



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Monday, 2 September 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 24 June 2024 (Pages 3 - 4)
4. Performance Indicators Year End 2023/24 – Report of the Assistant Director of Children (Pages 5 - 40)
5. Children and Young People Public Health Overview – Report of the Director of Public Health (Pages 41 - 48)
6. The Uniform Exchange Scheme – Report of the Partnerships Director (Pages 49 - 50)
7. Work Programme 2024/25 – Report of the Assistant Director, Law and Governance (Pages 51 - 64)
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

Thursday, 22 August 2024

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Ali, Allen, Crudass, Dulston, Garner, Johnson, 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 Michael Conway, Mayoral and Democratic Officer, Operations Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays email: michael.conway@darlington.gov.uk or telephone 01325 406309

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 24 June 2024

PRESENT – Councillors Allen, Crudass, Garner, Johnson, Layton, Storr and Toms.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Ali and Renton, John Armitage and Sally Hudson.

ABSENT – Councillors Dulston.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Wallis.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Chris Bell (Assistant Director of Children's Services) and Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion).

CYP1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/2025

RESOLVED – That Councillor Allen be appointed as Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

CYP2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/2025

RESOLVED – That Councillor Layton be appointed as Vice-Chair of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

CYP3 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/2025 ON THE DATES AGREED IN THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY CABINET AT MINUTE C106/FEB/24

RESOLVED – That meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25, be held at 9.30 a.m. on the dates, as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C106/Feb/24.

CYP4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 APRIL 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15 April 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15 April 2024 be approved as a correct record.

CYP6 WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any

additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved work programme.

Members proposed the Transitional Service Update, SEND Policy Review, Transport Review, and Autism Review be added to the Work Programme. Discussion ensued around adding further items these included Calm in Communities for quieter times in restaurants for parents with SEND children. Another proposed item was around the Council's website and how it can promote what is going on in Darlington for children and young people.

Members proposed a report on Home Education, how the number of children educated at home has increased and how do parents receive support for this. Members wanted to understand how parents are supposed to support uniform alterations and purchasing additional equipment that might be required for the academic year.

Discussion ensued around Key Performance Indicators, Members wanted to clarify how to review and scrutinize KPIS's. Members spoke about the Gap Analysis and measures of KPIS's should be one of the main focuses when reviewing them. Further discussion ensued around organising a training session for Education and Children and Young Peoples KPI's for members of Scrutiny to get a better understanding.

A discussion was held around inviting care leavers and children in care to the Scrutiny meetings to allow the opportunity to give their own views and ask questions. Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel encouraged other Scrutiny Members to come along to these meetings.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS YEAR END 2023/24

Purpose of the Report

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

Summary

2. This report provides performance information (April 2023 – March 2024) 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. In 2023/24, 1.7% of the referrals took over 3 working days to be completed which is positively below our target of 5%.
6. At the end of 2023/24, there were 197 families with 423 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 64 families with 125 children were open to an external agency supporting the families.
7. In 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered except for 2, 87.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 76.9% of the RHI's had the child's engagement. This is a positive increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous years (2022/23, 84.6% in 72hrs with 59.1% engagement and 2021/22, 75.8% in 72hrs with 51.2% engagement).
8. 146 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2024 with a rate of 65.6 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase on previous years and comparable to the increase in CiN plans open and decrease in Children in Care seen during 2023/24.
9. 100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified social worker and 98.5% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.
10. Of the 196 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending. We remain positively below target (6%) with 3.6% of the children becoming subject to a CP plan for a subsequent time.

11. 300 children were in care as at March 2024, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has started to fall this reporting year and was at 134.8 at the end of March 2024, compared to 142.3 at March 2023 and closer to pre-covid levels of 120.0 at March 2021.
12. 121 children came into care in 2023/24 from 81 families. This is a decrease when compared with the 149 children who came into care in 2022/23 from 104 families. 11 of the young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child) during 2023/24, a reduction on the 18 who came into care during 2022/23.
13. 143 children and young people, from 112 families ceased to be in care in 2023/24. This is the highest yearly number of children ceasing care we have seen. We have also seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care who have previously been in care (13 in 2023/24 from 22 in 2022/23). The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) (42.7%) has doubled when compared to 2022/23 (21.0%), 2021/22 (28.3%) and Q1 2020/21 (27.5%).
14. 10.4% (29 / 278) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at March 2024 which is the lowest number of children this year and compared to March 2023 which saw 37 children placed 20 or more miles from the family home.
15. 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 93.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales at March 2024.
16. 91.1% of children due a review health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 90.7% of the children in care have an up to date health check.
17. 98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 97.9% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2024. 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 22.6% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 14.6% for those aged 22-25 at the end of March 2024. 193.4% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 58.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 8.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 77.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

Where do we need to improve?

18. In 2023/24, 81.4% (1,119 / 1,374) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is decrease when compared with 84.1% in 2022/23 and does not meet our 90% target.
19. During 2023/24, 332 children from 198 families have had a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is a continued year-on-year increase in re-referrals. Due to the reduction in referrals made to social care, and an increase in re-referrals, it has resulted in a total of 24.2% of our referrals this year being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. Re-referrals are being scrutinised

during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.

20. 1,554 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to 2022/23 (1,461), 2021/22 (806) and 2020/21 (692). 62.7% (975 / 1,554) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% but focused work on C&Fs has been done in the second half of this year which is evident in the increase in assessments outcomed within 45 days. Between April and October 2023, assessments were averaging at 52.5% completed in timescale in a month, since then, this has increased to an average of 80.5% a month.
21. 79.5% 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 2023/24. This measure continues to be negatively below the target of 95% although an increase in performance compared to the last 2 years.
22. 69.0% (2,050 / 2,973) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2023/24 and 90.4% (2,688 / 2,973) of the visits were completed within 15 working days. In comparison to 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has had a 16.5% increase (from 2,553 to 2,973 visits) along with the percentage that were carried out within timescale (67.8% within 10 days and 90.0% within 15 days). 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. 81.0% (3,079 / 3,801) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2023/24. This is a year-on-year decrease in performance from 93.1% in 2020/21, 90.1% in 2021/22 and 83.4% in 2022/23. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams is occurring and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.
24. Currently, 61.1% 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 negatively below our 68% target however an improvement when compared to 2022/23.
25. 17.0% of our Children in Care, as at March 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is negatively above internal target (10.0%).

Recommendation

26. It is recommended that performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with the appropriate Assistant Director.

Chris Bell
Assistant Director of Children

Background papers

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

Sharon Raine Head of Performance and Transformation: Extension 6091

Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes with regards to Children and Young People
Addressing inequalities	This report involves members in the scrutiny of the level to which Childrens Services contributes to ensuring that opportunities are accessible to everyone, with a focus on ensuring a good job, home and/or social connections for all.
Tackling Climate Change	This report does not identify any issued relating to climate change.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report allows for the scrutiny of performance which is integral to optimising outcomes and ensuring efficient use of resources
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Councils Crime and Disorder responsibilities.
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.
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

Page 9

March 2024 Year End 2023-24

Scrutiny

Scrutiny

Year end 2023-24 Performance Summary

Referrals: In 2023/24, 81.4% (1,119 / 1,374) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is decrease when compared with 84.1% in 2022/23, and not meeting our 90% target. 1.7% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2023/24 which is outperforming our target of 5%.

Re-Referrals: During 2023/24, 332 children from 198 families have had a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is a continued year-on-year increase in re-referrals compared to 2022/23 (286 children), 2021/22 (106 children) and 2020/21 (143 children). Due to the reduction in referrals made to social care, and an increase in re-referrals, it has resulted in at total of 24.2% of our referrals this year being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. Re-referrals are being scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.

Building Stronger Families: At the end of 2023/24, there were 197 families, 423 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 64 families with 125 children were open to an external agency and supporting the families. 1,417 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2023/24, a -14.1% drop in the 1,650 completed during 2022/23. 14.4% (204) of the EHA's started, were initiated by external agencies.

Missing: The total number of missing episodes in 2023/24 was 423 involving 122 individual children and young people. This is a reduction compared to 2022/23 which saw 691 episodes of missing involving 162 individual children. 93 (76.2%) children in 2023/24 had 3 or less missing episodes, 20 (16.4%) children were reported missing between 4 and 9 times in the year. 9 (7.4%) young people were reported 10 or more times during 2023/24, all except one are/were a child in care. In 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered except for 2, 87.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 76.9% of the RHI's had the child's engagement. This is a positive increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous years (2022/23, 84.6% in 72hrs with 59.1% engagement and 2021/22, 75.8% in 72hrs with 51.2% engagement).

Children & Families Assessments: 1,554 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to 2022/23 (1,461), 2021/22 (806) and 2020/21 (692). 62.7% (975 / 1,554) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% but focused work on C&Fs has been done in the second half of this year which is evident in the increase in assessments outcomed within 45 days. Between April and October 2023, assessments were averaging at 52.5% completed in timescale in a month, since then, this has increased to an average of 80.5% a month.

Section 47 Enquiries: 372 section 47 enquires were started in 2023/24, involving 693 individual children, 22 of which were already on an open Child Protection (CP) plan.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 79.5% 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 2023/24. This measure continues to be negatively below the target of 95% although an increase in performance compared to the last 2 years.

Child Protection Plans: 146 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2024 with a rate of 65.6 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase on previous years and comparable to the increase in CiN plans open and decrease in Children in Care. Of the 196 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending (3.6%), and 35 children (17.9%) had been subject to a CP plan for a second time ever.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 69.0% (2,050 / 2,973) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2023/24 and 90.4% (2,688 / 2,973) of the visits were completed within 15 working days. In comparison to 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has had a 16.5% increase (from 2,553 to 2,973 visits) along with the percentage that were carried out within timescale (67.8% within 10 days and 90.0% within 15 days).

Children in Care: 300 children were in care as at March 2024, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has started to fall this reporting year and was at 134.8 at the end of March 2024, compared to 142.3 at March 2023 and closer to pre-covid levels of 120.0 at March 2021. 121 children came into care in 2023/24 from 81 families. This is a decrease when compared with the 149 children who came into care in 2022/23 from 104 families. 11 of the young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child) during 2023/24, a reduction on the 18 who came into care during 2022/23. 143 children and young people, from 112 families ceased to be in care in 2023/24. This is the highest yearly number of children ceasing care we have seen. We have also seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care who have previously been in care (13 in 2023/24 from 22 in 2022/23). The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) (42.7%) has doubled when compared to 2022/23 (21.0%), 2021/22 (28.3%) and Q1 2020/21 (27.5%).

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 93.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales in 2023/24.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 81.0% (3,079 / 3,801) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2023/24. This is a year-on-year decrease in performance from 93.1% in 2020/21, 90.1% in 2021/22 and 83.4% in 2022/23. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams is occurring and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

Children in Care Placements: 17.0% of our Children in Care, as at March 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is negatively above internal target (10.0%). Currently, 61.1% 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 negatively below our 68% target however an improvement when compared to 2022/23.

10.4% (29 / 278) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at March 2024 which is the lowest number of children this year and compared to March 2023 which saw 37 children placed 20 or more miles from the family home. 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: 65.5% of IHA's completed in 2023/24 were completed within the required timescale of 5 days and 60.7% of those children received a health assessment within 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 91.1% of children due a review health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 90.7% of the children in care have an up to date health check. Currently only 1.3% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a health review. 83.1% of children due a dental health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 83.5% of the children in care have an up to date dental check. Currently 3.0% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. 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 97.9% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2024. 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 22.6% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 14.6% for those aged 22-25 at the end of March 2024. 193.4% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 58.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 8.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 77.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

REFERRALS: TIMELINESS

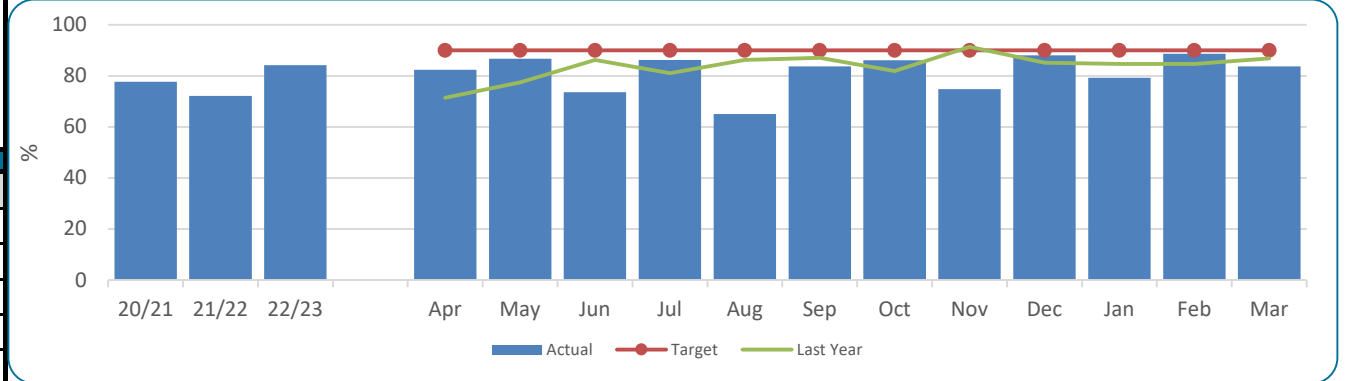
DEFINITION Percentage of referrals completed within 1 working day and over 3 working days. Referrals completed within 1 working day indicates that decisions regarding the services required are made in a timely manner to minimise drift and delay and to ensure that children are safe.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS In 2023/24, 81.4% (1,119 / 1,374) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is decrease when compared with 84.1% in 2022/23, and not meeting our 90% target. The statutory timescale for a referral is 1 working day from the service receiving the contact. Due to the drop in the timeliness of contact outcomes in 2023/24 this has had a negative impact on the timescale of a referral outcome.

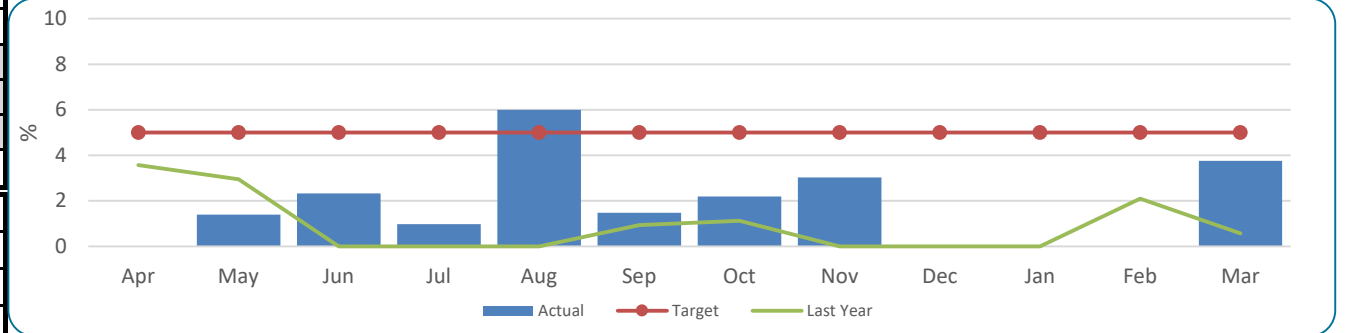
1.7% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2023/24 which is outperforming our target of 5%.

		CSC 022	CSC 026	
		Monthly % of referrals completed within 1 working day.	Monthly % of referrals completed in over 3 working days.	
		Target	90%	5%
In Month Performance	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	79.3		
	Feb-24	88.6		
	Mar-24	83.8	3.8	
Annual Trend	2020/21	77.7	4.7	
	2021/22	72.1	5.6	
	2022/23	84.1	0.8	
	2023/24	81.4	1.7	

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



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



REFERRALS: RE-REFERRALS

DEFINITION

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

During 2023/24, 332 children from 198 families have had a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is a continued year-on-year increase in re-referrals compared to 2022/23 (286 children), 2021/22 (106 children) and 2020/21 (143 children).

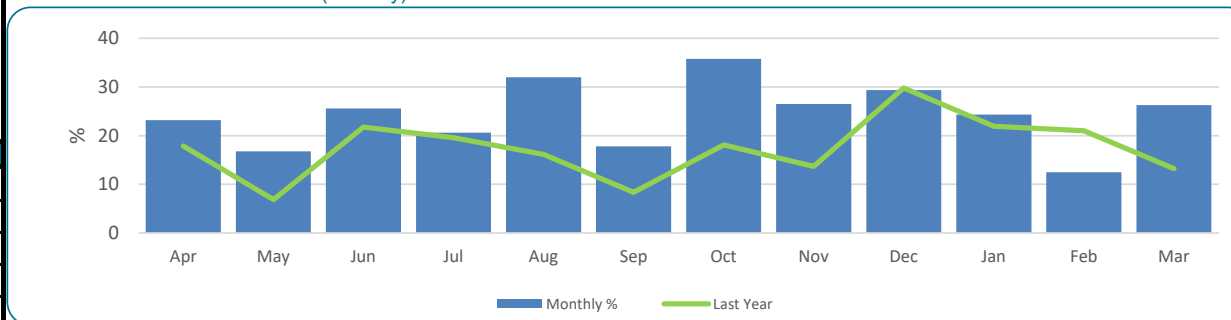
Due to the reduction in referrals made to social care, and an increase in re-referrals, it has resulted in a total of 24.2% of our referrals this year being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting.

Re-referrals are being scrutinised during weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared. Nicola Brownhill has also conducted some re-referral reviews during the year, sharing her findings in clinics and with her team at the front door.

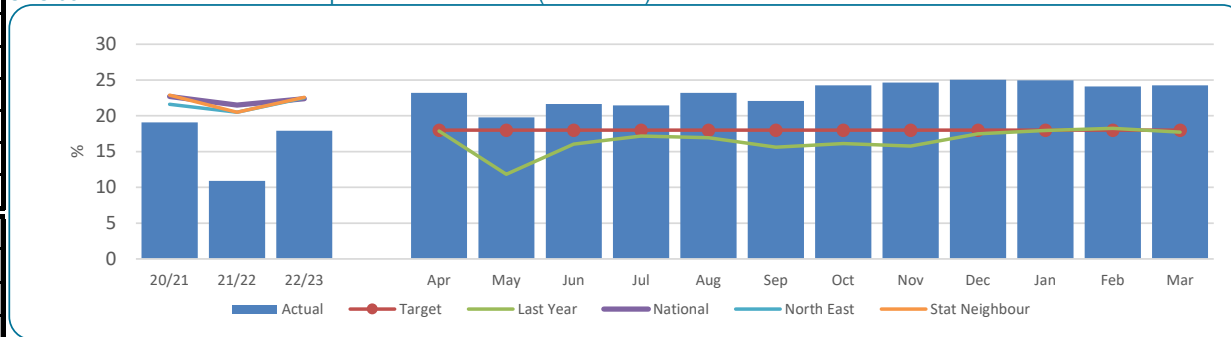
CSC 034 CSC 032

		Monthly number of re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months	% re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months (cumulative)	% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)
In Month Performance	Target		18%	
	Apr-23	29	23.2	23.2
	May-23	24	19.8	16.8
	Jun-23	33	21.7	25.6
	Jul-23	21	21.4	20.6
	Aug-23	32	23.2	32.0
	Sep-23	24	22.1	17.8
	Oct-23	49	24.3	35.8
	Nov-23	35	24.6	26.5
	Dec-23	27	25.0	29.3
	Jan-24	27	25.0	24.3
	Feb-24	11	24.1	12.5
	Mar-24	21	24.2	26.3
Annual Trend	2020/21	143	19.1	
	2021/22	106	10.9	
	2022/23	286	17.9	
	2023/24	333	24.2	

% of referrals that are re-referrals (monthly)



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

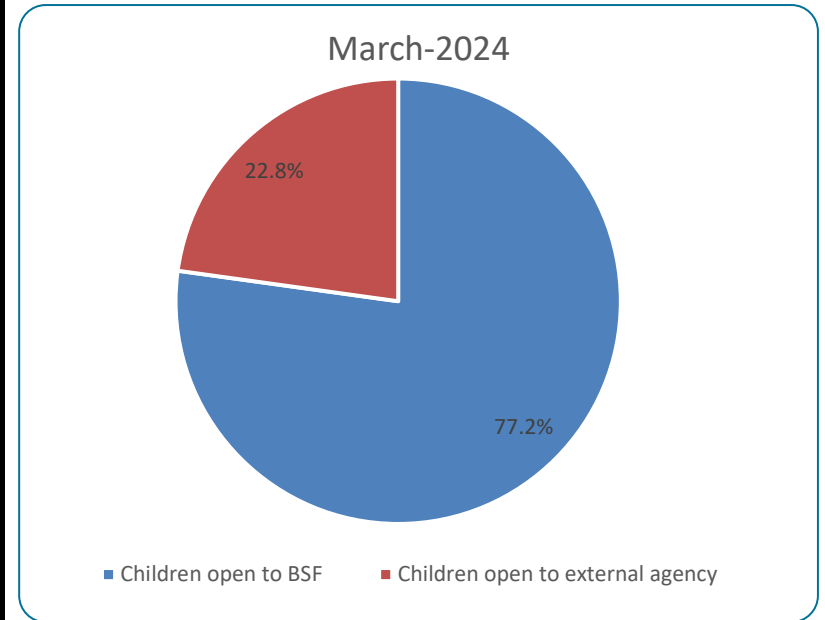


BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES: OPEN EPISODES

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 2023/24, there were 197 families, 423 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 64 families with 125 children were open to an external agency and supporting the families.

	Open to BSF at month end		Open to an external agency at month end		% of children open to BSF	
	Children	Families	Children	Families		
						%
In Month Performance	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	491	232	70	37	87.5%
	Feb-24	396	180	95	50	80.7%
	Mar-24	423	197	125	64	77.2%
	Annual Trend	2020/21	253	123	93	43
2021/22		411	191	73	35	84.9%
2022/23		490	218	125	68	79.7%
2023/24		423	197	125	64	77.2%



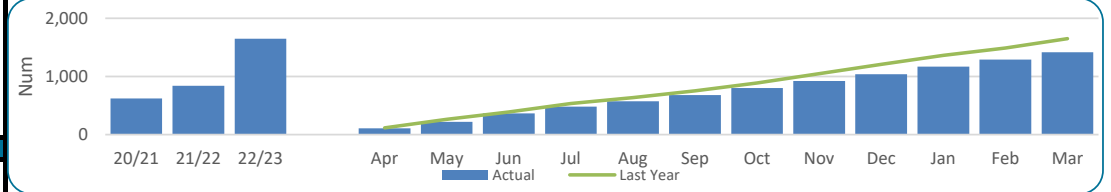
EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS: STARTED

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.

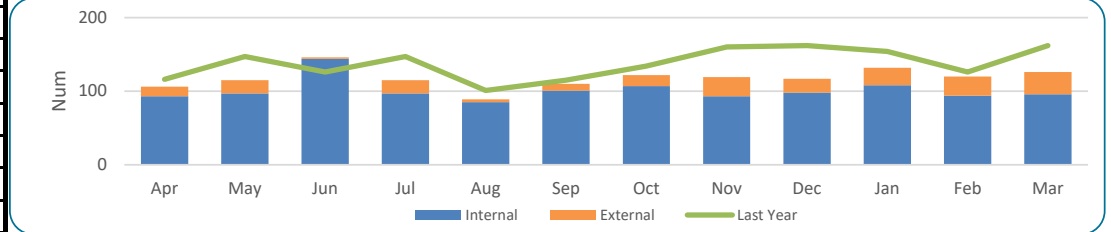
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 1,417 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2023/24, a -14.1% drop in the 1,650 completed during 2022/23. 14.4% (204) of the EHA's started, were initiated by external agencies.

		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	13 12.3%	106	
	May-23	115	18 15.7%	221	
	Jun-23	146	2 1.4%	367	
	Jul-23	115	18 15.7%	482	
	Aug-23	89	4 4.5%	571	
	Sep-23	110	9 8.2%	681	
	Oct-23	122	15 12.3%	803	
	Nov-23	119	26 21.8%	922	
	Dec-23	117	19 16.2%	1,039	
	Jan-24	132	24 18.2%	1,171	
	Feb-24	120	26 21.7%	1,291	
	Mar-24	126	30 23.8%	1,417	
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	1,417	204 14.4%	1,417	

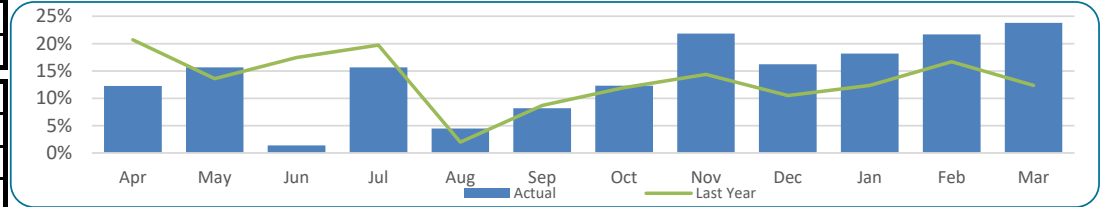
CSC 001: Number of individual EHA's started; year to date (inc. external)



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



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



MISSING: EPISODES

DEFINITION	The number of episodes of children going missing in Darlington, including Children in Care, 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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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>The total number of missing episodes in 2023/24 was 423 involving 122 individual children and young people. This is a reduction compared to 2022/23 which saw 691 episodes of missing involving 162 individual children.</p> <p>93 (76.2%) children in 2023/24 had 3 or less missing episodes, 20 (16.4%) children were reported missing between 4 and 9 times in the year. 9 (7.4%) young people were reported 10 or more times during 2023/24, all except one are/were a child in care.</p> <p>CiC young people have seen the largest decrease in missing episodes compared to 2022/23, going from 55.4% (383 / 691) of the total episodes to 35.9% (152 / 423) of the total episodes.</p> <p>In 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered except for 2, 87.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 76.9% of the children engaged in their RHI. This is a positive increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous years (2022/23, 84.6% in 72hrs with 59.1% engagement and 2021/22, 75.8% in 72hrs with 51.2% engagement).</p>
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CSC 215 CSC 246

In Month Performance		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
	Apr-23	24	17	10	7		
	May-23	55	30	26	12		
	Jun-23	38	26	22	10	2	2
	Jul-23	62	30	26	11	2	2
	Aug-23	40	15	14	5	3	1
	Sep-23	42	19	14	6		
	Oct-23	53	24	13	6	1	1
	Nov-23	45	17	9	6	1	1
	Dec-23	13	13	4	4		
	Jan-24	16	12	4	4		
	Feb-24	20	17	4	3	1	1
	Mar-24	15	13	6	4	3	2
Annual Trend	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	423	122	152	27	13	6

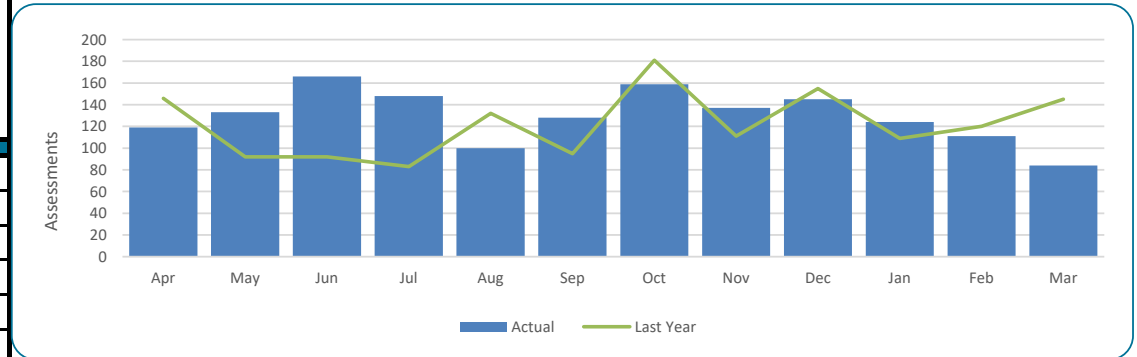
ASSESSMENTS

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

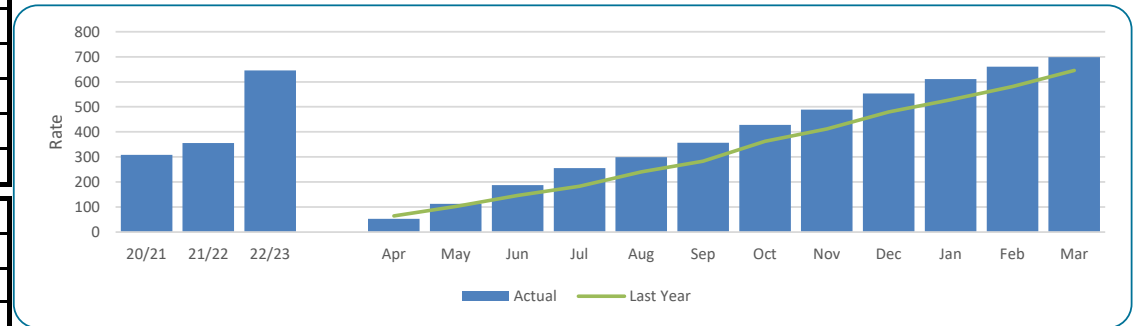
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS 1,554 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to 2022/23 (1,461), 2021/22 (806) and 2020/21 (692).

		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.
In Month Performance	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	137	1,088	488.9
	Dec-23	145	1,231	553.2
	Jan-24	124	1,359	610.7
	Feb-24	111	1,470	660.6
	Mar-24	84	1,554	698.3
Annual Trend	2020/21	692	692	308.2
	2021/22	806	806	356.1
	2022/23	1,461	1,461	645.5
	2023/24	1,554	1,554	698.3

CSC 037: Monthly number of C&F assessments completed



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



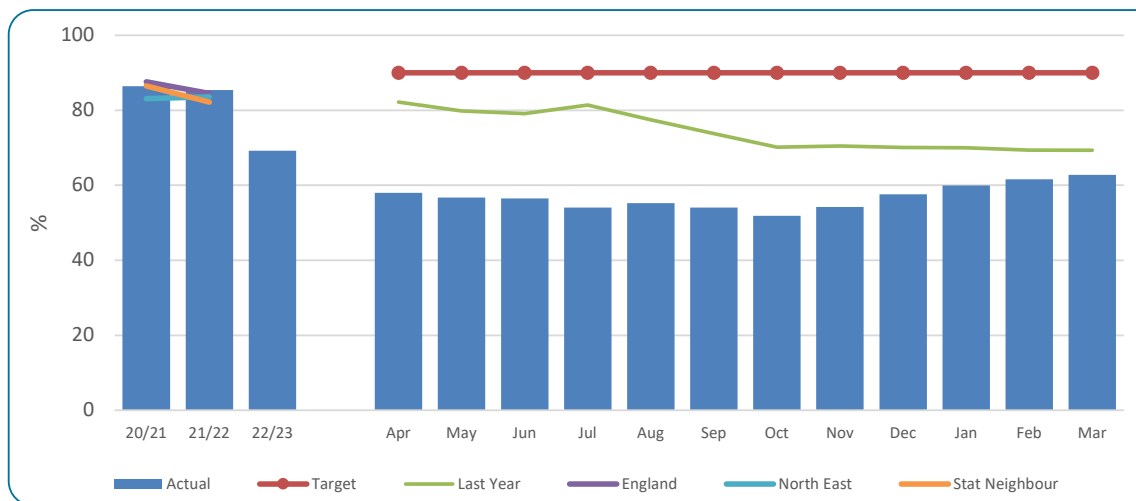
ASSESSMENTS: TIMELINESS

DEFINITION	<p>Of those assessments completed in a period, the percentage completed within 45 working days. Day zero is the first working day on or after the start date of the referral, or strategy discussion decided to initiate S47 enquiries, or where new information indicates that an assessment should be undertaken. The end date is the first working day on or after the recorded date the Team Manager closes the single assessment.</p> <p>A process indicator as a proxy measure for improved child safety and how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. Local authorities should investigate and address concerns in a timely and efficient way.</p>
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>62.7% (975 / 1,554) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% but focused work on C&Fs has been done in the second half of this year which is evident in the increase in assessments outcomed within 45 days. Between April and October 2023, assessments were averaging at 52.5% completed in timescale in a month, since then, this has increased to an average of 80.5% a month.</p>
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		CSC 038	CSC 040
		% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (year to date)	Monthly % completed within 45 working days
In Month Performance	Target	90%	90%
	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	54.2	70.8
	Dec-23	57.6	81.4
	Jan-24	60.0	85.5
	Feb-24	61.6	80.2
Mar-24	62.7	84.5	
Annual Trend	2020/21	86.4	
	2021/22	85.4	
	2022/23	69.2	
	2023/24	62.7	84.5

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



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.
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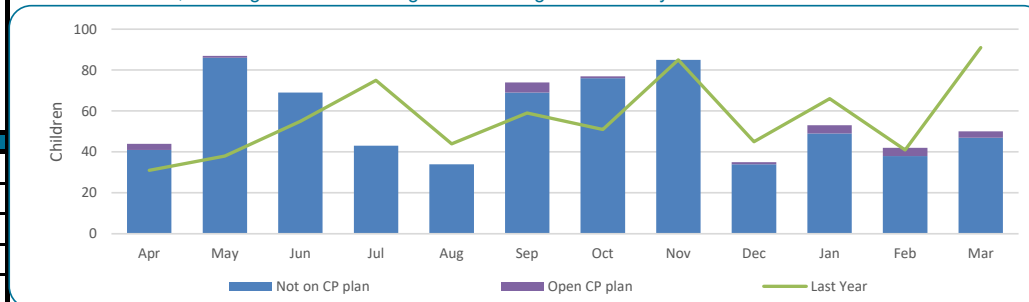
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>372 section 47 enquires were started in 2023/24, involving 693 individual children, 22 of which were already on an open Child Protection (CP) plan.</p> <p>Our rate of enquires per 10,000 population was 311.4 at the end of 2023/24. Although an increase on previous year, it is not a corresponding increase when compared with strategies held, this will be due to the increase in no further action taken on some strategies in 2023/24.</p>
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CSC 166

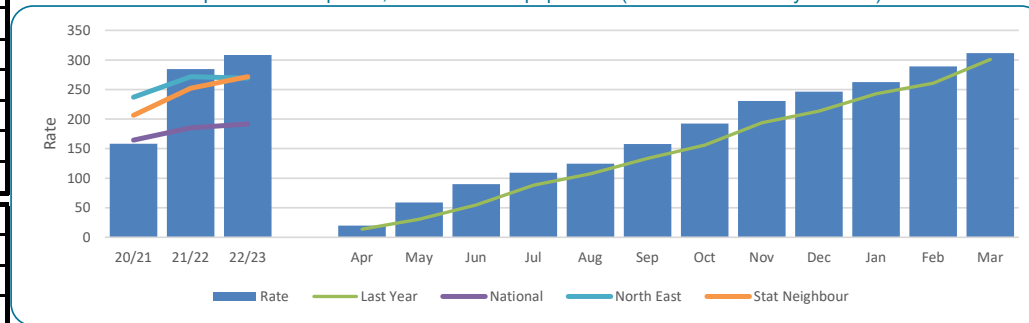
CSC 164

In Month Performance		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 enquires started per 10,000 of the 0-17 population (Cumulative)
	Annual Trend	Year	Section 47 enquires started in the month	Number of children who had a section 47 enquiry	Of which also had an open CPP plan
	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	30	53	4	262.4
	Feb-24	27	42	4	289.0
	Mar-24	29	50	3	311.4
	2020/21	195	358	7	158.2
	2021/22	317	633	14	284.5
	2022/23	351	681	30	308.3
	2023/24	372	693	22	311.4

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)



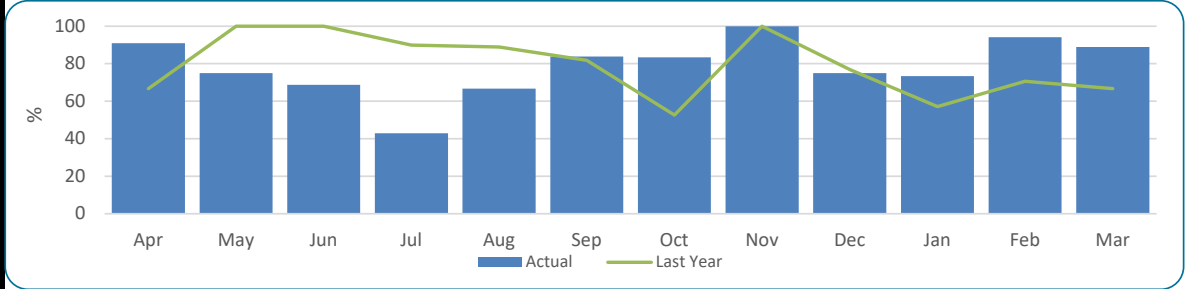
INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES: TIMELINESS

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.

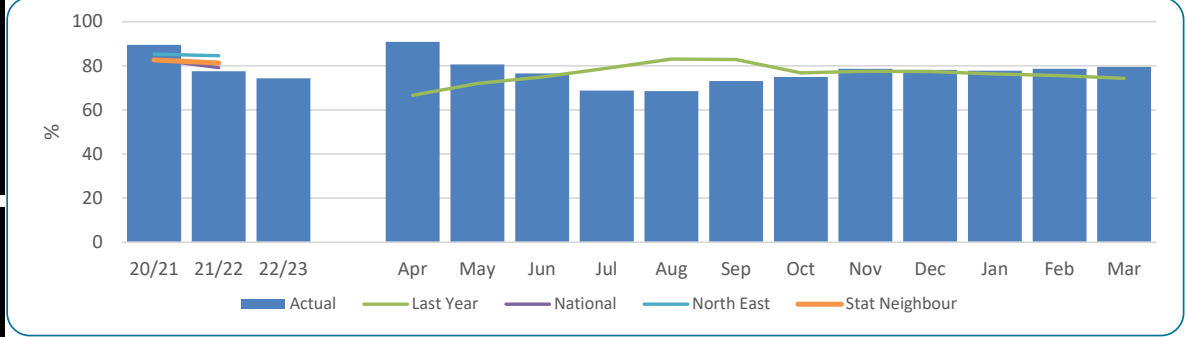
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS Of the 215 children (who were not transferred in), 171 had their Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) within timescale (79.5%) in 2023/24. This measure continues to be negatively below the target of 95% although an increase in performance compared to the last 2 years.

	CSC 178		CSC 176		95%
	Target	% 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	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	22 / 22	100.0	118 / 150	78.7
	Dec-23	18 / 24	75.0	136 / 174	78.2
	Jan-24	11 / 15	73.3	147 / 189	77.8
	Feb-24	16 / 17	94.1	159 / 202	78.7
	Mar-24	8 / 9	88.9	171 / 215	79.5
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	171 / 215	79.5	171 / 215	79.5

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



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



CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

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

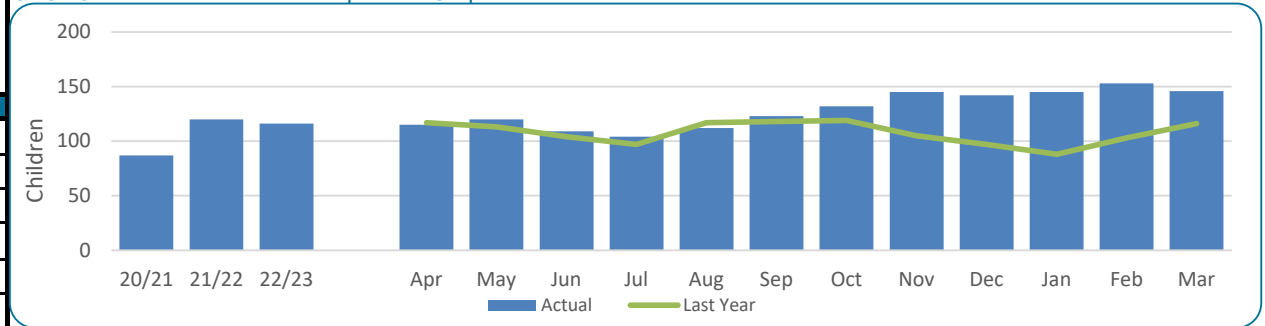
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

146 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2024 with a rate of 65.6 per 10,000 population with a CP plan.

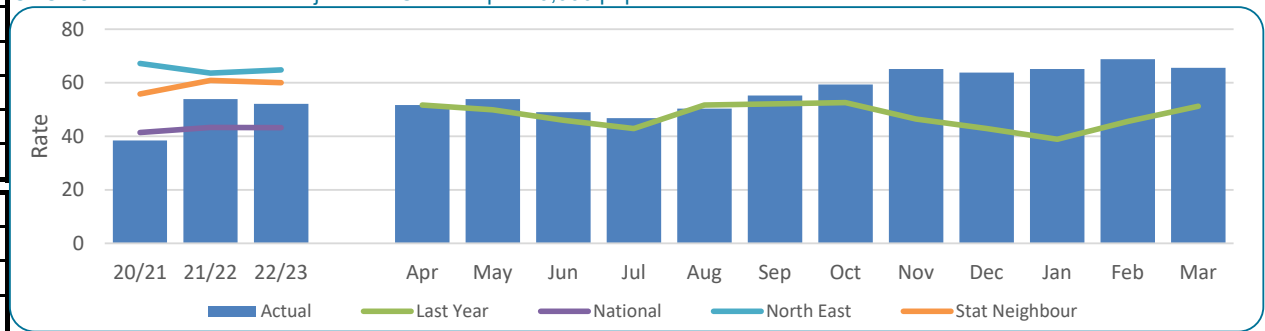
This is an increase on previous years and comparable to the increase in CiN plans open and decrease in Children in Care.

		CSC 182	CSC 181
		Number of children subject to a CP plan	Rate of children subject to a CP Plan per 10,000 population
In Month Performance	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	145	65.2
	Feb-24	153	68.8
	Mar-24	146	65.6
Annual Trend	2020/21	87	38.4
	2021/22	120	53.9
	2022/23	116	52.1
	2023/24	146	65.6

CSC 182: Number of children subject to a CP plan



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

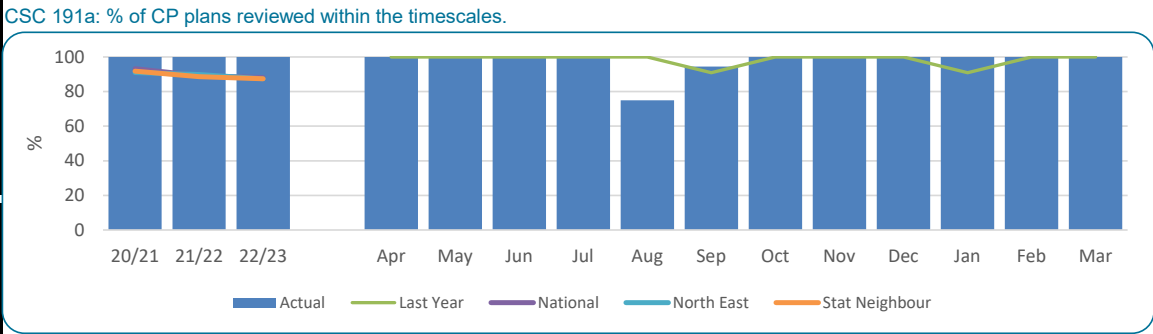
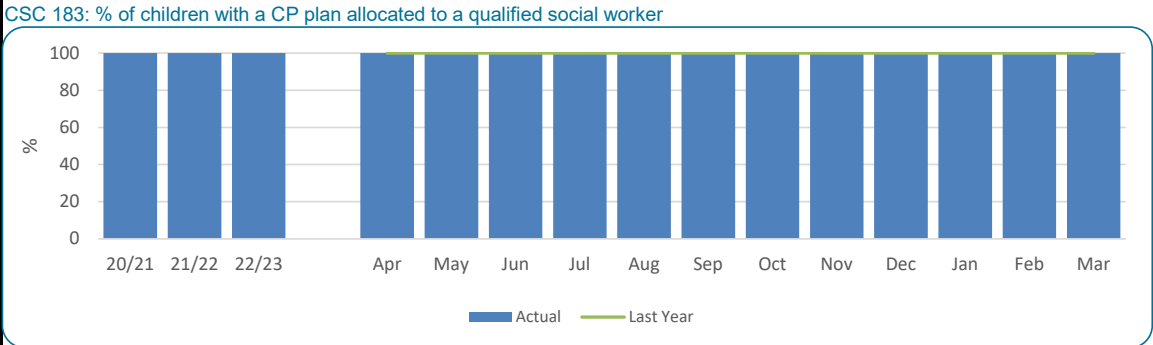


CHILD PROTECTION PLANS: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

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.
 98.5% of Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales.

		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	% of CP plans reviewed within the timescales.
In Month Performance	Target	100		100
	Apr-23	100.0	14 / 14	100.0
	May-23	100.0	13 / 13	100.0
	Jun-23	100.0	17 / 17	100.0
	Jul-23	100.0	19 / 19	100.0
	Aug-23	100.0	6 / 8	75.0
	Sep-23	100.0	17 / 18	94.4
	Oct-23	100.0	16 / 16	100.0
	Nov-23	100.0	11 / 11	100.0
	Dec-23	100.0	21 / 21	100.0
	Jan-24	100.0	16 / 16	100.0
	Feb-24	100.0	18 / 18	100.0
	Mar-24	100.0	25 / 25	100.0
Annual Trend	2020/21	100.0	138 / 138	100.0
	2021/22	100.0	159 / 159	100.0
	2022/23	100.0	155 / 155	100.0
	2023/24	100.0	193 / 196	98.5



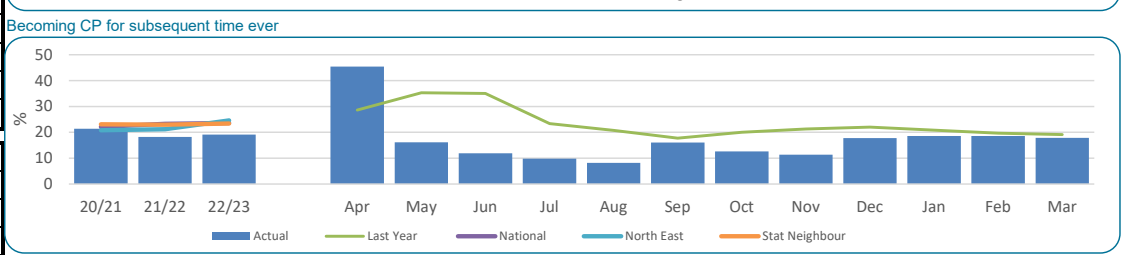
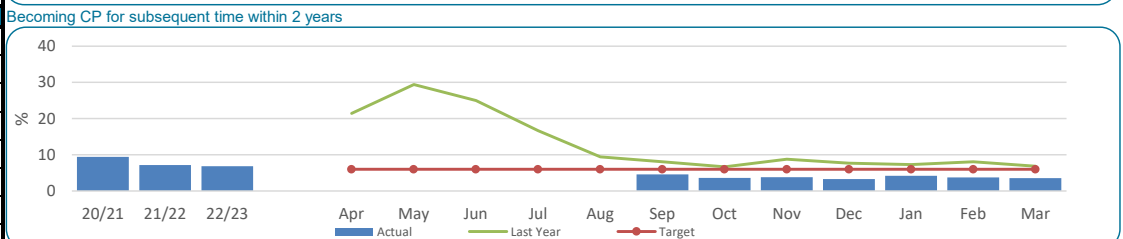
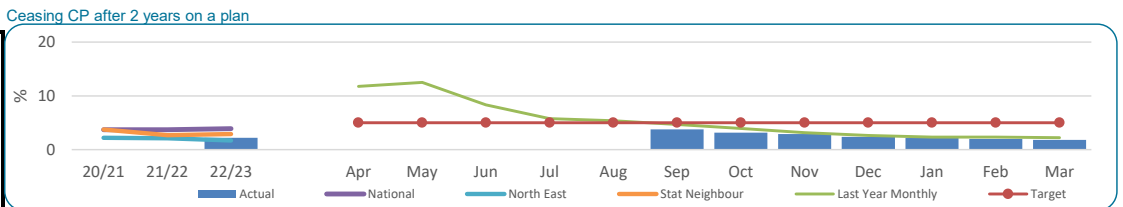
CHILD PROTECTION PLAN: TIME PERIODS

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 196 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending (3.6%), and 35 children (17.9%) had been subject to a CP plan for a second time ever.
 3 of the 166 children who have ceased to be subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, did so after being subject to the plan for 2 or more years.

Page 24

		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)	
In Month Performance	Target		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	3 / 126	2.4	5 / 152	3.3	27 / 152	17.8
	Jan-24	3 / 138	2.2	7 / 167	4.2	31 / 167	18.6
	Feb-24	3 / 151	2.0	7 / 188	3.7	35 / 188	18.6
Mar-24	3 / 166	1.8	7 / 196	3.6	35 / 196	17.9	
Annual Trend	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	3 / 166	1.8	7 / 196	3.6	35 / 196	17.9



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

69.0% (2,050 / 2,973) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2023/24 and 90.4% (2,688 / 2,973) of the visits were completed within 15 working days.

In comparison to 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has had a 16.5% increase (from 2,553 to 2,973 visits) along with the percentage that were carried out within timescale (67.8% within 10 days and 90.0% within 15 days).

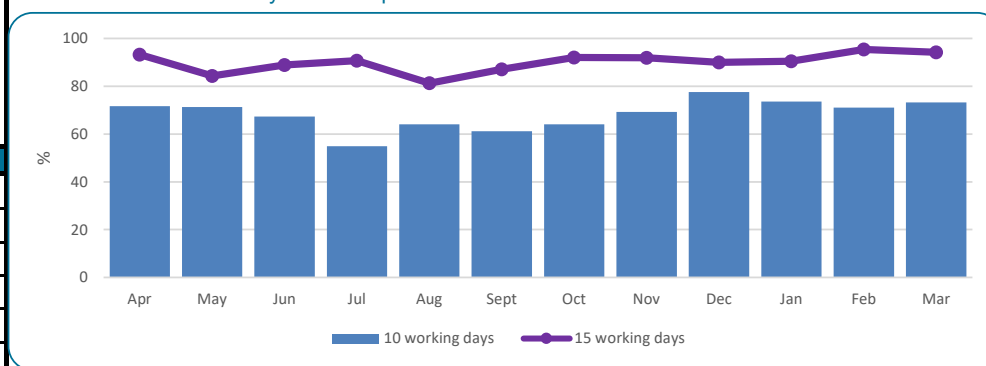
The timeliness of CP visits carried out within 10 working days is still below the 90% target.

CSC 252a

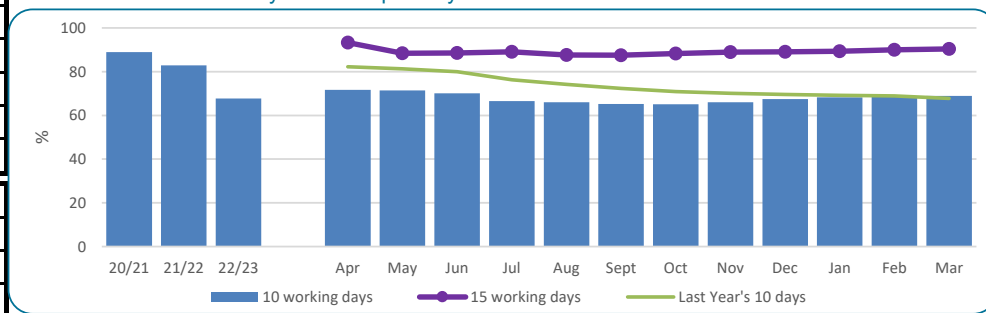
CSC 252b

	Target	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)
In Month Performance					
	90	90	90	90	90
Apr-23	71.7	93.3	71.7	93.3	
May-23	71.3	84.3	71.5	88.4	
Jun-23	67.3	88.9	70.1	88.6	
Jul-23	54.9	90.8	66.5	89.1	
Aug-23	64.1	81.3	66.0	87.6	
Sep-23	61.2	87.1	65.2	87.5	
Oct-23	64.0	92.0	65.0	88.3	
Nov-23	69.2	92.0	66.0	88.9	
Dec-23	77.6	90.0	67.5	89.1	
Jan-24	73.6	90.5	68.3	89.3	
Feb-24	71.1	95.4	68.6	90.0	
Mar-24	73.2	94.2	69.0	90.4	
Annual Trend					
	2020/21			89.0	98.4
	2021/22			82.9	96.8
	2022/23			67.8	90.0
	2023/24	73.2	94.2	69.0	90.4

% Child Protection statutory visits completed within the month



% Child Protection statutory visits completed year to date



CHILDREN IN CARE

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

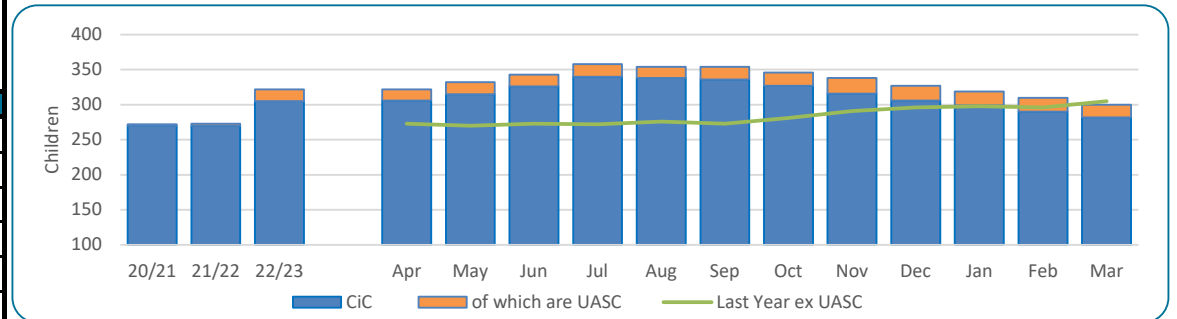
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

300 children were in care as at March 2024, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers.

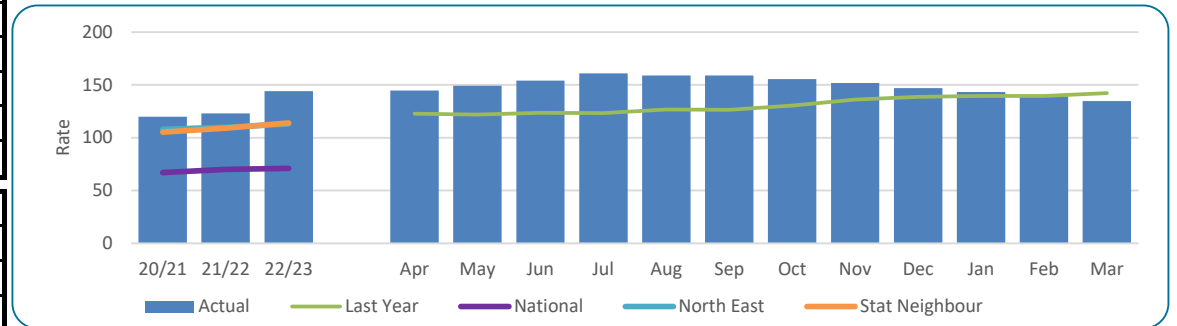
The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has started to fall this reporting year and was at 134.8 at the end of March 2024, compared to 142.3 at March 2023 and closer to pre-covid levels of 120.0 at March 2021.

		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
In Month Performance	Target			95
	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	319	20	143.4
	Feb-24	310	20	139.3
	Mar-24	300	18	134.8
Annual Trend	2020/21	272	2	120.0
	2021/22	273	3	123.0
	2022/23	322	17	142.3
	2023/24	300	18	134.8

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.

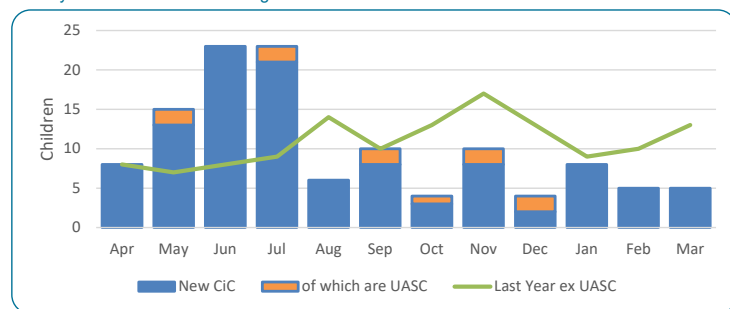
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

121 children came into care in 2023/24 from 81 families. This is a decrease when compared with the 149 children who came into care in 2022/23 from 104 families. 11 of the young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child) during 2023/24, a reduction on the 18 who came into care during 2022/23.

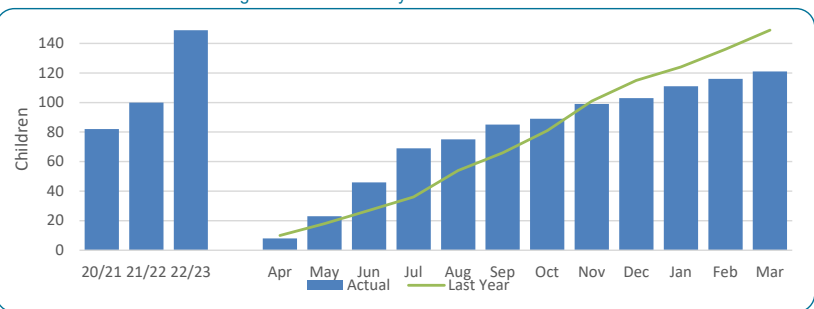
The primary and secondary presenting issues for the children coming into care in 2023/24 are predominantly due to; substance misuse (22.2%, 7.0% of which was alcohol related), neglect (17.8%), physical abuse (14.6%), domestic abuse (13.5%) and mental health concerns (12.4%).

		CSC 209	CSC 208b	First placement type in care										
		Monthly number of children coming into care	Cumulative number of children coming into care	of which are UASC	Placed with parent (P1)	Connected Carer (U1&U3)	Foster care (U5&U6) - Internal	Foster care (U5&U6) - External	NHS/ Medical trust (R2)	Family centre/ Mother & Baby unit (R3)	Homes and Hostels (K2)	Res accom. / Independ. living (H5&P2)	Other placement (Z1)	YOI - (R5)
In Month Performance	Apr-23	8	8				1						7	
	May-23	15	23	2		2	3					3	7	
	Jun-23	23	46		7	6	4			1			5	
	Jul-23	23	69	2	4	1	5					2	11	
	Aug-23	6	75		1		1	1					3	
	Sep-23	10	85	2			1		1		2		6	
	Oct-23	4	89	1			3	1						
	Nov-23	10	99	2	2		5		2				1	
	Dec-23	4	103	2			2						1	1
	Jan-24	8	111				3		2					3
	Feb-24	5	116				3		2					
	Mar-24	5	121				3						1	1
Annual Trend	2020/21	82	82	2	11	18	19	2	11	1	3	16	16	1
	2021/22	100	100	2	15	10	27	14	14	0	2	17	17	1
	2022/23	149	149	18	22	13	42	11	5	2	5	13	36	
	2023/24	121	121	11	14	9	34	2	7	1	2	8	44	0

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

143 children and young people, from 112 families ceased to be in care in 2023/24. This is the highest yearly number of children ceasing care we have seen. We have also seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care who have previously been in care (13 in 2023/24 and 22 in 2022/23).

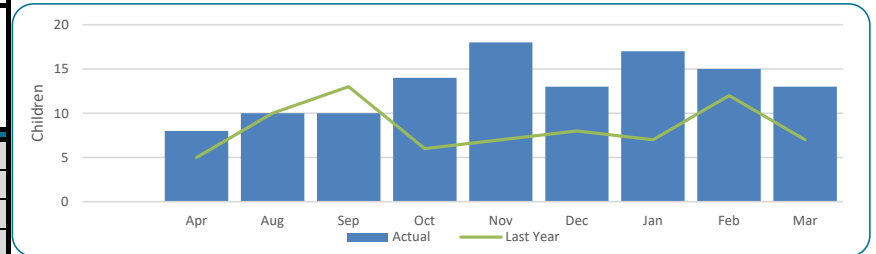
Of the 143 children and young people who did cease CiC:

- 42.7% returned home to their parent(s).
- 30.1% had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative.
- 8.4% were adopted
- 8.4% due to turning 18 and becoming a care leaver.
- 7.0% were UASC turning 18 and becoming a care leaver.
- 3.5% for other reasons (UASC following an age assessment, ceased care as it was identified they were over the age of 18, transferred to another LA)

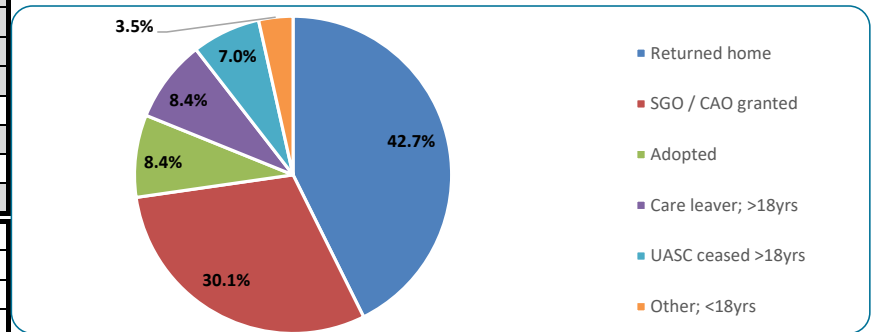
The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) has doubled when compared to 2022/23 (21.0%), 2021/22 (28.3%) and Q1 2020/21 (27.5%).

	CSC 212		CSC 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	
In Month Performance	Apr-23	8	8	5	2			1	
	May-23	4	12	1	1	1	1		
	Jun-23	13	25	6	2	4		1	
	Jul-23	8	33	5	2			1	
	Aug-23	10	43	6			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	17	115	5	7	2	2	1	
	Feb-24	15	129	3	6	1	2		3
	Mar-24	13	143	6	2		3	2	
Annual Trend	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	143	143	61	43	12	12	10	5

CSC 212: Monthly number of children ceasing care



Cumulative reason for children ceasing care

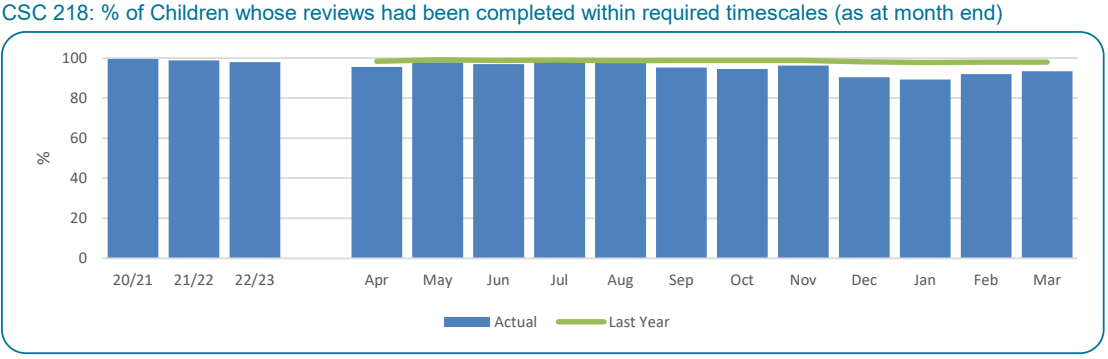


CHILDREN IN CARE: ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

DEFINITION
 The percentage of Children in Care (CiC) which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time and the percentage of Children in Care that were allocated to a qualified social worker at the end of the month. The purpose of the review is to consider the plan for the child's welfare, to monitor the progress of the plan and amend it as necessary in light of changed information and circumstances. The statutory intervals are within 20 working days of placement, then within 3 months and 6 monthly thereafter, but reviews may be rescheduled or held inside these intervals if there are significant changes to the child's care plan.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS
 100% of Children in Care (CiC) are allocated to a qualified social worker.
 271 of the 290 reviews (93.5%), were completed within required timescales during 2023/24.

		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)	
		Target	100	Num	%
In Month Performance	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	100.0	274 / 307	89.3	
	Feb-24	100.0	278 / 302	92.1	
	Mar-24	100.0	271 / 290	93.5	
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	271 / 290	93.5	



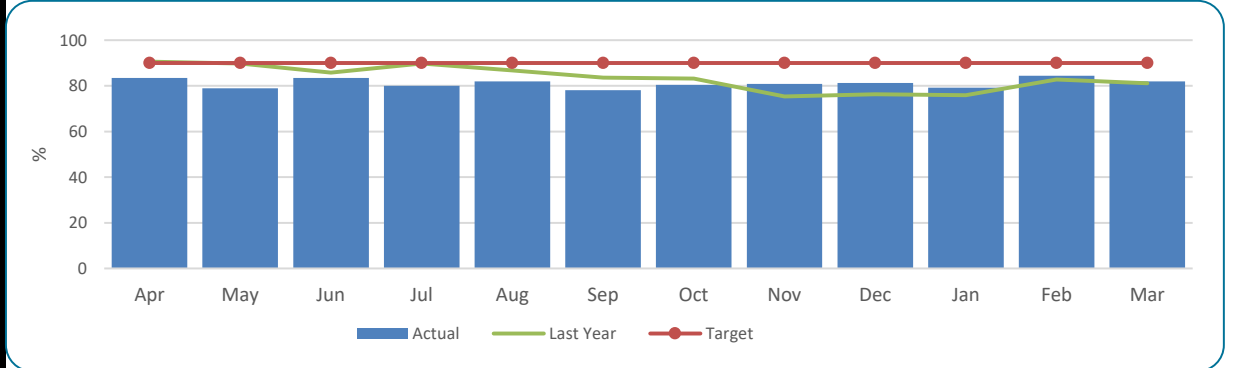
CHILDREN IN CARE: STATUTORY VISITS

DEFINITION	Percentage of Children in Care (CiC) who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales each month and year to date.
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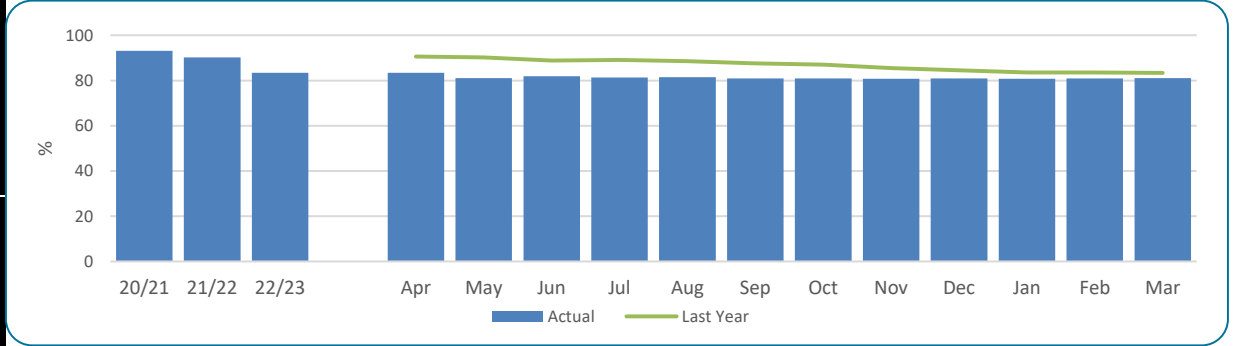
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>81.0% (3,079 / 3,801) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2023/24. This is a year-on-year decrease in performance from 93.1% in 2020/21, 90.1% in 2021/22 and 83.4% in 2022/23.</p> <p>We have seen an increase in the number of visits required over the past 3 years, however this year's total is comparable to the 3,856 CiC visits that were carried out in 2020/21.</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
In Month Performance	Target	90	90
	Apr-23	83.4	83.4
	May-23	78.9	81.0
	Jun-23	83.5	81.9
	Jul-23	80.0	81.4
	Aug-23	82.0	81.5
	Sep-23	78.1	80.9
	Oct-23	80.4	80.8
	Nov-23	80.8	80.8
	Dec-23	81.3	80.9
	Jan-24	79.2	80.7
	Feb-24	84.4	81.0
Mar-24	81.9	81.0	
Annual Trend	2020/21		93.1
	2021/22		90.1
	2022/23		83.4
	2023/24	81.9	81.0

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

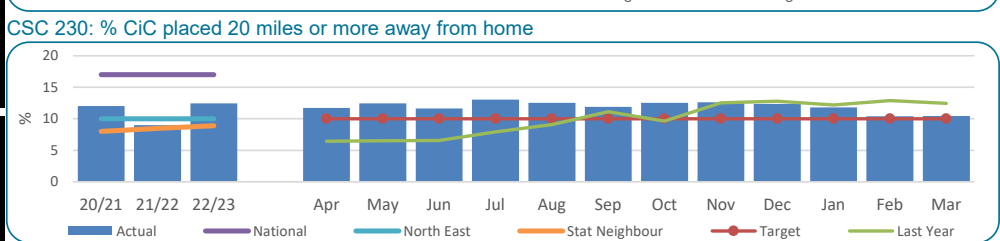
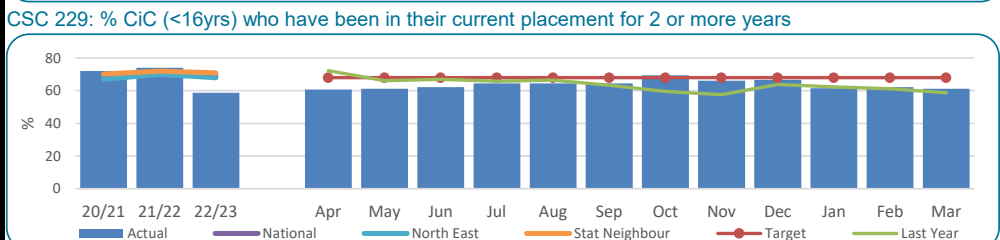
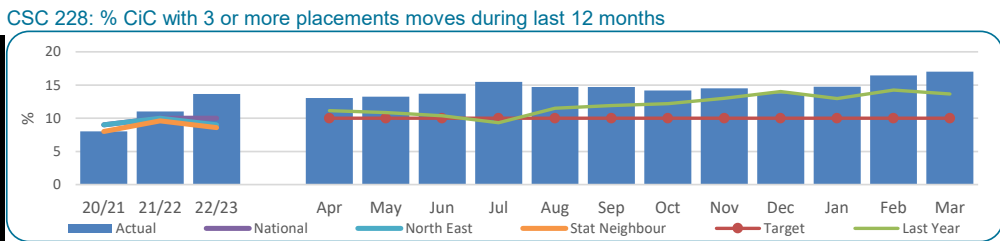
17.0% (51 children) of our Children in Care, as at March 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is negatively above internal target (10.0%) and has never been below target in a month during 2023/24.

Currently, 61.1% (77 / 126) 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 negatively below our 68% target however an improvement when compared to 2022/23.

10.4% (29 / 278) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at March 2024 which is the lowest number of children this year and compared to March 2023 which saw 37 children placed 20 or more miles from the family home.

All these placements are confirmed to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.

	CSC 228		CSC 229		CSC 230		
	% 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		
	Target	10%	68%	10%	Children	%	
In Month Performance	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	47	14.7	80	61.5	35	11.8
	Feb-24	51	16.5	79	62.2	30	10.4
	Mar-24	51	17.0	77	61.1	29	10.4
Annual Trend	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	51	17.0	77	61.1	29	10.4



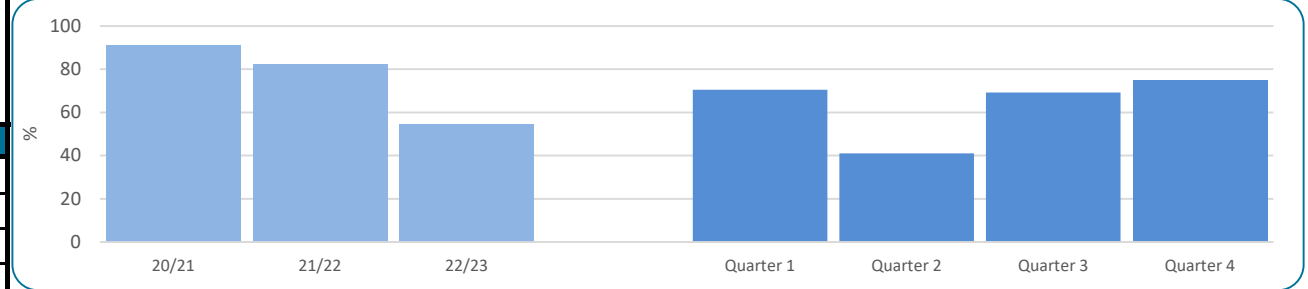
CHILDREN IN CARE: INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

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.
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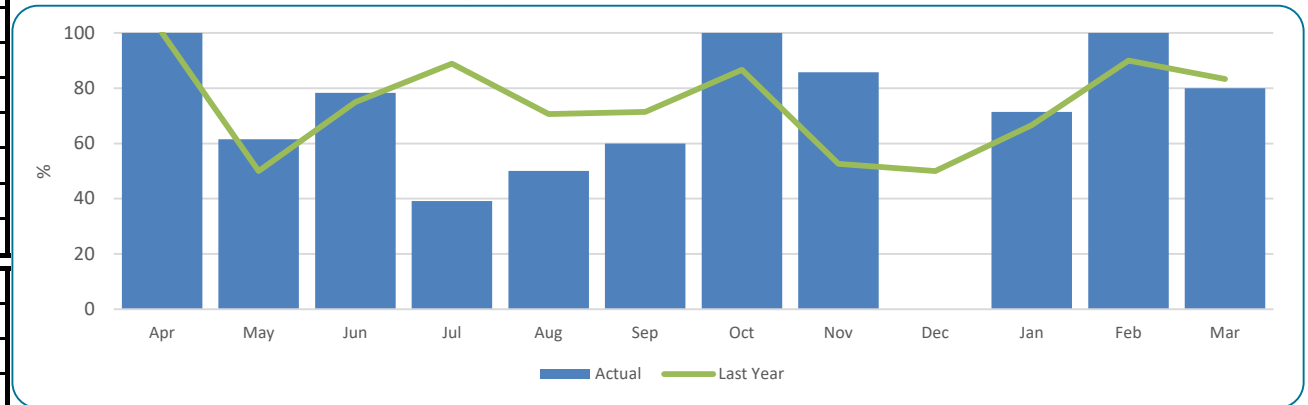
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	65.5% of IHA's completed in 2023/24 were completed within the required timescale of 5 days and 60.7% of those children received a health assessment within 20 days.
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In Month Performance	Target	Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)	IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days
		95	
	Apr-23		8 / 8
	May-23		8 / 13
	Jun-23	31 / 44	18 / 23
	Jul-23		9 / 23
	Aug-23		3 / 6
	Sep-23	16 / 39	6 / 10
	Oct-23		2 / 2
	Nov-23		6 / 7
	Dec-23	9 / 13	0 / 4
	Jan-24		5 / 7
	Feb-24		5 / 5
	Mar-24	12 / 16	4 / 5
Annual Trend	2020/21	90.9%	87.7%
	2021/22	82.1%	89.4%
	2022/23	54.5%	72.4%
	2023/24	60.7%	65.5%

Completed IHA within 20 working days (by Health)



IHA forms returned to Health within 5 working days



CHILDREN IN CARE: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

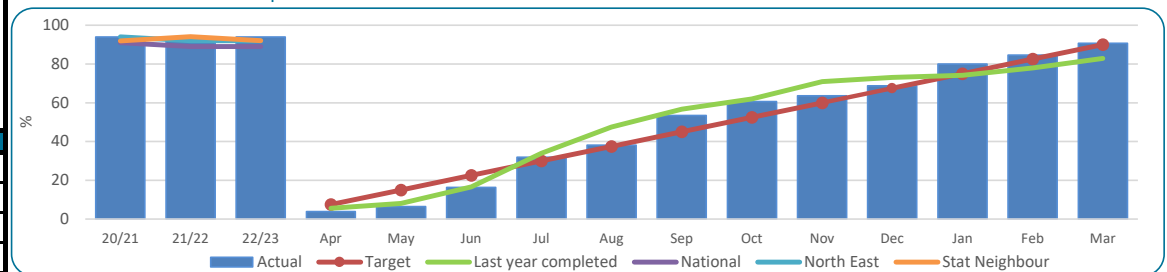
DEFINITION Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who have had their Review Health Assessment (RHA) completed and the percentage who have an up to date Health Check (excludes any who will turn 18 before 31st March). Children 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 91.1% of children due a review health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 90.7% of the children in care have an up to date health check. Currently only 1.3% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a health review. They are continually reminded of the benefits of having a check-up and encouraged to take part.

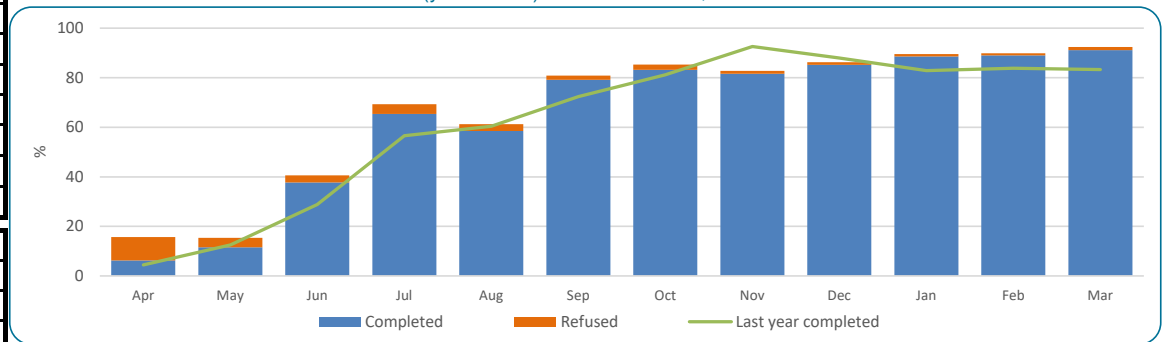
CSC 250 CSC 250b

		% 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)
In Month Performance	Target	90%		90%
	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	80.0	1.0	88.6
	Feb-24	84.6	0.9	89.0
	Mar-24	90.7	1.3	91.1
Annual Trend	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	90.7	1.3	91.1

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

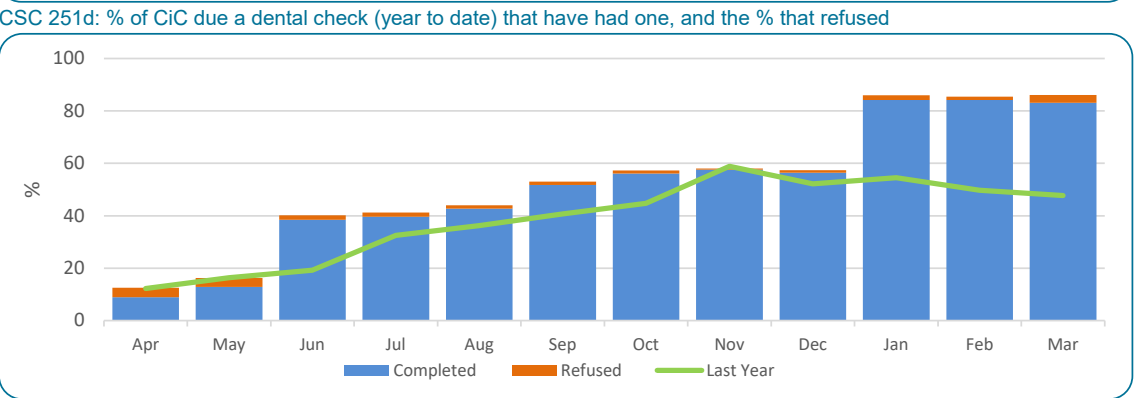
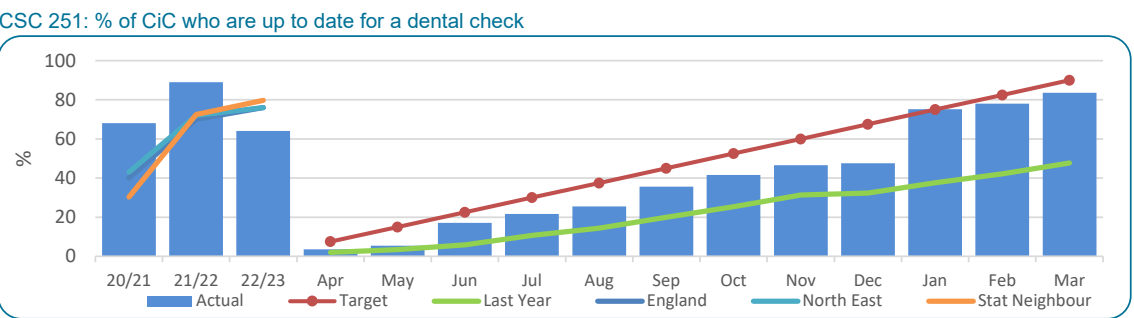
Of the Children in Care (CiC) at 31 March who had been in care continuously for at least 12 months, the percentage who had had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and the percentage who had had an annual health check during the previous 12 months (excludes any who will turn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

83.1% of children due a dental health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 83.5% of the children in care have an up to date dental check.

Currently 3.0% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. 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)
In Month Performance	Target	90%		90%
	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	75.2	1.8	84.2
	Feb-24	78.1	1.3	84.1
	Mar-24	83.5	3.0	83.1
Annual Trend	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	83.5	3.0	83.1



CARE LEAVERS

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

98.4% of our care leavers aged 19-21 and 97.9% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2024.

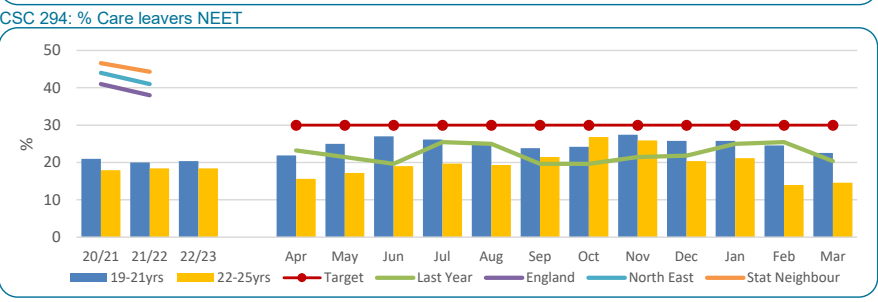
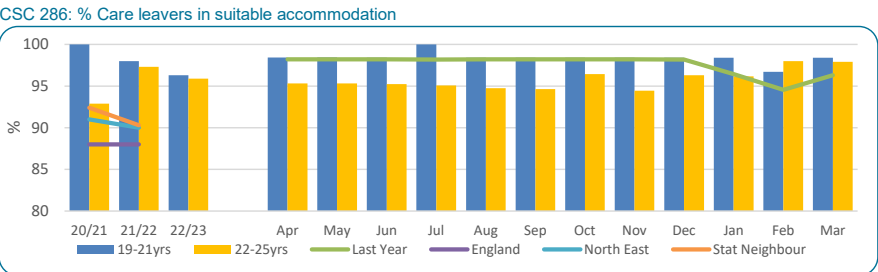
Of the care leavers, as at 31st March 2024 aged 19-21, 17 of them were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
 • 6.5% NEET because of illness or disability
 • 11.3% NEET because of other circumstances
 • 4.8% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.
 This equates to 22.6% of our care leavers which is positively below the internal target of 30% NEET.

Of the 48 care leavers, as at 31st March 2024 aged 22-25, 7 of them were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
 • 4.2% NEET because of illness or disability
 • 6.3% NEET because of other circumstances
 • 4.1% NEET because of pregnancy or parenting.
 This equates to 14.6%.

19.4% young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (8.1% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 58.1% young people were in training or employment (29.0% in full time and 29.0% in part time).

8.3% young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (4.2% of which are in studies beyond A level) and 77.1% young people were in training or employment (27.1% in full time and 50.0% in part time).

		CSC 286 19-21 year olds		CSC 294 22-25 year olds	
		% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET	% Care leavers in suitable accommodation	% Care leavers NEET
In Month Performance	Target	90%	30%		
	Apr-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	98.4	25.8	96.2	21.2
	Feb-24	96.7	24.6	98.0	14.0
Mar-24	98.4	22.6	97.9	14.6	
Annual Trend	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	22.6	97.9	14.6



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Scrutiny

Year end 2023-24 Performance Summary

Referrals: In 2023/24, 81.4% (1,119 / 1,374) of the children had their referral completed within 1 working day. This is decrease when compared with 84.1% in 2022/23, and not meeting our 90% target. 1.7% of referrals took over 3 working days to be completed in 2023/24 which is outperforming our target of 5%.

Re-Referrals: During 2023/24, 332 children from 198 families have had a new referral within 12 months of their last referral starting. This is a continued year-on-year increase in re-referrals compared to 2022/23 (286 children), 2021/22 (106 children) and 2020/21 (143 children). Due to the reduction in referrals made to social care, and an increase in re-referrals, it has resulted in at total of 24.2% of our referrals this year being repeated within 12 months of a previous referral starting. Re-referrals are being scrutinised during the weekly WRM meeting to ensure best practise and learning outcomes are shared.

Building Stronger Families: At the end of 2023/24, there were 197 families, 423 children open to the Building Stronger Families team. A further 64 families with 125 children were open to an external agency and supporting the families. 1,417 Early Help Assessments (EHA) were started in 2023/24, a -14.1% drop in the 1,650 completed during 2022/23. 14.4% (204) of the EHA's started, were initiated by external agencies.

Missing: The total number of missing episodes in 2023/24 was 423 involving 122 individual children and young people. This is a reduction compared to 2022/23 which saw 691 episodes of missing involving 162 individual children. 93 (76.2%) children in 2023/24 had 3 or less missing episodes, 20 (16.4%) children were reported missing between 4 and 9 times in the year. 9 (7.4%) young people were reported 10 or more times during 2023/24, all except one are/were a child in care. In 2023/24, all Return Home Interviews (RHI) (excluding children from other authorities) were offered except for 2, 87.8% of which were offered within 72 hours and 76.9% of the RHI's had the child's engagement. This is a positive increase in children engaging with their RHI compared to previous years (2022/23, 84.6% in 72hrs with 59.1% engagement and 2021/22, 75.8% in 72hrs with 51.2% engagement).

Children & Families Assessments: 1,554 children had a C&F assessment completed in 2023/24. This is a continual increase when compared to 2022/23 (1,461), 2021/22 (806) and 2020/21 (692). 62.7% (975 / 1,554) of our C&F assessments were completed within timescale in 2023/24. This is significantly below target of 90.0% but focused work on C&Fs has been done in the second half of this year which is evident in the increase in assessments outcomed within 45 days. Between April and October 2023, assessments were averaging at 52.5% completed in timescale in a month, since then, this has increased to an average of 80.5% a month.

Section 47 Enquiries: 372 section 47 enquires were started in 2023/24, involving 693 individual children, 22 of which were already on an open Child Protection (CP) plan.

Child Protection Conference timeliness: 79.5% 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 2023/24. This measure continues to be negatively below the target of 95% although an increase in performance compared to the last 2 years.

Child Protection Plans: 146 children were subject to a Child Protection plan (CP) as at the end of March 2024 with a rate of 65.6 per 10,000 population with a CP plan. This is an increase on previous years and comparable to the increase in CiN plans open and decrease in Children in Care. Of the 196 children who became subject to a CP plan in 2023/24, 7 became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending (3.6%), and 35 children (17.9%) had been subject to a CP plan for a second time ever.

Child Protection Statutory visits: 69.0% (2,050 / 2,973) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days in 2023/24 and 90.4% (2,688 / 2,973) of the visits were completed within 15 working days. In comparison to 2022/23, the number of visits carried out has had a 16.5% increase (from 2,553 to 2,973 visits) along with the percentage that were carried out within timescale (67.8% within 10 days and 90.0% within 15 days).

Children in Care: 300 children were in care as at March 2024, 18 of which are unaccompanied asylum-seekers. The rate of children in care per 10,000 population has started to fall this reporting year and was at 134.8 at the end of March 2024, compared to 142.3 at March 2023 and closer to pre-covid levels of 120.0 at March 2021. 121 children came into care in 2023/24 from 81 families. This is a decrease when compared with the 149 children who came into care in 2022/23 from 104 families. 11 of the young people came into care after accepted by the Home Office as UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child) during 2023/24, a reduction on the 18 who came into care during 2022/23. 143 children and young people, from 112 families ceased to be in care in 2023/24. This is the highest yearly number of children ceasing care we have seen. We have also seen a reduction in the number of children coming into care who have previously been in care (13 in 2023/24 from 22 in 2022/23). The proportion of children who returned home to their parent(s) (42.7%) has doubled when compared to 2022/23 (21.0%), 2021/22 (28.3%) and Q1 2020/21 (27.5%).

Children in Care Reviews: 100.0% of Children in Care (CiC) were allocated to a qualified social worker. 93.5% of the reviews have been completed within required timescales in 2023/24.

Children in Care Statutory visits: 81.0% (3,079 / 3,801) of statutory visits for Children in Care (CiC) were completed in timescale in 2023/24. This is a year-on-year decrease in performance from 93.1% in 2020/21, 90.1% in 2021/22 and 83.4% in 2022/23. Reviews of the new locality allocations for the A&S teams is occurring and where appropriate are amended to ensure a fair and even distribution of allocation and workloads.

Children in Care Placements: 17.0% of our Children in Care, as at March 2024, have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is negatively above internal target (10.0%). Currently, 61.1% 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 negatively below our 68% target however an improvement when compared to 2022/23.

10.4% (29 / 278) of our Children in Care have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at March 2024 which is the lowest number of children this year and compared to March 2023 which saw 37 children placed 20 or more miles from the family home. 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: 65.5% of IHA's completed in 2023/24 were completed within the required timescale of 5 days and 60.7% of those children received a health assessment within 20 days.

Health and Dental Reviews: 91.1% of children due a review health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 90.7% of the children in care have an up to date health check. Currently only 1.3% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a health review.

83.1% of children due a dental health assessment by March 2024 have had one completed and 83.5% of the children in care have an up to date dental check. Currently 3.0% of the children and young people are refusing to attend a dental check-up. 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 97.9% of our care leavers aged 22-25 were in suitable accommodation at the end of March 2024. 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 22.6% for care leavers aged 19-21 and 14.6% for those aged 22-25 at the end of March 2024. 193.4% of the young people, aged 19-21, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 58.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships). 8.3% of the young people, aged 22-25, were engaging in education (including studies beyond A level) and 77.1% of the young people were in training or employment (including apprenticeships).

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
02 SEPTEMBER 2024**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Children and Young People's Scrutiny members an overview of the Public Health outcomes for children in Darlington.

Summary

2. The health outcomes for children and young people in Darlington is varied and mixed. The outcomes depend on a range of different factors such as geography, deprivation, gender, ethnicity and disability.
3. Overall, comparing local indicators with England and North East averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Darlington is worse than England but comparable to those in the North East region. There are inequalities within the borough and between different communities in Darlington.
4. Giving children and young people the best start in life is a priority of the Council Plan. There are a range of public health and multiagency actions in place to address inequalities and improve health outcomes for children and young people in Darlington.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee: -
 - (a) Note the contents of the report.
 - (b) Note the recommendations for Public Health actions.

**LORRAINE HUGHES
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Background Papers

None

Ken Ross Public Health Principal: Extension 2600

Council Plan	Addressing Inequalities is a Core Principle Living Well and staying Healthy is an Ambition Giving Children and Young People the best start in life is a Priority
Addressing inequalities	There are inequalities in outcomes in those with protected characteristics including sex, gender, age, ethnicity.
Tackling Climate Change	N/A
Efficient and effective use of resources	N/A
Health and Wellbeing	This has an impact on the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People and their families.
S17 Crime and Disorder	N/A
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	Children and Young People
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Health outcomes for Looked After Children or Care Leavers are worse than the general population.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Darlington is worse than England but broadly similar to the North East region. Key headlines and metrics are set out below along with actions underway to improve metrics where appropriate.

Childhood obesity

7. In comparison to England averages, Darlington area has a higher percentage of children in Reception (26.7%) and a similar percentage in Year 6 (37.7%) who are overweight.
8. The previous Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan identified evidence-based interventions delivered with partners to address underlying causes of obesity in children and young people.
9. Work delivered includes activity with schools and local commercial food premises to develop a healthy catering standard for a healthy food offer such as reducing sugar and fizzy drinks in settings such as schools and working with families on healthy weaning for babies, to help improve and maintain a healthy diet throughout childhood and build healthy eating habits.

Young people and alcohol

10. Nationally, the rate of hospital admissions for conditions wholly related to alcohol among children and young people (under 18s) has been decreasing between 2016 and 2023. Darlington has shown a similar trend with the latest data showing that Darlington is now statistically similar when compared to the England average.
11. The underlying causes of admissions for this age group are complex and requires system wide action with input from a range of different partners. The evidence from the Health and Lifestyle Survey indicates that the majority of young people report that they have alcohol bought for them by a trusted adult, including a parent. Alcohol and its effects are an integral part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum provided in schools
12. The council commissions preventative and treatment services and is engaged with partners to implement strategies to reduce alcohol consumption and harms from alcohol, to contribute to reducing alcohol hospital admissions.

Young people's mental health

13. Nationally, the rate of young people being admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm, between 2016 and 2022, has not significantly changed. This is also the case in Darlington. The admission rate in the latest pooled period is statistically worse when compared to the England and North East averages. There are some differences in admission rates between different age groups and different sexes.

14. Self-harm is a complex and poorly understood act with varied reasons for a person to harm themselves irrespective of the purpose of the act. The underlying causes of admissions for this age group are complex and requires system wide action with input from a range of different partners.
15. The NHS is leading work to improve access to CAHMS services and reduce waits for assessment alongside a range of supportive and self-help interventions, including commissioning access to online support.
16. Schools and education settings provide access to pastoral support for their students with mental health wellbeing being included throughout the PSHE curriculum. The Health Visiting team are informed of any child's hospital admission and will contact parents and provide them with information, guidance and support.

Child development at 2 to 2½ years

17. In 2022/23 children in Darlington demonstrated development at or above the expected level in all five areas of development (communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving and personal-social skills) between the ages of 2 and 2½ years.
18. A higher proportion of children were at or above the expected level of development for communication skills (and a higher proportion for personal-social skills when compared with England average).
19. The Health Visiting service offers regular health and development reviews to families to support the development of babies and children. The service also provides extra support and/or referral for any child for whom there are concerns about delayed developmental goals and works with early years settings and education in addressing the needs of these children.
20. Expected levels of development in infancy has an impact on school readiness. It is imperative that children with developmental needs are identified as early as possible so that the child and family can receive appropriate support. A collaborative effort involving multiple agencies is currently investigating factors impacting school readiness for children and young people in Darlington.

Breastfeeding

21. 80.0% of newborns in Darlington received breast milk as their first feed in 2020/21. The latest data for 2023 shows that by 6 to 8 weeks after birth, 38.1% of mothers are still breastfeeding. This is higher than the North East average and although lower than the England average of 49.3% the gap is narrowing.
22. The midwifery team in the hospital initiates breastfeeding with new mothers at the time of delivery. When the mother and baby are discharged from the midwifery service the Health Visiting team then provides a proactive offer of structured breastfeeding help. The Health Visiting service hold UNICEF BFI Gold Ambassador Status, which demonstrates sustainability of good practice.
23. There is an emphasis on encouraging and supporting breastfeeding within the development of the new Healthy Weight Plan for the borough (in development). The

evidence shows a strong correlation between being breastfed and a healthy weight in children.

Young people's sexual and reproductive health

24. The latest annual data shows that the under 18 conception rate in girls in Darlington continues to decrease; the rate in Darlington remains lower than the regional average but higher than the England average, although the gap is reducing.
25. The Darlington rate (17.1 per 1,000 population) is comparable to the regional average (19.8 per 1,000 population) and similar to the England average (13.1 per 1,000 population).
26. There is a broad range of evidence-based interventions and programmes across partners to address and contribute to the reduction in teenage conceptions through the Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Strategy and action plan. This includes commissioning Sexual Health Services and supporting schools in their delivery of Relations, Sex and Health Education (RSHE).
27. Chlamydia screening is advised for sexually active individuals aged 15 to 24. Higher detection rates suggest better screening efforts, but it is important to note that this does not directly measure prevalence.
28. The latest data is 2022 which shows a diagnoses rate of 1,964 per 100,000. This is statistically better than England and statistically similar to the North East although remains lower than the minimum recommended rate of at least 3,250.
29. The specialist Sexual Health Service is working to improve uptake of screening by targeting younger people under 25 years, through making access to testing more direct including access to online testing for over 16 years. This has increased the number of people accessing tests.
30. The School Nursing Service work with schools and PSHE leads to ensure Chlamydia screening is promoted at age-appropriate points within the curriculum.

Vaccinations

31. By age two, 95.2% of children have had Dtap/IPV/Hib immunisation, meeting minimum recommended coverage (95%). 85% of children in care are up to date with their immunisations, which is similar to England.
32. In Darlington there is less than 95% (the minimum recommended coverage level) of children who have received their first dose of MMR immunisation by the age of 2 (93%) which is statistically similar to both England and the North East. By the age of 5, only 90.8% of children have received their second dose of MMR immunisation. This is statistically similar to both England and the North East. However, this uptake does not guarantee herd immunity and the local authority, along with other partners, continues to support the NHS who commissions and provides these vaccinations, in a range of efforts to improve the uptake of childhood vaccinations, including targeted campaigns and catch-up vaccinations.

33. In the past year there have been reports of increased incidence of some specific childhood diseases including Measles and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in England. The NHS has a campaign targeting areas with local uptake of vaccine and contacting parents whose children do not have a record of a full schedule of MMR vaccinations.
34. The NHS are also offering catch up vaccinations and working with schools and local communities to identify those who have missed vaccines and encouraging them to come forward for their vaccine.
35. The local authority is supporting these efforts through working with the NHS and local partners in helping target and focus the NHS communications and messages to those communities and settings in Darlington which will have the greatest impact.
36. The most recent data for the 2021/22 academic year indicates that 71.2% of year 8 girls in Darlington received the first dose of the HPV vaccine, which is an improvement compared to previous years. This coverage is similar to the England average of 71.3% and the North East average of 70.5%.

Dental health

37. The latest data shows that the percentage of 5 year olds in Darlington with experience of visually obvious dental decay has increased to 24.8%, compared to 22.3% previously. This is statistically similar to both the England and North East averages.
38. Dental decay is a preventable cause of avoidable pain and illness in children in Darlington. Dental decay is the most common cause of hospital admissions for 5 to 9 year olds and a significant contribution to days absent from school.
39. The Darlington Healthy Catering Awards Scheme includes actions such as reducing sugar and fizzy drinks in settings such as schools and working with families on healthy weaning for babies, to help reduce dietary sources of sugar.
40. The Integrated Commissioning Board commission a supervised brushing scheme which is delivered in 16 early years settings such as nurseries and reception classes across the borough. This provides schools and settings with training and equipment such as toothpaste and toothbrushes to enable all the targeted pupils to brush their teeth thoroughly each day.
41. The government has proposed an expansion of Community Water Fluoridation programmes across the country targeting those areas with the poorest dental health. They undertook a consultation process on a proposal to request the relevant water company, Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL), to enter into new fluoridation arrangements in order to expand community water fluoridation schemes across the north east of England, which includes Darlington. This consultation closed 31st July with a response from the Secretary of State for Health expected later in 2024.

Smoking

42. The data (2022/23) shows that there is no significant change to the trend for women who smoke at time of delivery, with 12.9% of mothers reported as smokers at time of delivery. Darlington is statistically similar to the North East (12.5 %) and statistically worse than England (8.8%). The gap between Darlington and the North East and England has narrowed since 2020.
43. The NHS provides stop smoking support through local maternity services, which now includes an offer of financial incentive via shopping vouchers. The local authority commissions a specialist stop smoking service that supports women to stop smoking before and after being pregnant and works with partners to encourage all residents, including pregnant mothers, to quit smoking at every opportunity.

Low birth Weight

44. This data (from 2021) shows that there is no significant change to the trend for low birth weight of term babies. 2.3% of infants are recorded as low birth weight. Compared to our North East neighbours Darlington is ranked 12th and is statistically similar to the North East and England.
45. Health Visitors have a planned visit to every expectant mother between 28 and 36 weeks of their pregnancy. This visit provides an opportunity to provide information, advice and support to maximise the mother's health and support the optimum conditions for a healthy pregnancy.

Recommended Public health interventions:

46. **Focus on Early Years Services:** From pregnancy to age 2, it's crucial to invest in early years services. This includes supporting good maternal health for safe delivery and birth weight. Positive early experiences shape a baby's brain development, so sensitive parenting, socio-economic factors, and high-quality early education play a role.
47. **Healthy Child Programme:** The Healthy Child Programme is a national prevention and early intervention framework. It includes screening, immunisation, health and development reviews, health improvement, wellbeing, and parenting support.
48. **Reducing Inequalities:** Prioritising public health, prevention, and early intervention can help reduce health inequalities amongst children.
49. **Making Every Contact Count:** Healthcare practitioners can play a role by making every interaction count, advocating for children and families, and supporting child health research.
50. **Health Visitors and School Nurses:** These professionals provide child health surveillance, development reviews, health protection advice, screening, information, health and wellbeing advice and early intervention support for families with additional needs.
51. **Multisectoral Action:** Coordinated efforts at all levels are required to address the wider determinants of health which affect children and young people. This includes action on

poverty, education, transport, air quality, families, mental health, employment and commercial determinants of health and prioritising child-centred approaches.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
2 SEPTEMBER 2024**

THE UNIFORM EXCHANGE SCHEME

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the committee with an update on the Uniform Exchange Scheme

Summary

2. The Uniform Exchange Scheme continues to see growth in use. The relocation to a unit in Feetham’s multi storey car park has been successful, saving cost whilst providing a good facility for both volunteers and customers.

Recommendation

3. That the content of the report be noted.

**Seth Pearson
Partnerships Director**

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the compilation of this report.

Author: Seth Pearson
Extension: 07825083796

Council Plan	Addressing inequality.
Addressing inequalities	Supports families struggling with the cost of living
Tackling Climate Change	Reduces waste through recycling.
Efficient and effective use of resources	Run by volunteers.
Health and Wellbeing	Supports families financial health.
S17 Crime and Disorder	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A

Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Support available to looked after children.

Main Report

4. The Uniform Exchange Scheme was established in 2020. It was initially conceived as a means of supporting families who were struggling with the cost of uniform as a consequence of financial hardship due to the pandemic. However, demand for the service has continued to grow since and it is now providing valued help to thousands of families in Darlington. An important feature of the scheme is that all items of uniform are laundered before being handed out. This was essential during the pandemic but is now recognised as important in avoiding stigma.
5. It was initially located in the Dolphin Centre but as services delivered from there built up after the pandemic, the space was needed for their core activity. The uniform scheme relocated to the Queen Street arcade. In a move designed to reduce costs, in June this year, it moved to an unused space in the Feethams multi storey car park.
6. The unit it now occupies is well suited to its purpose, providing a warm, secure clean environment for those working there and easy access for customers.
7. Concerns that the move would result in a reduction of use have proved unfounded. Between January and July this year the initiative had 2,215 customers and handed out 6,330 items of uniform as opposed to 2,085 customers and 4,965 items of uniform during the same period last year. In total during 2023, the Uniform Exchange scheme served 4,393 customers and handed out 12,337 items of uniform.
8. The Council's communications team have been actively supporting the scheme in maintaining awareness of the and The Northern Echo has promoted it as part of their 'Summer Essentials' campaign. This has resulted in ever growing donations.
9. The scheme is run by volunteers and is managed in collaboration with Darlington Cares. The volunteers are currently preparing for the rush that is experienced before the new school year.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
2 SEPTEMBER 2024**

WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

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

Recommendations

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

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

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

Author: Paul Dalton

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. The work of the Scrutiny Committee supports the 'Children and Young People' priority, supporting the best start in life, realising potential and raising aspirations.
Addressing inequalities	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.

Tackling Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report has no impact on the Council's Efficiency Programme.
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
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.
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 was adopted on 18th July 2024, and outlines Darlington Borough Council's long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities for action over the next three years. It gives strategic direction to the Council and Council services, defining priorities, identifying key actions, and shaping delivery.
7. The Council Plan identifies six priorities, including 'Children and Young People', which aims to support the best start in life, realising potential and raising aspirations. Eight key deliverables are identified as part of this priority.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

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

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

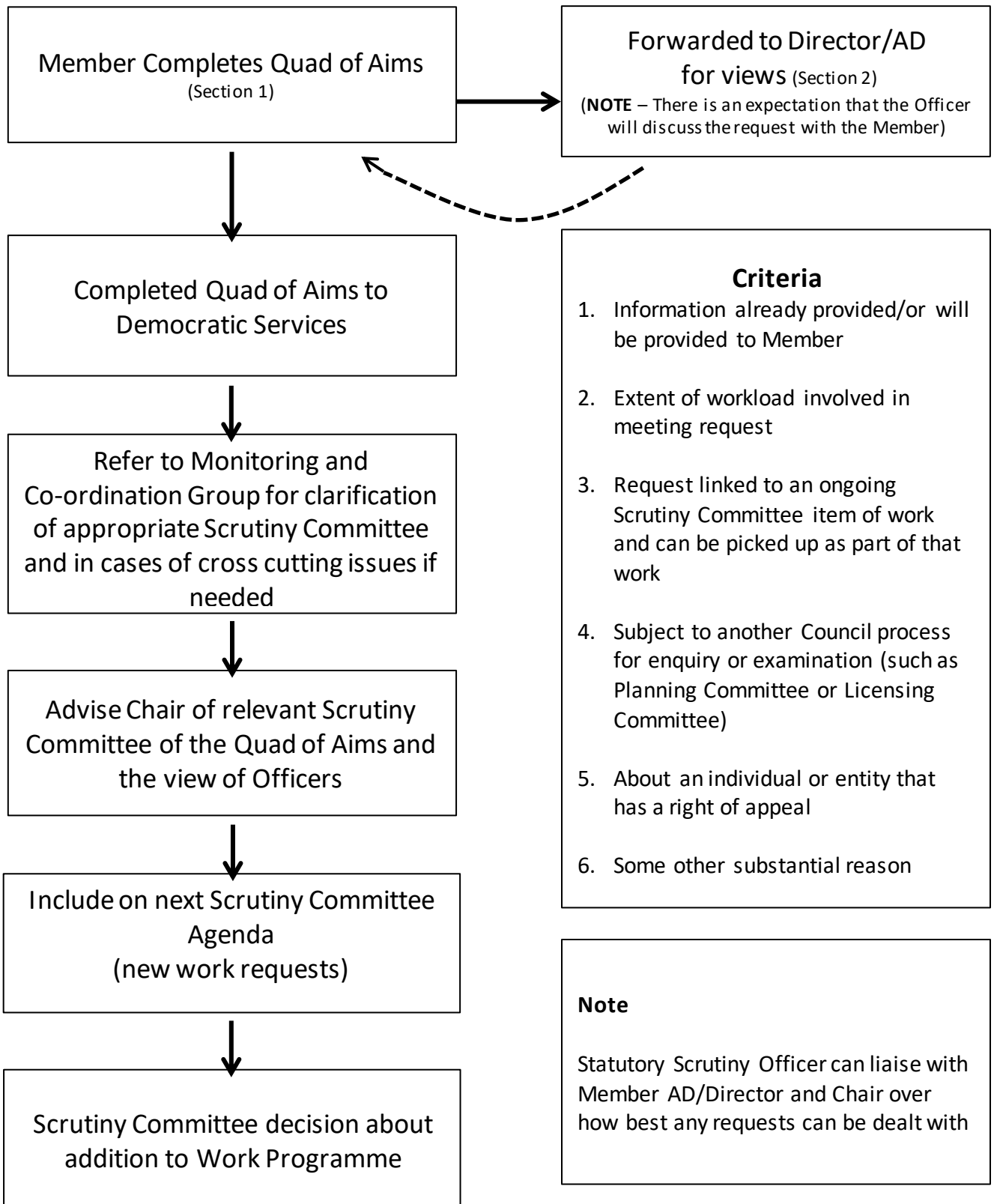
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Indicators Year End 2023/24	2 nd September 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive an Annual monitoring report and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Children and Young People Public Health Overview	2 nd September 2024	Ken Ross	PBH 009 PBH 013c PBH 016 PBH 018 PBH 020 PBH 021 PBH 054	Annual Monitoring
Uniform Exchange Scheme	2 nd September 2024	Seth Pearson		
Performance Indicators Quarter 1 2024/25	28 th October 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Local Designated Officer Annual Report	28 th October 2024	Martin Graham		To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned
Refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan	28 th October 2024	Christine Shields		To update Members on the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan.
Children's Services Self-Assessment - Overview	28 th October 2024	Chris Bell		To provide Scrutiny with the Annual Self-Assessment for Children's Services so that

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
				constructive 'critical friend' challenge takes place to drive improvement in public services
Learning and Skills Service Annual Report	28 th October 2024	Paul Richardson		Annual Report to demonstrate challenge
Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report 2023/24	28 th October 2024	Vicky Davidson-Boyd, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley		Annual monitoring
Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2023/24	28 th October 2024	Martin Graham	CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit.
Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2024/25	28 th October 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
SEND Policy Review	6 th January 2025	Tony Murphy		
Transport Review	6 th January 2025			
Transitional Service Update	6 th January 2025	Tony Murphy		
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	3 rd March 2025	Ann Baxter, Independent Chair		Annual monitoring

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2024/25	3 rd March 2025	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Autism Review	3 rd March 2025			
Calm in Communities	7 th April 2025			
Children and Young People – Website Content	7 th April 2025			
Home Education	7 th April 2025	Dianne Gage, Inclusion Lead		

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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)**

	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



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 7 AUGUST 2024 - 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Air Quality Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Climate Change	Council 26 Sep 2024 Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2023/24	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Fees and Charges	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Public Consultation on Draft Appraisal for the Northgate Conservation Area including Proposed Boundary Extensions	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2023/2024	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Environment Act 2021 – Waste Management Arrangements	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Council Tax Support - Scheme Approval 2025/26	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Housing Services Tenant Engagement and Involvement Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 2	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Strategic Asset Plan	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Woodland Road Waiting Restrictions	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024
Housing Revenue Account - Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/27 to 2028/29	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024
Mid Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2024/25	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024
Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024

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