child requests a change, schools and colleges should make parents aware of the situation and can point them to support outside the school environment (for example, pastoral or medical support) if they require more information”.
  - “Parents should not be excluded from decisions taken by a school or college relating to requests for a child to ‘socially transition’”, ...Other than in the exceptionally rare

circumstances where involving parents would constitute a significant risk of harm to the child.

14. The subjects of gender, gender identity and gender reassignment are also reflected in the support materials provided by the DfE for schools and teachers to guide and inform the design of lessons plans and curriculum in individual schools reflecting the different elements of the curriculum.
15. The statutory guidance directs teachers and schools to teach pupils the topics of gender and gender identity, including gender reassignment, within the curriculum in an age appropriate and inclusive way.
16. This is included across all elements of the PHSE and SRE curriculum including the law, equality and diversity, healthy relationships and in the context of supporting young people who are discovering and understanding the issues of gender identity.

**Link to statutory guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-secondary>

[Gender Questioning Children - non-statutory guidance \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
15 APRIL 2024**

**WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

**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

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, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering success for Darlington'.
7. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to a vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.

### Forward Plan and Additional Items

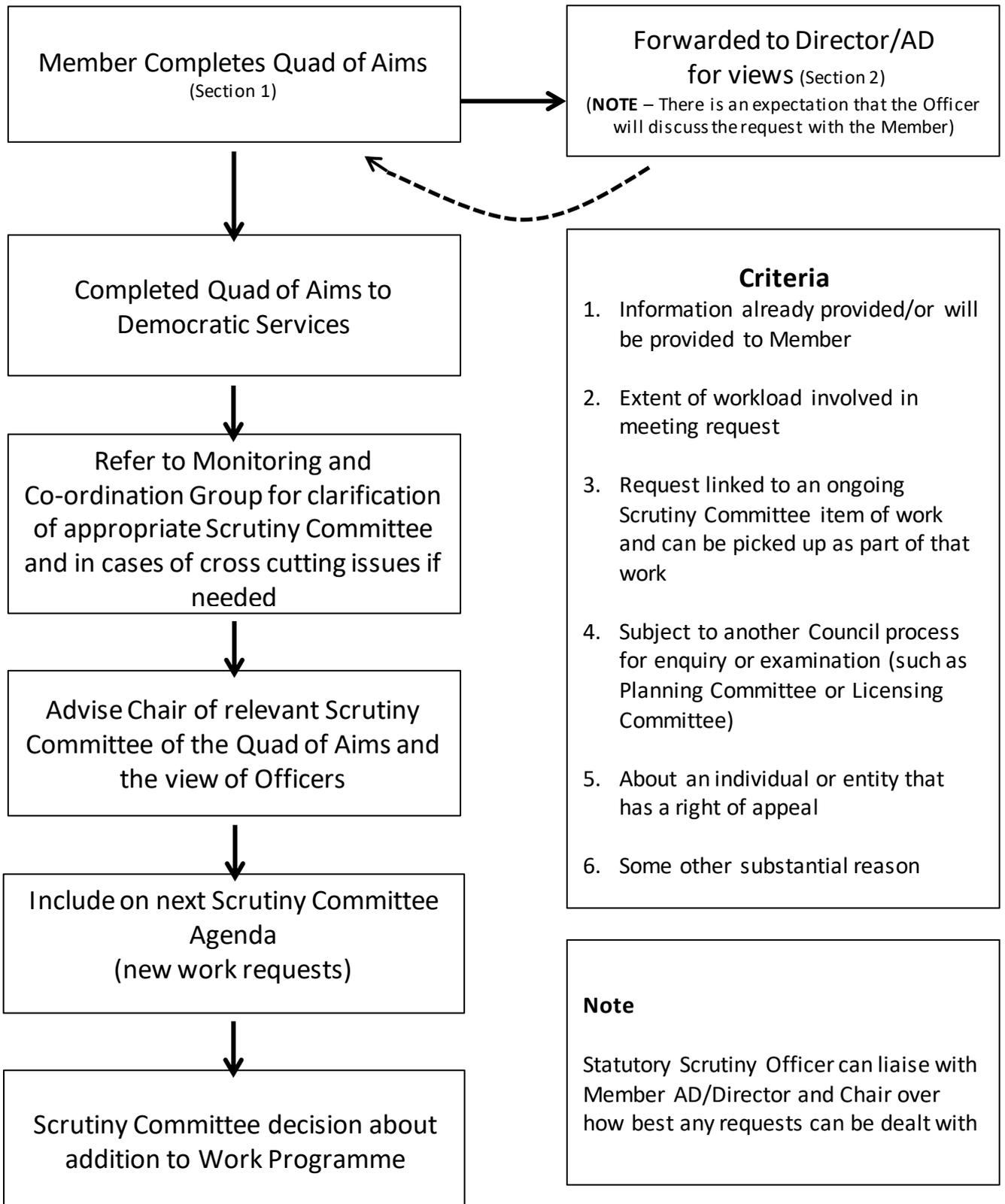
8. Any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims. **Appendix 2**
9. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Link to PMF (metrics)</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role</b>
<b>Performance Management and Regulation</b>	Q3 19 June 2023 Q4 23 Oct <i>(Deferred to 23 Oct from 21 Aug)</i> Q1 23 Oct Q2 8 Jan 2024 Q3 15 Apr 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
<b>Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education</b>	15 April 2024	Tony Murphy		To provide Scrutiny with the opportunity to examine the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education within schools.
<b>Council Plan</b>	15 April 2024	Lynne Davies		To enable the Committee to be consulted on the Council Plan.
<b>Refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan</b>	24 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



## 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)**

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

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

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

**APPENDIX 3**



**FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD: FOR THE PERIOD: 3 APRIL 2024 - 31 AUGUST 2024**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Annual Procurement Plan	Cabinet 9 Apr 2024
Dolphin Centre Update: Phase 3 Mechanical and Electrical Replacement Programme and Release of Additional Capital Funds from Swimming Pool Support Fund	Cabinet 9 Apr 2024
Proposed Waiting Restrictions Outram Street - Objection	Cabinet 9 Apr 2024
Council Plan	Council 16 May 2024  Cabinet 7 May 2024
Housing Services Asset Management Strategy	Cabinet 7 May 2024
Housing Services Vulnerability Policy	Cabinet 7 May 2024
Schedule of Transactions - June 2024	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Air Quality Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Amendments to Northgate Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Disabled Facilities Grant 2024/25	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Representation on Other Bodies 2023/24	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2023-24	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter Four	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Housing Services Gas and Electrical Safety Policies 2024/29	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 16 Jul 2024
Town Centre Site Development and Proposal to seek Development Partner through Framework and Acquisition of East Street Leasehold Interest	Cabinet

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