

Children's Social Care Performance & Quality Assurance Report

Quarter 3 2018/19

**Children and Young People Scrutiny** 

# Key Performance Indicators

## **Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

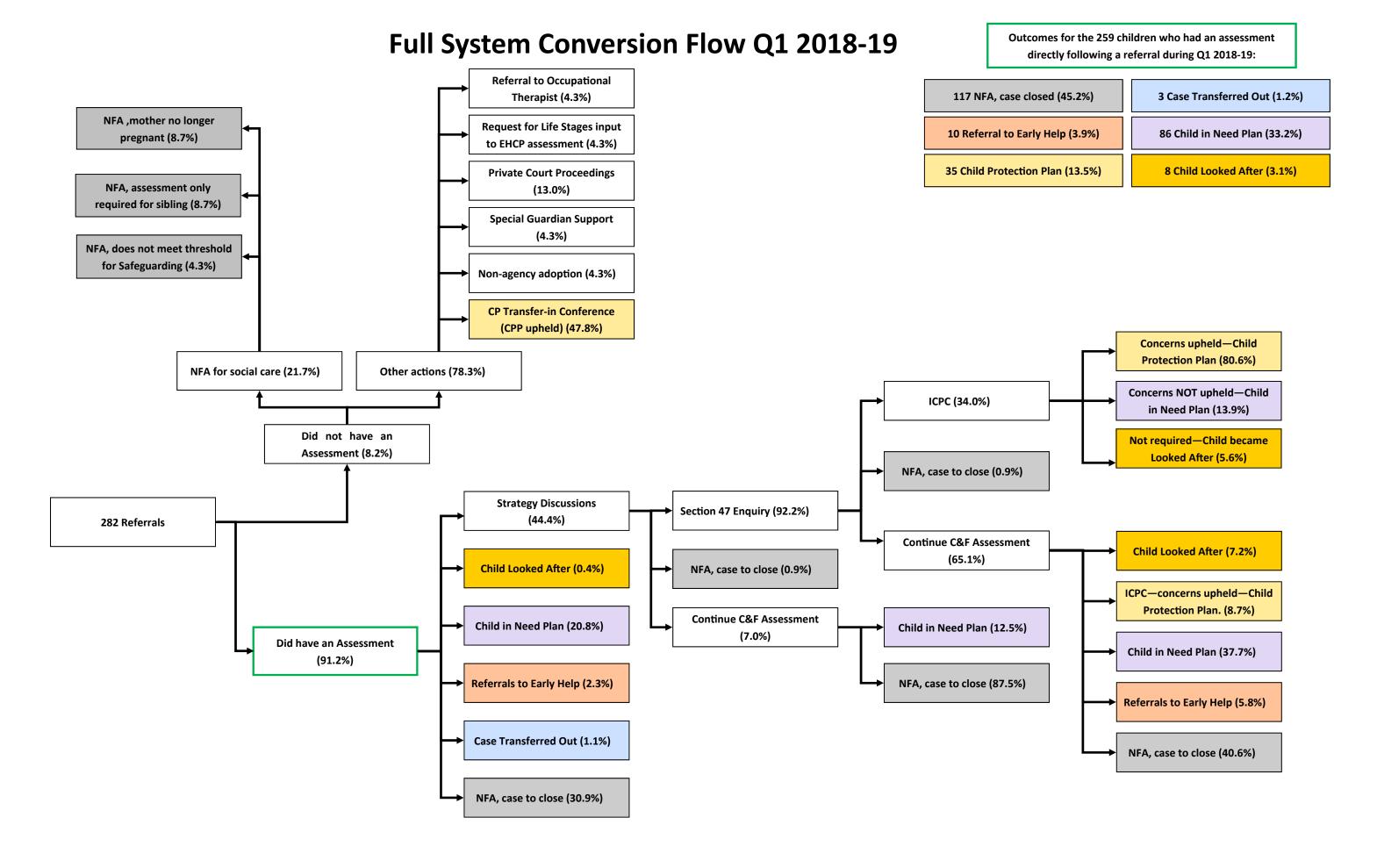
# **Performing Well**

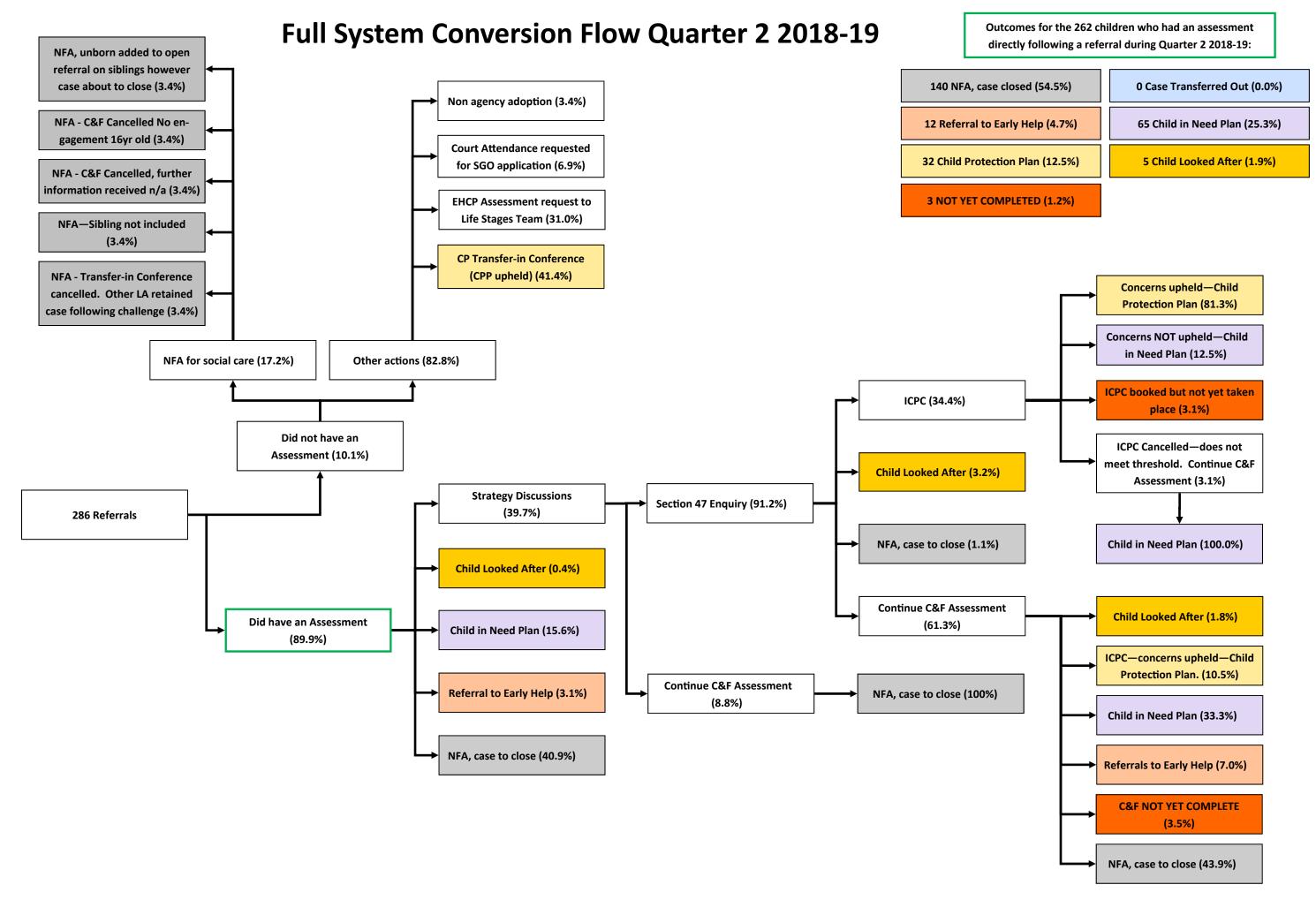
Contacts	• Despite an increase in number of contacts, year to date 98.1% of contacts and 99.6% of referrals are screened and completed within 1
& Referrals	day, above target of 95 and 90% respectively.
	• 95.3% (1,482 out of 1,555) of contacts were screened within 1 working day in Quarter 3 compared to 98.2% (1439 out of 1464) in
	Quarter 2. This is a slight reduction in the percentage completed within 24 hours however it is still in line with our target.
	• As of Quarter 3 there had been 373 referrals per 10,000 population. If this rate was maintained for the remainder of 2018/19, it would
	give a year end rate of 497.36 referrals per 10,000. This is lower than national (552.5 per 10,000) and regional (601.7 per 10,000)
	benchmarks, but similar to our statistical neighbours (505.54 per 10,000) in 2017/18. Regional Benchmarking (ADCS) in Quarter 2 of this
	year is showing an increasing trend (638 per 10,000).
	• 16.4% of re-referrals were repeated within 12 months, better than target of 18%.
	• Of the 840 children referred to Children's Services year to date, 3.6% (30) previously had a Child Protection Plan (CPP).
Early Help	• Year to date 33.2% (208 of 626) of Early Help Assessments have been initiated by external agencies, which is above our target of 30%.
Missing and	• 100% of children missing from home, had their interviews following a missing episode.
CSE	• 93.6% (88/94) of the episodes missing in Quarter 3 were for a period of 48 hour or less. 26.6% (25/94) of the episodes were for young
	people who are looked after by another local authority.
	• Year to date, 17 Children subject to Sexual Exploitation (CSE) have been downgraded to low risk or referred to other services.
CiN	• Year to date, 93.5% (775/829) of children had their CIN reviews held in timescale.
Strategies,	• ICPC's completed within 15 days of the strategy was 97.3%, above target and better than statistical, regional and national averages.
Section 47	
and ICPC's	
СР	• 100% Child Protection reviews were completed within the required timescales. This is higher than Regional (95%), National (92%) and
	Statistical Neighbours (95%).
	• 2% of children ceased to be subject of a CPP who had been subject to a CPP for 2 or more years, better than target of 5% and compares
	well with our statistical neighbour, regional and national averages.
	• 6% of children from the 840 year to date have previously had a CPP.
LAC	• 97.3% of Looked After Children had their initial review completed within required timescales year to date and a 100% of subsequent
	reviews have been completed in timescale.
	• 87.9% (138 out of 157) of children over the age of 4yrs participated in their Looked After review during Quarter 3, an improvement on
	the 81% at same period 17/18.
	• 9.4% of children were placed 20 or more miles away from home, better than the 10% target and comparable to our statistical
	neighbour, regional and national averages.

	• 73% of Looked After Children 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.
	• The proportion of children placed in residential care has improved, 13.7% at December 2018
	• Of those children due a Review Health Assessment, 93.2% have been carried out within timescale year to date, better than 90% target.
Fostering &	• The number of children looked after who were adopted year to date figure is 9.
Adoption	• 62.5% of children waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family as at December 2018
	which is above target of 60%.
Care Leavers	• 94.7% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of December. Those not in suitable accommodation were due to
	currently being in custody.
	19.3% of Care Leavers were NEET, significantly better than target of 33%.

# For Focus

• Year to date there have been 4,501 contacts received, a 21.3% increase compared to the same point in 2017/18.					
• Of the 43 children from 21 families re-referred during Quarter 3, 29 children (67.4%) from 16 families (76.1%) were re-referred with the					
same presenting issues as the original referral.					
• Missing from home interviews have been offered within 72 hours in 91.3% of the cases, however 75.4% engaged in the interview.					
Where the coordinator cannot engage the young person, they explore the issues with parents, carers, teachers or social workers.					
• Timeliness of assessment is slightly below target of 90%, however reasons for this are known and monitored.					
• 332 children were subject to a CiN plan at the end of December 2018, an 18.1% increase compared to the same period last year.					
• Cumulatively as at December 2018, 85.9% of CiN visits were completed in timescale, a slight reduction on same period last year.					
• 172 strategy discussions were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 49.6% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18. This gives a year to date total					
of 492 strategy discussions, a 38.6% increase from the same point in 2017 (355 strategies).					
• 117 Section 47 enquires were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 44.4% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 (81 enquiries). The year to date					
total is 415, a 62.7% increase on the same period last year (255). The increase in Strategy and Section 47 is not connected to referral					
numbers as these have remained consistent. Further analysis is planned to understand the increase.					
• 94.2% (712/756) of the visits were completed within 15 working days, with 77.8% (588/756) having their statutory visits within 10					
working days.					
• The rate of Looked After Children (LAC) per 10,000 population 110.6 per 10,000, above statistical, regional and national benchmarks.					
• 20 children (within 15 families) became Looked After Children during Quarter 3 2018, compared to Quarter 3 2017/18 11 children					
become looked after.					
• 89.5% (638 out of 713) of Looked After Children's (LAC) statutory visits due in Quarter 3 were completed within timescale. This is an					
improvement on Quarter 2 which saw 87.7% of visits completed in timescale.					





## Quarter 1 Flows

The full journey of a child through the safeguarding process can take over 9 weeks therefore data is presented based on referrals to the service no less than 3 months prior to the reporting month

#### **Quarter 1 Flows**

Of the 282 referrals received in the quarter, 259 (91.2%) resulted in an assessment, which remains in line with the recently published Darlington figure for 2017-18 (93.1%) and the National average of 90.6% (Characteristics of children in need: 2017 to 2018). Looking at individual months in Quarter 1, the rate of referrals leading to an assessment is over 92% for April and June, and 89.7% for May.

The total rate of assessed cases resulting in no further action for social care in the quarter was 45.2%, or 117 of the 259 referrals which led to an assessment. This includes 13 cases which transferred to the services of another LA or were referred to another agency or internal department such as Early Help. This is lower than the average for 2017-18 (62.6%). Looking in detail, April and May are consistently below the 2017-18 average at 43.2% and 43.8% respectively, with a higher figure in June of 64.6%.

The proportion of assessed cases closed with no further action where only a C&F assessment was carried out was 30.9% (80/259), again lower than the published 2017-18 figure which was 37.4%. These assessments have been further analysed to see whether they in fact fall into other categories such as transferring to Life Stages or being referred to other agencies, and the analysis concluded that the true NFA figure for Quarter 1 is 20.5% (53/259 - further breakdown detailed below). Benchmarking shows statistical neighbours at 17.2% in 2017/18, nationally 28.5% and in the North East 21.1%.

44.4% of cases had a strategy discussion either during or as a result of a C&F assessment, with 92.2% of these leading to a section 47 enquiry. These conversion rates are both higher than the average for 2017-18, at 35.8% and 78.1% respectively, however 2017-18 showed considerable variance between quarters with Quarters 1 and 4 being at 92% and 86.3%, and Quarters 2 and 3 being lower at 64% and 68%. Taken into context with the limited data available from 2016-17 (Quarter 3 at 86% and Quarter 4 at 94%), and the newly available 2018-19 Q2 data of 91.2%, the higher figures appear to be more in line with the wider context, so Q2 and Q3 2017-18 were a slight dip for reasons which will need further analysis. This will be possible when 2018-19 Q3 data becomes available. Published data for 2017-18 shows that the rate of Section 47 enquiries carried out was higher in Darlington at 190.0 than national (166.9) and Darlington's statistical neighbours (173.3), however below the North east rate (224.5).

## Full System Conversion Flow: Referrals in Quarter 1 2018-19

From contacts in Quarter 1 there were 282 referrals. 259 of these (91.2%) resulted in either a C&F assessment and / or Strategy discussion.

### With regard to the 23 referrals (8.2%) that did not result in an assessment, a review has identified that:

- 11 referrals were for Transfer in Conferences (all subsequently upheld)
- Were for requested involvement in private court proceedings.
- Request from Education Services for Life Stages Team input towards EHCP assessment
- Referred for Special Guardian support
- Request for support regarding a non-agency adoption
- Referred to the occupational therapist
- 5 received Information and advice only

## The outcomes for the 259 assessments that were completed in Quarter 1 are as follows:

- 0.4% became Looked After during the assessment process
- 30.9% case closed following assessment\*
- 2.3% referred to Early Help
- 20.8% Children in Need Plan
- 1.2% Case Transferred Out to another Local Authority before further social care involvement
- 44.4% had a Strategy Discussion Note that some of these took place during a C&F Assessment.
  - Strategy discussions concluded with NFA for social care, C&F assessment not completed
  - Directed to complete the ongoing C&F assessment resulting in
    - Child in Need Plan
    - Were concluded with NFA, case to closed\*\*
  - 92.2% progressed to a Section 47 enquiry and subsequently
    - 27.4% children had an ICPC where concerns were upheld resulting in a CPP
    - Child in Need Plan
    - children became Looked After
    - NFA case closed (child safeguarded)
    - 65.1% were directed to complete the ongoing C&F Assessment and subsequently
      - children became Looked After
      - Child Protection plan
      - Child in Need Plan
      - Early Help
      - Concluded with NFA, case to close\*\*

<sup>\*</sup> Further analysis of the 80 assessments which were closed as NFA where only a C&F Assessment was carried out shows that 27 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actual take place, as detailed below:

- Referred to Life Stages (recorded as other actions)
- Referred to Early Help
- Referred to another agency
- Transferred to another local authority
- Stepped down to Universal Services

## Of the remaining 53 which were true NFA's, the reasons for these is as below.

- Moved out of the area, not transferred as open case
- Consent not obtained, below threshold for statutory services.
- No Further Action, case to close
- Sibling found to be not relevant for assessment

## This leaves 35 assessed cases that were also subject to either a Strategy or a Section 47 which were closed as NFA

#### 27 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actually take place, as detailed below:

- Referred to Early Help
- Stepped down to Universal Services

#### 18 of the remaining were actual NFA, the reasons are detailed below

- Consent for further involvement not obtained, and below threshold for statutory services.
- No Further Action, case to close

On reviewing the full data in Quarter 1 the true NFA's figure for the full safeguarding workflow from assessments is 27.4%.

8 cases closed with NFA following a strategy or Section 47 which is 3% of assessed cases. A full analysis of these will be undertaken and reported in March

## Quarter 2 Flows

#### **Quarter 2 Flows**

Of the 286 referrals received in the quarter, 257 (89.9%) resulted in an assessment, which remains a little below the published Darlington figure for 2017-18 (93.1%), with the Q1&Q2 combined average at 90.8% in line with the National average of 90.6% (Characteristics of children in need: 2017 to 2018). Looking at individual months in Quarter 2, the rate of referrals leading to an assessment was higher for July at 95% in contrast to than 87% for August and September.

The total rate of assessed cases resulting in no further action for social care in the quarter was 58.8%, or 140 of the 257 referrals which led to an assessment. This includes 12 cases which were referred to Early Help. This is higher than Q1, with the average for Q1 and Q2 totalling 54.4%, or 280 cases. Looking in detail, August has the highest rate of closures following assessment at 69.4% and further analysis of the source and presenting issues of these referrals will provide further understanding of why this month was significantly higher for "NFA" outcomes.

The proportion of assessed cases closed with no further action where only a C&F assessment was carried out was 40.9% (105/257) without any other statutory process, 10% higher than the Q1 figure. These assessments have been further analysed and this work has concluded that the true NFA figure for Quarter 2 is 24.1% (62/257 - further breakdown detailed below). Benchmarking shows statistical neighbours at 17.2% in 2017/18, nationally 28.5% and in the North East 21.1%. The combined Q1 and Q2 average for this is 22.3%.

39.7% of cases had a strategy discussion either during or as a result of a C&F assessment, with 91.2% of these leading to a section 47 enquiry. These conversion rates, although slightly below Q1 outturn, remain higher than the average for 2017-18, and as explained under the Q1 analysis appear to be more in line with the wider context with further comparison to take place when 2018-19 Q3 data becomes available.

## Full System Conversion Flow: Referrals in Quarter 2 2018-19

From contacts in Quarter 2 there were 286 referrals. 257 of these (89.9%) resulted in either a C&F assessment and / or Strategy discussion.

## With regard to the 29 referrals (10.1%) that did not result in an assessment, a review has identified that:

- Referrals were for Transfer in Conferences (all subsequently upheld)
- Were for requested involvement in private court proceedings.
- Were a request from Education Services for Life Stages Team input towards EHCP assessment
- Support regarding a non-agency adoption

received Information and advice only

## The outcomes for the 257 assessments that were completed in Quarter 2 are as follows:

- 0.4% became Looked After during the assessment process
- 40.9% case closed following assessment\*
- 3.1% referred to Early Help
- 16.0% Children in Need Plan
- 39.7% had a Strategy Discussion Note that some of these took place during a C&F Assessment.
  - 9 were directed to complete the ongoing C&F assessment, all resulting in case closures\*\*
  - 91.2%) progressed to a Section 47 enquiry and subsequently
    - 28% resulting in a CPP
    - Child in Need Plan
    - Children became Looked After,
    - NFA case closed (child safeguarded)
    - 61.3% were directed to complete the ongoing C&F Assessment and subsequently
      - Children became Looked After
      - Resulting in a CPP
      - Became the subject of a Child in Need Plan
      - Referred to Early Help
      - Were concluded with NFA, case to close\*\*

# \* Further analysis of the 105 assessments which were closed as NFA where only a C&F Assessment was carried out shows that 43 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actual take place, as detailed below:

- Referred to Early Help
- Referred to another agency
- Referred for a Family Group Conference
- School to undertake Early Help Assessment
- Stepped down to Universal Services

## Of the remaining 62 which were true NFA's, the reasons for these is as below. Which equates to 24.1% of Assessment only cases.

- Moved out of the area, not transferred as open case
- Consent not obtained, below threshold for statutory services.
- No Further Action, case to close
- Case to close for teenage mother but referral made for the unborn baby

## This leaves 35 assessed cases that were also subject to either a Strategy or a Section 47 which were closed as NFA

## 17 were not actual NFA's and that further intervention did actually take place, as detailed below:

• Stepped down to Universal Services

## 18 of the remaining were actual NFA, the reasons are detailed below

- Consent for further involvement not obtained, and below threshold for statutory services.
- Concluded to be a malicious referral, no role for social care
- Moved out of the area, not transferred as open case
- 17yr old refused to engage with assessment
- No Further Action, case to close

On reviewing the full data in Quarter 2 the true NFA's figure for the full safeguarding workflow from assessments is 31.1%.

14 cases closed with NFA following a strategy or Section 47 which is 5.5% of assessed cases. A full analysis of these will be undertaken and reported in March.

## Contacts and Referrals

## **Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

#### **Numbers:**

In Quarter 3 the total number of Contacts into the department were 1,551. This is an increase of 5.9% compared with Quarter 2 and a 12.5% increase on the same period last year.

#### Source:

Police and Education continue to submit the most Contacts, Police at 35.3% (2017/18 32.2%) and Education at 25.8% (2017/18 26.6%), this is comparable with the same period as last year. All other agencies are comparable month on month.

#### **Outcomes:**

Analysis of Q3 data shows that 54% of the Contacts from the police were outcomed as advice given, 6% regarding operation encompass, and 12% regarding information and signposting. Although there are other sources with 100% of Contacts being given advice and information these are from sources expected to be so (i.e. anonymous, hospitals), however the overall numbers of Contacts from these sources are considerably lower. The referrals into social care for the Quarter are comparable to same period last year however that is 4.2% lower than the previous quarter.

Work is underway to understand Contacts from the Police, due to the higher numbers. This will inform any work with the Constabulary going forward. This work will be concluded in Quarter 4.

## Age Ranges:

There has been a 9% decrease in the number of Contacts on unborns and 1-4 years olds to the department whilst there has been no comparable change in the other age ranges for this quarter.

#### Timeliness:

The timeliness of decision making of contacts has remained within target although December performance (94.1%) correlates with a decrease in staffing due to pressures in other parts of the service. It is expected that this will remain in target for the end of year.

## **Re-Referrals:**

The re-referral rate at the end of Quarter 3 is 15.9% (YTD 16.4%), better than the target of 18%. This remains below statistical numbers, national and north east benchmarks. The reasons for re-referral continue to relate to Mental Health, Domestic Abuse and Neglect. Further training and the embedding of the Graded 2 Profile is ongoing and this will be monitored through the next quarter.

In Quarter 3 43 re-referrals (in 21 families) related to 11 families with more than one sibling (33 children) and 10 single children families. Out of the 43 children 29 (67.4%) in 16 families (76.1%) were re-referred with the same presenting issues as the original referral.

#### **CONTACTS**

#### **DEFINITION**

Contacts are received through the Children's Access Point (CAP) and are screened against an agreed multi-agency threshold criteria for Social Care. The total number of contacts received by CAP shows how busy CAP are within each month; the number of new contacts shows how many contacts are made on cases which are not currently open to Social Care (a contact can include multiple children); the total number of children in the month (each child can appear more than once) allows us to demonstrate outcomes, as each child may appear more than once they will have different outcomes and different sources, and the distinct number of children (each child is counted only once not matter how many contacts were received) allows us to look at the demography.

# PERFORMANCI

1,551 contacts were received during Quarter 3 2018/19 which is a 12.5% increase from Quarter 3 2017/18 where there were 1,379 contacts.

These contacts related to 2,085 individual children in Quarter 3 2018/19; a 9.3% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 with 1,907 individual children.

Year to date there has been 4,501 contacts received which is a 21.3% increase with the same point in 2017/18 which had 3,708 contacts received.

		CSC 004	CSC 004i	CSC 004k	
		Number of contacts received (monthly)	Number of children the contacts were regarding (a child can be counted more than once) (monthly)	Number of individual children contacts were regarding (monthly)	
	Apr-18	420	701	544	
	May-18	450	779	657	
CE	Jun-18	616	971	761	
IAN	Jul-18	612	1014	794	
ORN	Aug-18	314	551	443	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Sep-18	538	860	685	
	Oct-18	597	966	753	
	Nov-18	563	950	780	
OΜ	Dec-18	391	658	552	
2	Jan-19				
	Feb-19				
	Mar-19				
ANNUAL TREND	2015/16				
	2016/17				
INN	2017/18				
₹ '	2018/19 YTD	4501	7450	5969	

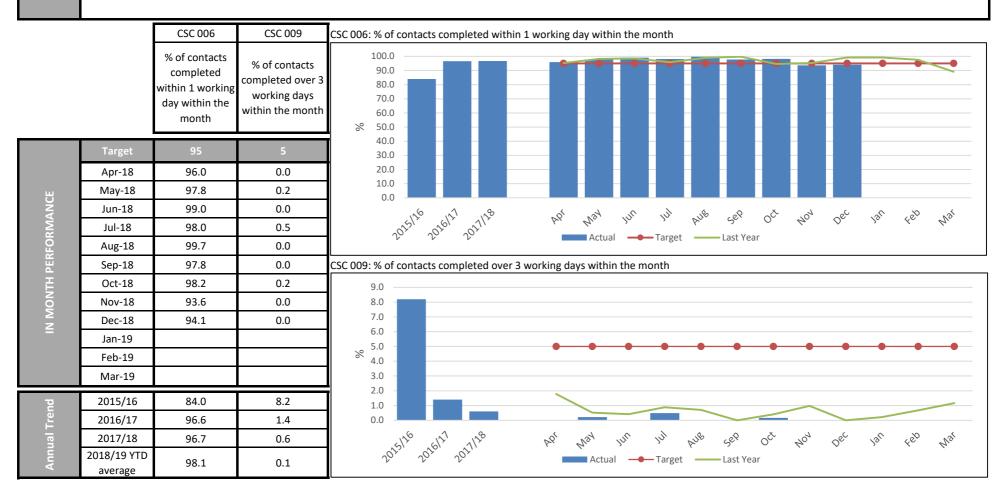
**DEFINITION** 

Percentage of contacts completed within 1 working day and over 3 working days within the month. A higher rate of contacts completed within 1 day indicates that assessments are quick and cases are escalated effectively and efficiently without delay and drift.

95.3% (1,482 out of 1,555) of contacts were completed within 1 working day in Quarter 3 compared to 98.2% (1439 out of 1464) in Quarter 2. This is a slight reduction in the percentage completed within 24 hours however it is still in line with our target of 95%.

72 contacts in Quarter 3 were completed within 24 - 72hrs (24 in Quarter 2).

Quarter 3 has seen a sufficient increase in contacts into CAP. Some of these contacts were more complex and it was agreed by the Head of Service that in order to risk manage them the service would wait longer to gain the information from external agencies before out-coming the contact.



**DEFINITION** 

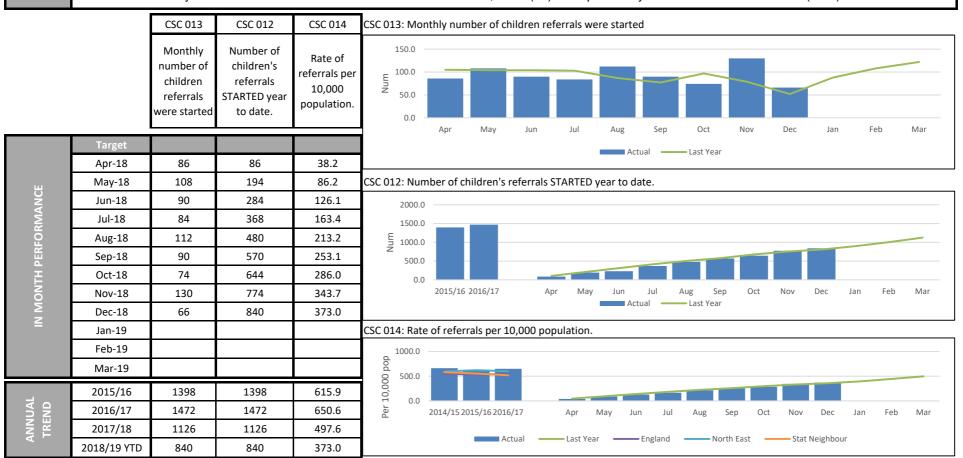
Monthly number of referrals to Children's Social Care and number of referrals started year to date. A contact will be progressed to a referral if it is considered that an assessment and/or service may be required.

RFORMANCI

270 referrals to Children Social Care commenced during Quarter 3 2018/19, which is an 18.43% increase from Quarter 3 2017/18 (228). However the year to date figure of 840 is only a 4% increase on the year to date figure at Quarter 3 2017/18 (808).

In terms of the rate of referrals, as of Quarter 3 there had been 373 referrals per 10,000 population. If this rate was maintained for the remainder of 2018/19, it would give a year end rate of 497.36 referrals per 10,000. This is lower than national (552.5 per 10,000) and regional (601.7 per 10,000) benchmarks, but similar to our statistical neighbours (505.54 per 10,000) in 2017/18. Regional Benchmarking (ADCS) in Quarter 2 of this year is showing an increasing trend (638 per 10,000).

Of the 840 children year to date referred to Children's Services in 2018/19, 3.6% (30) have previously had a Child Protection Plan (CPP).



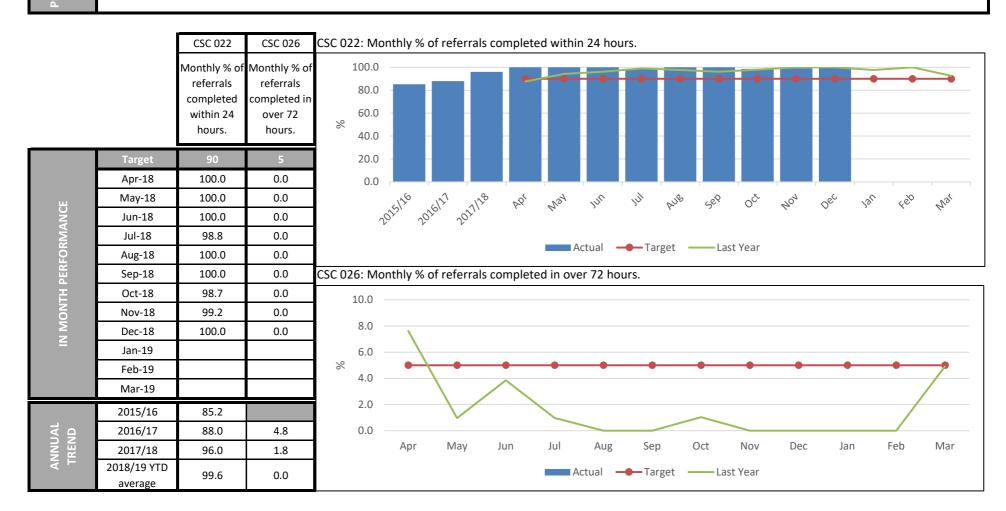
#### **REFERRALS - TIMELINESS**

**DEFINITION** 

Percentage of referrals completed within 24 hours and over 72 hours. Referrals completed within 24 hours 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.

ERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

99.6% (269 out of 270) of all referrals were completed within 24 hours during Quarter 3 2018/19.



#### REFERRALS - RE-REFERRALS

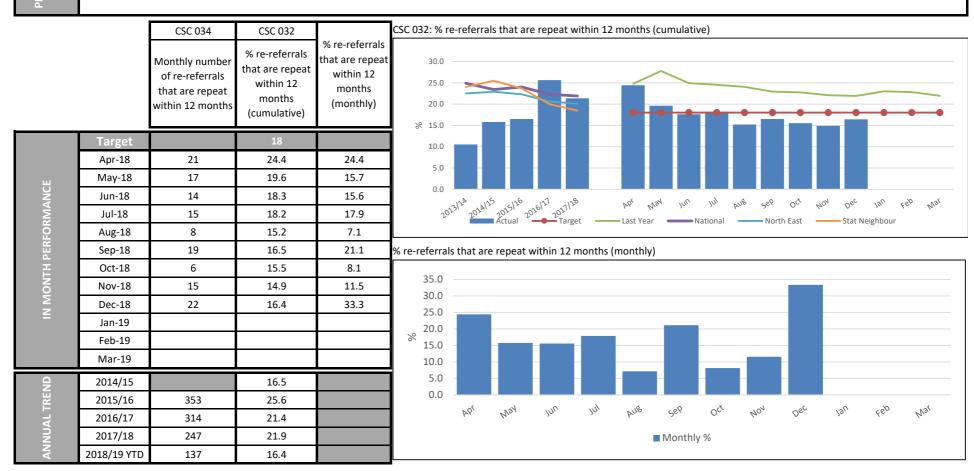
#### DEFINITION

Percentage of re-referrals that are a repeat referral within 12 months of a previous referral.

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.

ERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

43 children were re-referred to Children's Social Care during Quarter 3 2018/19 when their last referral had ended less than 12 months ago. This is comparable to the number in Quarter 3 2017/18 which saw 44 referrals. Re-referral rates at the end of Quarter 3 is 15.9% which is below the target of 18% and the year to date rate is currently 16.4%.



## Early Help

## **Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

#### Early Help:

The number of Early Help Assessments being completed by external agencies within this quarter continues to increase, currently at 46.5%. External assessments will be subject to increased audit activity during Quarter 4 to inform any future training programme for the year 2019/2020 and this will be reported on later in the year.

Despite the positive increase, Health Services continue to be a low completer. Champions have now been identified in the health visitor/school nursing service and it is anticipated this will have an impact in the next quarter.

The use of the success criteria is now reportable for a full quarter and shows 14.5% of the cases open to Early Help stepped up to Social Care during this period, however, there is no comparable data from the previous year and only one month could be reported on in the previous quarter. This will continue to be monitored and targets set for the year 2019/2020.

#### **Troubled Families**

The Darlington target of 930 families to be identified has been achieved this quarter.

The percentage of families for which the target has been met has since the commencement of the programme is currently 41% this continues to increase month on month and the prediction for the end of the programme remains 75%.

## **Keeping Families Together (Edge of Care):**

This programme commenced within timescale, in mid-January and is currently working with the three families identified for the quarter, activity and analysis will be available Quarter 4.

Family Group Conference has been re modelled during the last quarter and will be rolled out to all teams at the end of February. New data sets have been prepared and will be reported on in Quarter 4 and throughout 2019/2020.

#### **Children Centres:**

During Quarter 3, 64% of the families attending our children centres were from within 30% areas of deprivation with an average of 60.8% year to date. This exceeds our target of 50%.

#### Missing:

The number of young people who have been reported missing has increased from 48 during Quarter 2 to 53 during Quarter 3, however the amount of episodes they have had has reduced, from 99 episodes during Quarter 2 to 94 episodes during Quarter 3.

There is no significant difference in the number of females and males who are reported missing but males go missing more often.

All cases where children have regular missing episodes are discussed at the missing and Exploited Group (MEG) and measures explored to reduce missing episodes.

#### CSE:

Numbers of young people accessing the service has dropped slightly throughout Quarter 3 from 14 - 11. The numbers at high risk has increased slightly from 5 to 6. 8/11 of cases were CiN and 3/11 were LAC.

Referrals for males are still significantly lower than females.

There were 6 new referrals within this quarter and 6 cases closed to CSE support due to risk reducing to low.

All young people at high or medium risk of Child Sexual Exploitation are supported by Barnardo's and offered a Programme to raise their awareness. The Programme covers 6 core areas including reducing risk/harm, improving mental health and wellbeing, identifying abusive/exploitative behaviour, recognising exploitative behaviour on internet, increasing knowledge of sexual health strategies and reducing missing from home episodes.

Partnership working has developed with the monthly Missing Exploited Group working with agencies making decisions from a multi- agency prospective. The group includes the ERASE team, Police, Probation, Youth Offending Service, housing, Barnardo's and social care to put plans in place to support young people at risk of CSE, to disrupt perpetrators, explore hotspots and explore the links between missing/CSE.

Barnardo's contribute to our Local Safeguarding Children's Board training, offer and provide bespoke training when necessary including Children's residential staff, Police Specials, children leaving care and school.

#### YOS:

First Time Entrants being referred to YOS as at December 2018 was 23 young people, higher than the 19 at the same point in 2017/18.

Over half entered the youth justice system as a result of violence and or threatening behaviour, other offences included Non Domestic Burglary, Motoring Offences, Theft, Fraud and Forgery Offence and Criminal Damage.

57% entered via out of court disposal and 43% were escalated straight to court due to not admitting the offence.

The YOS had 38 young people referred to the service for diversionary disposals i.e. Pre Caution Disposals (22) and Restorative Disposals (16). There has been a 95% success rate in terms of young people not reoffending.

6 out of 34 young people (17.6%) in the YOS cohort have reoffended, committing a further 21 offences in total.

In relation to the use of custody, overall the YOS have been successful in their sentencing and bail assessments and proposals to the court whereby 95% of young people appearing before the court have received a community sentence or granted bail.

The number of LAC young people who are currently open to YOS at December 2018 is less than 5.

#### **Actions:**

- Work closely with the Social Care Teams and Barnardo's to ensure Darlington continue to commission a service to support young people at risk of CSE who live out of the area.
- Deliver training/CSE awareness to health professionals/school based lead professionals in the Early Help Team to raise awareness
- Ensure more robust reporting mechanisms in place for monitoring and recording support for low level CSE cases

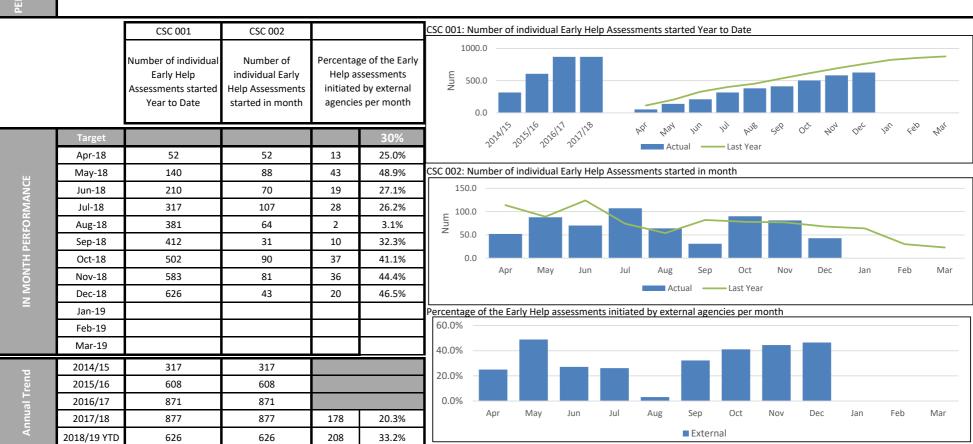
#### **EARLY HELP ASSESSMENTS - STARTED**

**DEFINITION** 

Number of individual Early Help Assessments recorded in month and year to date and those of which were initiated by external agencies.

ERFORMANC

626 Early Help Assessments have been started year to date with 208 (33.7%) year to date being done by external agencies, which is above our target of 30%.
The number of Early Help Assessments have seen a 17.6% drop when compared to the same point in 2017/18 which had 760 assessments started by December 2017.



#### MISSING EPISODES

DEFINITION

The number of episodes of children going missing in Darlington, including Looked After Children, Children Looked After by another authority and children who are not currently open to Social Care. The percentage of return home interviews completed within 72 hours.

RFORMANCI ANALYSIS 53 individual children have been reported missing with a total of 94 episodes during Quarter 3 2018/19 which is similar to that in Quarter 2 which saw 48 individual children missing for a total of 99 episodes.

Missing from home interviews have been offered within 72 hours in 91.3% of the cases but the young person has only engaged in 75.4% of them. Where the coordinator cannot engage, the young person she explores the issues with parents, carers, teachers or social workers. There has been a slight increase in those interviews not taking place in 72 hours. This is due to two reasons; not receiving the report from the police in a timely manner and the young person and their parents avoiding any contact with the MFHW.

		CSC 215	CSC 246						CSC 216	
		Number of Missing Episodes (children)	Number of missing episodes relating to Children Looked After by Darlington Borough Council (children)	Number of missing episodes relating to Children Looked After by Darlington Borough Council placed more than 20 miles from home (children)	relating to other children	Number of missing episodes relating to other children open to Early Help (children)	Missing Episodes for Children of Other Authorities (children)	Missing Episodes for Children Not Currently Open to Social Care (children)	% of Return Home interviews completed within 72 hours (excluding CLA OLA)	Missing episodes where a Return Home interview was completed
	Apr-18	51 (28)	27 (9)	<5	<5	<5	8 (6)	10 (9)	93.0%	100%
Щ	May-18	37(18)	23(10)	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	93.9%	100%
N N	Jun-18	49 (33)	25 (12)	11 (5)	9 (6)	<5	8 (8)	<5	92.7%	100%
×	Jul-18	41 (19)	26 (9)	20 (4)	<5	<5	<5	<5	94.6%	100%
O <sub>R</sub>	Aug-18	25 (18)	8 (5)	<5	7 (5)	<5	<5	<5	89.5%	100%
PERF	Sep-18	33 (25)	10 (7)	<5	6 (5)	<5	10 (6)	<5	78.3%	100%
	Oct-18	43 (26)	18 (10)	<5	<5	<5	12 (7)	<5	90.3%	100%
픋	Nov-18	28 (21)	<5	0 (0)	<5	<5	11 (9)	<5	82.4%	100%
N O	Dec-18	23 (17)	12 (7)	0 (0)	<5	<5	<5	<5	100%	100%
Ž	Jan-19									
≟	Feb-19									
	Mar-19									
ار 0	2016/17									
MNUAL	2017/18									
ANN	2018/19 YTD (Child counted once)	330 (121)	155 (32)	51 (11)	54 (23)	23 (16)	65 (28)	33 (31)	91.3%	100%

## Assessments

## **Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

#### Referral to Assessment:

- During Quarter 3, a higher number, 196 referrals out of 270 led to a single (children and family) assessment being undertaken.
- 207 assessments were completed across all Social Work teams apart from the Looked after through Care team. This is in line with the same period in 2017/18 at 220. Cumulatively year to date 761 assessments were completed, slightly lower than same period in 2017/18 at 798.
- The assessments were completed by:
  - o Children's First Response team 160
  - o Assessment and Safeguarding teams 41
  - o Life Stages team − 6

#### **Timeliness:**

- At the end of Quarter 3, the cumulative figure for the completion of assessments within 45 working days year to date was 87.1%, slightly below target and a slight reduction from the 2017/18 Quarter 3 performance of 94.5%.
- Reasons for this slight deterioration in performance are well known by the department. Robust management oversight continues to be in place and strategies to address this dipping further have been implemented.
- All those assessments that have been completed outside of the 45 working day timescale are analysed and the rationale regarding why they were delayed follows:
  - o Other more urgent priorities such as urgent Court proceedings and Court reports requiring writing
  - One sibling group's assessments had been created in error as this had been a private law matter. Learning that has been taken from this is to cancel the created assessments and re-open them at the appropriate time rather than allow this to remain open at the outset of the request being received
  - o There were a small number of miscalculated dates by the Social Workers involved resulting in timescales being exceeded, which has since been addressed

DEFINITION

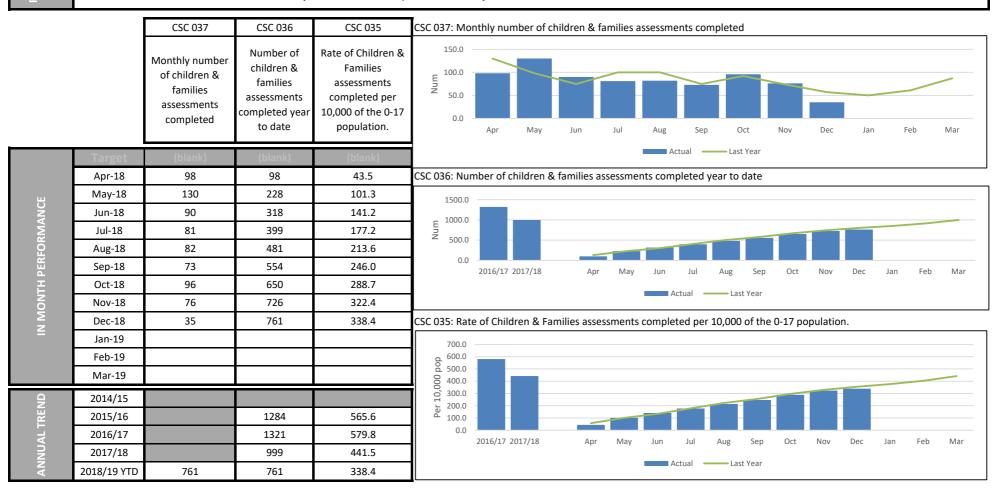
Monthly and cumulative number of assessments completed.

RFORMANCE

207 Children & Families (C&F) assessments were completed during Quarter 3 2018/19, across all Social Work teams. This is a 7.7% reduction on Quarter 3 2017/18 which completed 223 C&F assessments.

Quarter 3 has seen the lowest amount of C&F assessments completed compared to Quarter 1 and 2 2018/19, however this appears to be a downward trend which also occurred in 2017/18 and continued into Quarter 4 2017/18.

761 assessments have been undertaken year to date. Compared to 801 by the end of December 2017.



## ASSESSMENTS - TIMELINESS

#### **DEFINITION**

Of those assessments completed in a period, the percentage completed within 45 working days. Day zero is the first working day on or after the start date of the referral, or strategy discussion decided to initiate S47 enquiries, or where new information indicates that an assessment should be undertaken. The end date is the first working day on or after the recorded date the Team Manager closes the single assessment.

A process indicator as a proxy measure for improved child safety and how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. Local authorities should investigate and address concerns in a timely and efficient way.

# ERFORMANC ANALYSIS

87.4% (181/207) of assessments were completed within 45 working days in Quarter 3 2018/19, which is in line with Quarter 2 2018/19. Our monthly percentage completed is in line with our statistical neighbour (87.3%) and above Regional (81.9%) and National (82.7%) average. North East Benchmarking Data (ADCS) as at Quarter 2 2018/19 shows an average of 80.80%.

It is acknowledged that the yearly performance continues to be below the target of 90% and robust management oversight of this is in place. Analysis of the assessments completed outside of the 45 day timeframe is contained within the assessment by team on following page.

		CSC 038	CSC 040	CSC 060	CSC 080	CSC 100
		% C&F Assessments completed within 45 working days (Year to date)	•	Monthly % C&F Assessments completed within 25 working days	Monthly % C&F Assessments completed within 15 working days	Monthly % C&F Assessments completed within 10 working days
	Target	90%	90%	60%	40%	25%
	Apr-18	89.3	89.3	30.6	20.4	13.5
ш	May-18	85.1	84.6	39.2	26.2	19.2
NC	Jun-18	83.0	77.8	43.3	27.8	18.9
M	Jul-18	83.2	84.0	40.7	17.3	12.4
FOR	Aug-18	85.5	96.3	36.6	20.7	14.6
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Sep-18	87.0	97.3	38.4	15.1	2.7
돝	Oct-18	87.7	91.7	33.3	20.8	15.6
NO	Nov-18	87.7	89.5	23.7	10.5	2.6
Σ	Dec-18	87.1	71.4	40.0	14.3	2.9
=	Jan-19					
	Feb-19					
	Mar-19					
	2015/16	77.0	77.0	43.0	27.0	21.0
JAL	2016/17	93.0	93.0	58.0	40.0	33.0
ANNUAL	2017/18	93.3	93.3	53.5	33.6	22.9
₹ -	2018/19 YTD	87.1	87.1	40.0	14.3	2.9

## Child Protection

## **Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

#### **Strategy Discussions:**

In Quarter 3, 172 strategy discussions were held. The cumulative figure year to date is 492 compared to 355 for this same period in 2017/18, which represents a significant increase.

Cumulatively year to date:

- o Children's First Response team held 58.9% of strategy discussions
- o Assessment and Safeguarding teams held 38.2% of strategy discussions
- o Looked After Through Care team held 2.0% of strategy discussions
- o Life Stages team held 0.8% of strategy discussions

#### **Section 47 Enquiries:**

The number of Section 47 enquiries started in Quarter 3 was 117. This is higher than this same period in 2017/18 at 81. Cumulatively the number of Section 47 enquiries started year to date was 415, compared to 255 in the same period in 2017/18.

The outcome of Section 47 enquiries that have been started in this year is summarised as follows:

- o Proceed to single assessment (61.7%)
- o Proceed to Initial Child Protection Conference (35.2%)
- o Became Looked After (3.1%)

#### **Child Protection Conferences:**

At the end of Quarter 3, the cumulative figure for Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) being held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/ Section 47 being initiated was 97.3%. The rationale for missed timescales is analysed each month. In the quarter, one conference was held outside of timescale due to late notification of the need for a meeting.

Performance remains higher than benchmarks; NE (82.9%), Statistical Neighbour (85.9%), England (76.9%).

Throughout Quarter 3, 53 children were discussed at ICPC, and year to date 171 children have been considered. This is higher than this period in 2017/18 (112).

#### **Child Protection Plans:**

At the end of Quarter 3, 101 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan, slightly higher than the end of Q3 2017/18 at 89. This equates to a rate of 44.9 per 10,000 of the 0 – 17 population, which is lower than statistical neighbour (64.7), Regional average (87.7) and the National average (58). ADCS North East Benchmarking average for Quarter 2 2018/19 was 66 per 10,000.

All CP cases were allocated to a qualified Social Worker throughout Quarter 3. All CP Plans were reviewed within timescales throughout Quarter 3.

Of those children who are subject to a Child Protection plan:

- o 41% have been subject to a CP plan for under 3 months
- o 21% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 3 months but less than 6 months
- o 34% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 6 months but less than 1 year
- o 5% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 1 year but less than 2 years
- o 0% have been subject to a CP plan for more than 2 years

There are 5 children who have been subject to a CP plan for more than 1 year but less than 2 years, all have been subject to a CP plan for under 18 months. There are no children who have been subject to a CP plan for longer than 2 years. This compares favourably with benchmarks from 2017 as the NE (3.8%), Statistical Neighbour (3.8%) and England (3.4%).

To date, 153 children ceased to be subject to a CP Plan, a rate of 67.9 per 10,000 which is similar to Statistical Neighbours (70.9), but lower than Regional average (82.1).

At the end of Quarter 3, the figure for children becoming subject to a CP Plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 or more years of a previous plan was 5.0%. All children in this category have their cases analysed by a Head of Service. A number of these are where care proceedings have been issued.

## **Statutory Visits**

At the end of Quarter 3, the cumulative percentage of CP statutory visits that were completed across all quarters, within 15 working days was 94.2%. The percentage within the internally set 10 working days was 78.7%. This quarter has seen a drop in the timeliness of achieving all CP visits within this timescale (79.8%), however all statutory visits that are not undertaken within timescales are analysed by the Head of Service, and all reasons are known and acted upon.

Assurances that children are being seen regularly, they have been seen routinely and are seen soon after this timescale. In addition, children are seen by other professionals frequently in between Social Work visits at nursery, school, health appointments and the Early Help teams when they are working with a family.

#### **Care Proceedings:**

At the end of Quarter 3:

- o There were 9 live Public Law Outline (PLO) cases
- o 19 sets of care proceedings had been issued. These refer to public law proceedings and not discharges of Care Orders, Placement Orders or adoption. This is a slight reduction from the previous Quarter
- o There were 44 sets of live care proceedings ongoing
- 8 cases were being prepared for care proceedings to be issued. These refer to public law proceedings and not discharges of Care Orders,
   Placement Orders or adoption
- o There were no live discharge of Care Order cases before the Court
- o There was no live adoption cases before the Court
- o There were less than 5 cases that were being prepared for care proceedings to be issued to discharge Care Orders
- o There were less than 5 cases that were being prepared for care proceedings to be issued to revoke Placement Orders
- o There was less than 5 cases that were being prepared to issue care proceedings regarding inherent jurisdiction

Please note a case refers to a family group, therefore, not for individual children.

The number of live care proceedings in this period has increased. Despite this, at the end of Quarter 3, the average length of public law proceedings was 25.2 weeks, which is within the 26 week timescale for care proceedings to conclude.

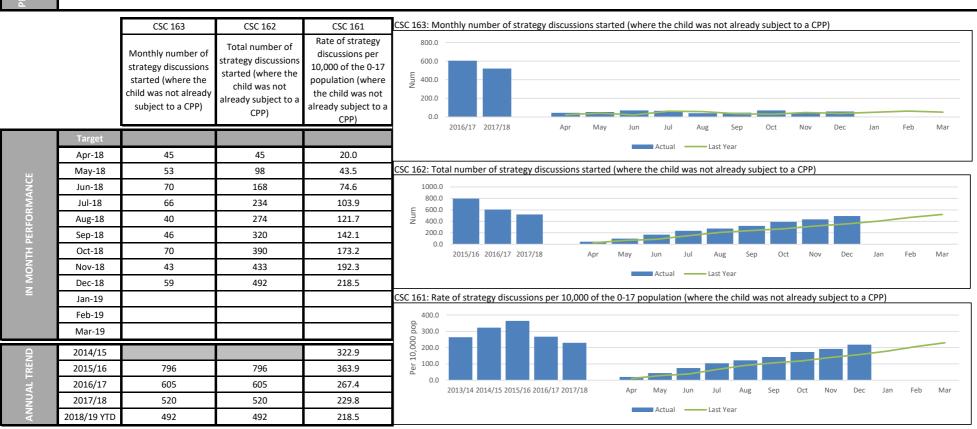
#### STRATEGY

**DEFINITION** 

The number of strategy discussions started within the month and cumulatively throughout the year.

ERFORMANC

172 strategy discussions were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 49.6% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 which had 115 strategy discussions started. This gives a year to date total of 492 strategy discussions 38.6% increase at the same point in 2017 with a total of 355 strategies. The number of referrals remain consistent, due to the increase, work has been completed by Head of Service though out the quarter, reviewing the discussions to confirm that they are appropriate.



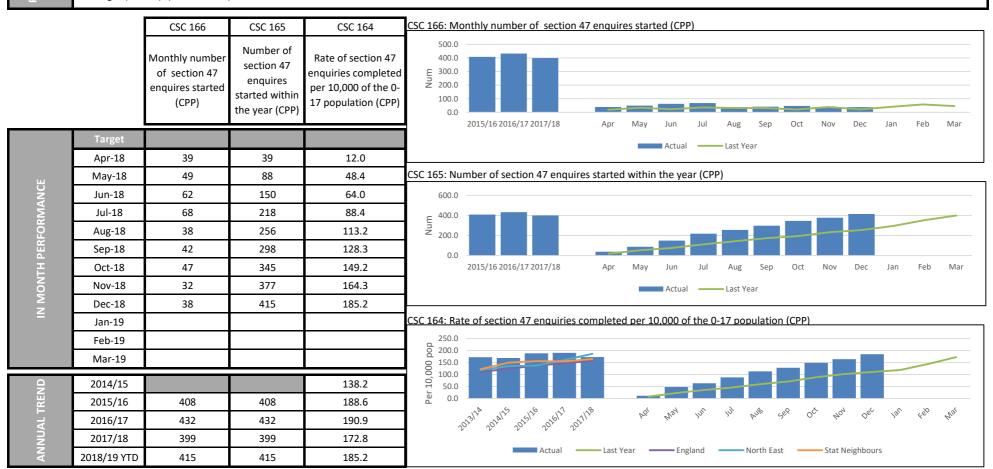
**DEFINITION** 

Number of Section 47 enquiries started monthly and year to date.

ERFORMANC

117 Section 47 enquires were started during Quarter 3 2018/19, a 44.4% increase on Quarter 3 2017/18 which had 81 enquiries. This gives a year to date total of 415 which is a 62.7% increase on the year to date figure at December 2017 of 255. The increase in Strategy and Section 47, is not connected to referral numbers as these have remained consistent. Further analysis is planned to understand the increase.

Currently our rate of Section 47 enquires per 10,000 is 185.2 which is above our statistical neighbour (168.5) and National average (166.9) but below the Regional average (224.5) (LAIT 2018).



#### INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - CHILDREN

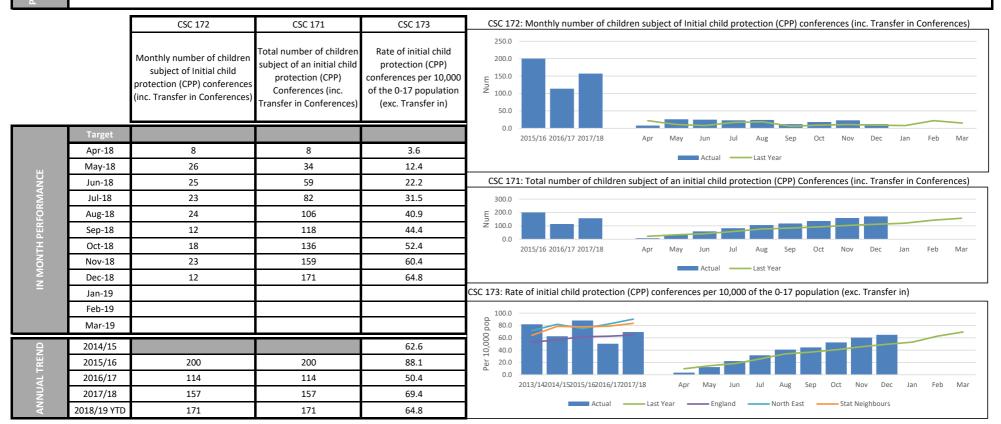
DEFINITION

Number of children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference monthly and year to date (including transfer in conferences).

ERFORMANG F ANALYSIS

During Quarter 3 2018/19 there were 53 children subject of 31 Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) compared to 29 children over 20 ICPC's during Quarter 3 2017/18, which is an 82.6% increase on the number of children involved.

Year to date, 171 children have had an Initial Child Protection Conference's (ICPC) held for them, a 52.7% increase from year to date at December 2018 which held ICPC's regarding 112 children.



#### **INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES - TIMELINESS**

DEFINITION

Of those ICPCs held within the period (excluding transfer ins), the percentage held within 15 working days of the S47 enquiry.

Provides an indication of how quickly the safety of children who are judged to be continuing to, or likely to suffer significant harm is being considered by a multi-agency meeting.

RFORMANG

97.3% of the Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were within timescale by the end of Quarter 3 2018/19.

At the end of December 2018, the cumulative figure for Initial Child Protection Conferences being held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/section 47 being initiated was 97.3%, this figure is comparable to that in December 2017.

Performance remains higher in 2018 than our statistical neighbour (85.9%), Regional (82.9%) and National (76.9%) average. North East Benchmarking (ADCS) in Quarter 2, 2018/19 showed an average of 72.4%.

		CSC 178	CSC 176	CSC 178: Monthly % of cases recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook where Child Protection strategy meeting / S47 start to initial child protection conference (ICPC) are within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences.			
		Monthly % of cases recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook where Child Protection strategy meeting / S47 start to initial child protection conference (ICPC) are within 15 days (CPP). Excludes transfer-in conferences.	% of cases where the initial child protection conference (ICPC) was within 15 days of the initiating strategy discussion / S47 start recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook (CPP). This EXCLUDES transfer-in conferences. Year to Date	100.0 90.0 80.0 70.0 60.0 8 50.0 40.0 30.0 20.0			
	Target	100	95	10.0			
N MONTH PERFORMANCE	Apr-18	100.0	100.0				
	May-18	95.0	96.4	2013/1/2 2014/12 2016/12 201/1/2			
	Jun-18	100.0	98.0				
	Jul-18	100.0	98.6	Actual ——Last Year			
9.0	Aug-18	95.2	97.8				
PER	Sep-18	100.0	98.0	CSC 176: % of cases where the initial child protection conference (ICPC) was within 15 days of the initiating strategy discussion / recorded in the Safeguarding Unit workbook (CPP). This EXCLUDES transfer-in conferences. Year to Date			
표	Oct-18	88.9	96.6				
NO	Nov-18	100.0	97.1	100.0			
Σ	Dec-18	100.0	97.3	80.0			
_	Jan-19			60.0			
	Feb-19			% 40.0			
	Mar-19			20.0			
9	2014/15	83.8	83.8	0.0			
REP	2015/16	91.5	91.5	Totaling Totaling Totaling Totaling was they in in the cess on they dec her tess they			
ANNUAL TREND	2016/17	100.0	100.0	2013/12 2014/12 2016/12 201/12			
	2017/18	95.0	95.0				
AN	2018/19 YTD	97.3	97.3	Actual —— Last Year —— Target —— England —— North East —— Statistical Neighbours			

Number and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan following an Initial Child Protection Conference (including transfers in).

RFORMANG

43 of the 53 (81.1%) children who had an Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) during Quarter 3 2018/19 became subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP). Of the 10 children (over 7 families) whose ICPC did not lead to a CPP, all were supported by provisions of services under a CiN plan.

This is slightly lower conversion percentage than quarter 3 2017/19 which saw 26 out of 29 (89.7%) children becoming subject to a CPP following an ICPC. Year to date 2018/19 has seen an increase in the number of children becoming subject to a CPP as an outcome of their ICPC, with 140 children compared to 96 children at the same point in 2017/18. However the outcome of the ICPC rate for CPP is slightly lower with 81.9% of children (140/171) in 2018/19 compared to 85.7% (96/112) in 2017/18. This will be monitored to ensure that conversion rate remains at the expected level.

		CSC 175  Monthly number of children	CSC 177 Cumulative % children conferenced	Monthly percentage of children conferenced that	CSC 175: Monthly number of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP  200.0  2 100.0					
		conferenced that led to them becoming CP	that led to them becoming CP	led to them	0.0 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Actual ——Last Year					
	Target				CSC 177: Cumulative % children conferenced that led to them becoming CP					
	Apr-18	7	87.5	87.5	100.0					
ш	May-18	24	91.2	92.3	80.0					
NC	Jun-18	25	94.9	100.0	<sup>8</sup> 40.0 -					
₩.	Jul-18	15	86.6	65.2	20.0					
POR	Aug-18	15	81.1	62.5	2012/12 2017/13					
PER	Sep-18	11	82.2	91.7						
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Oct-18	16	83.1	88.9	Actual ——Last Year					
ON	Nov-18	18	82.4	78.3						
Σ	Dec-18	9	81.9	75.0	Monthly percentage of children conferenced that led to them becoming CP					
_	Jan-19				100					
	Feb-19									
	Mar-19				% 50					
	2015/16	170	80.0							
	2016/17	103	83.3		0 — Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar					
	2017/18	138	87.9	80.0						
	2018/19 YTD	140	81.9	75.0	■ Actual					

#### **CHILD PROTECTION**

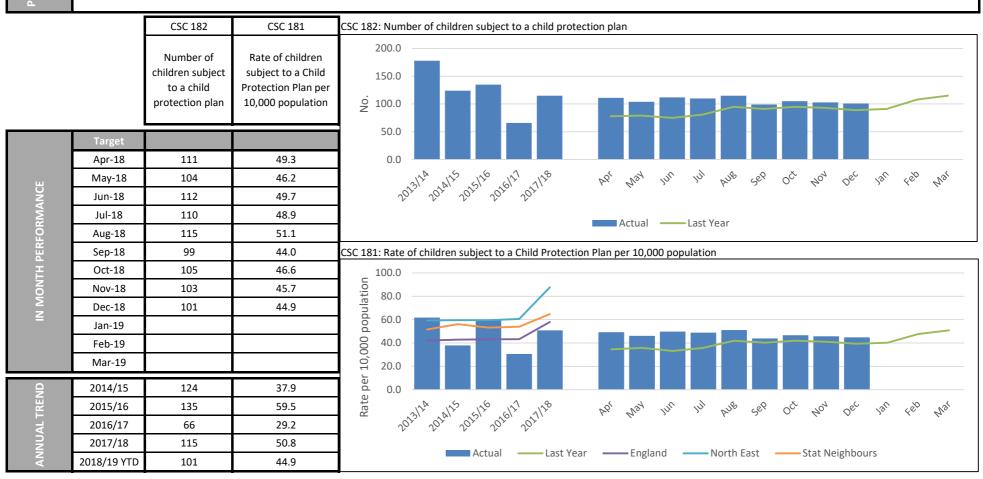
DEFINITION

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

PERFORMAN

101 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) in December 2018 which is consistent when comparing previous months but a 13.5% increase when compared to December 2017 (89).

Darlington currently has a 44.9 rate per 10,000 for children subject to a CPP which is lower that our statistical neighbour (64.7), Regional average (87.7) and the National average (58). ADCS North East Benchmarking average for Quarter 2 2018/19 was 66 per 10,000.



#### CHILD PROTECTION - ALLOCATION & REVIEWS

**DEFINITION** 

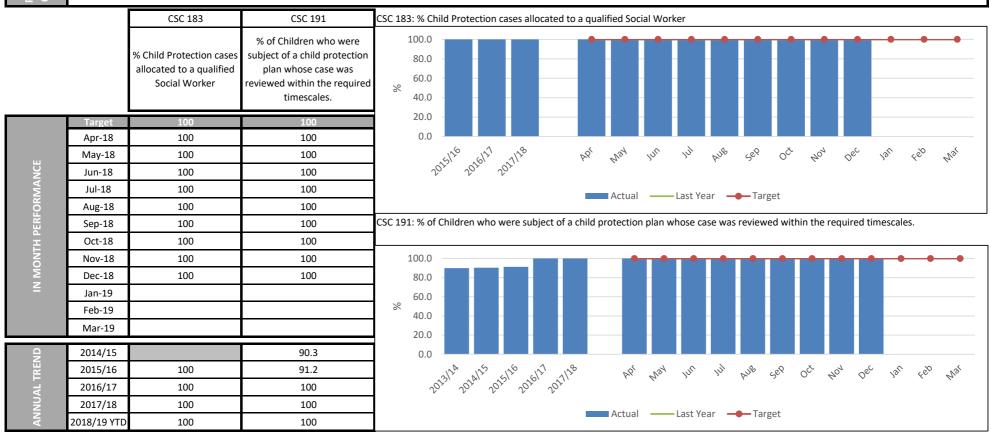
The percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of the month and who at that date had had a Plan continuously for at least the previous 3 months, whose case was reviewed within the required timescales.

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

ERFORMAN CE ANALYSIS

100% of Child Protection Cases were allocated to a qualified Social Worker.

100% Child Protection reviews have been completed within the required timescales. This is higher than Regional (95%), National (92%) and Statistical Neighbours (95%).



#### **CHILD PROTECTION - TIME PERIODS**

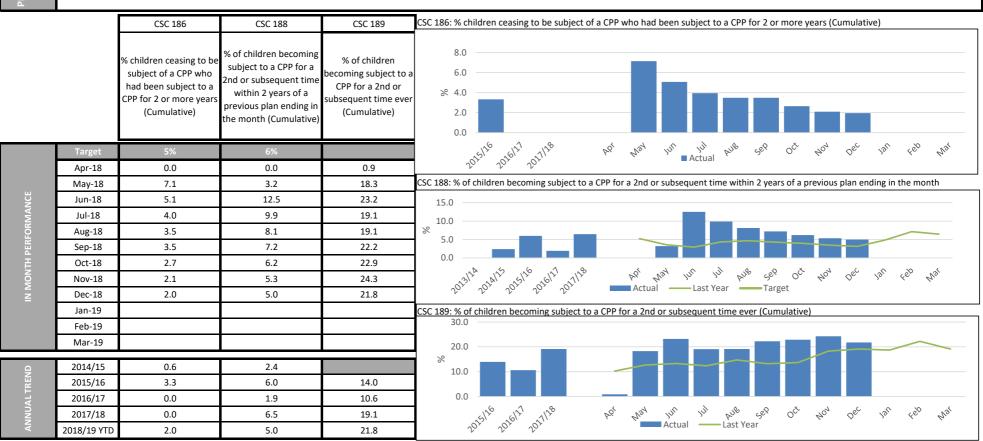
#### DEFINITION

Percentage of children ceasing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan who had been subject to a Plan for 2 or more years and percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for the 2nd or subsequent time.

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.

F ANALYSIS

At the end of Quarter 3 the figure for children becoming subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years of the previous plan ending was 5.0%. (This relates to 7 children in Quarter 1 that had previously been subject to a CP plan).



# **CHILD PROTECTION - STATUTORY VISITS**

**DEFINITION** 

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

PERFORMANG E ANALYSIS

77.8% (588/756) of Child Protection statutory visits were completed within 10 working days during Quarter 3. This is an improvement on Quarter 2 which had 74.8% (534/714) visits completed in timescale.

94.2% (712/756) of the visits were completed within 15 working days during Quarter 3.

CSC 252a	CSC 252b
% Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale within the month	% Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale year to date (cumulative)

CSC 252a: % Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale within the month





78.7

85.6

80.8

79.8

Dec-18

Jan-19

Feb-19 Mar-19

2014/15

2015/16 2016/17

2017/18

2018/19 YTD



88.9

79.8

CSC 252b: % Child Protection statutory visits completed in timescale year to date (cumulative)



# Looked After Children

# **Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

At the end of Quarter 3, the number of Children in Care had reduced slightly to 249, higher than the figure of 222 at this same period in 2017/18.

# **Becoming Looked After:**

A total of 20 children became looked after during Quarter 3, a decrease compared to Quarter 2 (55).

Head of Service approval to accommodate was evident for all the children and young people in this cohort, and also of legal meetings taking place to determine threshold for removal of children from their parents was met. All decisions to accommodate the children and young people were appropriate. However, in less than 5 cases, interim Care Orders were imposed on the Local Authority despite these not being requested. The reasons leading to children being brought into care for Quarter 3 follow:

- o Parents' level of learning disabilities
- Risk of sexual abuse
- Unexplained physical injuries
- o Parents' substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health status
- o Significant neglect
- o Being remanded to Local Authority care
- o Police Protection being exercised

#### Ceased to be looked after:

25 children and young people ceased to be looked after in Quarter3, with a year to date a total of 68. This is a higher than this Quarter in 2017/18 (62). Of the children who ceased to be looked after:

- 12% left care as they had reached age 18
- 36% of children had been subject to a Care Order but this had been discharged in favour of a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order
- o 16% of children were adopted
- o 20% of children and young people left care following a successful rehabilitation plan to parents or family
- o 8% of young people ceased to be looked after as they had been on a period of remand which had ended
- o 8% of young people who had been accommodated via section 20 became former relevant care leavers at their request

Not all children who are currently looked after and progressing through care proceedings will remain looked after at the conclusion of their proceedings. A number will change to Special Guardianship Orders, Adoption Orders, Child Arrangement Orders or Supervision Orders may be granted.

# Allocated Social Workers, timeliness of reviews and permanence plans:

- 100% of Children in Care had an allocated Social Worker
- At the end of Quarter 3, 99.2% of Children in Care had a Looked After Review completed within timescales
- All Children in Care had a permanence plan at the second Looked After Review, which has consistently been 100% year to date
- All children who were subject to a Placement Order but had not yet been adopted have a plan in place to secure their permanence via adoption or a revocation of the Placement Order due to unsuccessful family finding. As can be seen in the Child Protection summary there are currently 2 sets of proceedings to revoke Placement Orders that are in the process of being issued

#### Children's participation in their reviews:

In Quarter 3, children's participation in their Looked After Review follows:

- o 43 reviews were held for children aged under 4
- o 69 reviews had a child who attended and spoke for themselves
- o 0 reviews had a child attended but alongside their advocate who spoke on their behalf
- o 0 reviews were attended by a child who gave their views non-verbally
- o Less than 5 reviews were attended by a child who did not contribute
- o Less than 5 reviews were not attended by a child but an advocate attended who spoke on their behalf
- o 68 reviews were held where the child did not attend but their views had been sent
- o 17 reviews were held where the child did not attend and did not send their views

#### Timeliness of visits:

At the end of Quarter 3, 89.6% of statutory visits to Children in Care had been completed in timescale year to date. The following represent the reasons why visits were not completed in timescale:

- o There were a small number of young people who have been avoidant and not at home when the Social Worker arranged to visit
- o There were competing priorities in respect of Court work and Court reports resulting in visits occasionally being delayed
- o There were a small number of visits missed due to Social Workers' capacity

Head of Service oversight and assurance is provided as previously highlighted within other summaries. Children and young people are being seen routinely although not always within the timescale set. No child or young person has been unseen for an unacceptable period of time. In addition, nurseries, schools, health professionals and Early Help colleagues do routinely see children in care alongside the Social Workers

# Placement stability and distance from home:

At the end of Quarter 3:

The percentage of children with 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months increased slightly to 10.4%, but is still within target of 10%, and remains in line with the same period in 17/18.

The percentage of children who had been in their current placement for 2 years or more who had been in care for 2½ years or more is 73.0%, better than target of 68%, and a significant improvement from the 2017/18 Quarter 3 figure of 57.8%.

The percentage of children placed 20 miles or more away from home was 9.4%, the same as the same reporting period last year. However, for this Quarter 3, the percentage has seen a positive reduction from the previous months and is currently at its lowest for 2018/19.

#### Placement type:

The following compares Quarter 3 this year and Quarter 3 in 2017/18 in respect of placement types for children in care. It is noticeable that there has been a decrease in the percentage of children placed with in-house foster-carers, an increase in the number of children placed with connected carers, and a slight reduction in the number of children placed in residential accommodation:

- o 22.9% of children were in in-house foster placements compared to 42.8% last year
- o 2.0% of children were in adoptive placements compared to 3.6% last year
- o 2.4% of children were in semi-independent/independent living compared to 3.2% last year
- $\circ$  32.1% of children were in agency foster placements compared to 26.6% last year
- $\circ~$  6.4% of children were placed with parents compared to 8.1% last year
- o 13.7% of children were in residential accommodation compared to 15.3% last year
- o 27.1% of children in connected care placements compared to 22.1% last year

# Health and dental:

72.5% of the children during Quarter 2 were seen for an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) within 20 working days of coming into care (Quarter 3 data is not yet available). This has decreased from 86% in Quarter 1 however due to more children coming into care.

At the end of Quarter 3, of those due a Review Health Assessment, 93.8% were in timescale. This is a significant improvement when compared to this period in 2017/18 (59.6%)

At the end of Quarter 3, of those due a Dental Health Check, 72.7% were in timescale. Again this is a significant improvement when compared to this period in 2017/18 (51%)

It is acknowledged that neither the Review Health Assessment nor dental performance will reach 100% as there continues to be a small number of young people (7) who refuse to engage in health and dental appointments. This is an area that is currently being discussed within the quarterly LAC Health meetings at the instigation of Children's Services, and all present remain committed to finding solutions to address this.

#### **Virtual School:**

The period September to December 2018 represented autumn term of 2018-19 academic year.

178 looked after children of compulsory school-age attended 63 different schools.

Attendance for the period was good at 94%, although there were 24 children with persistent absentees and with attendance below 90%.

The percentage of young people attending good and outstanding schools is 75%, below target of 85%, this represents a 10% improvement on Q2 as two significant providers had Ofsted grade improvements following inspection.

A number of children becoming looked after in July 2018 resulted in some pupils who did not have identified provision in September, though the Virtual School quickly engaged the young people with appropriate provision and they are now accessing Education.

The Virtual School had to intervene with three young people to avert permanent exclusions in the period and secured new provision for each.

There was an increase in fixed term exclusions in November related to young people undergoing EHCP assessments. Appropriate provision has now been secured and exclusions have reduced.

Number of Looked After Children at the end of each month.

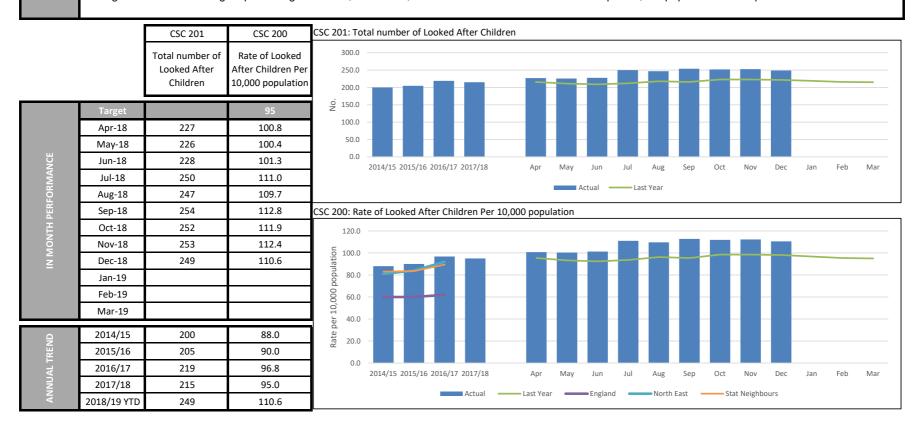
249 children are currently looked after as at December 2018 which is higher than the 222 children as at December 2017.

The rate of Looked after Children per 10,000 population is currently at 110.6 which is higher than our statistical neighbours (91.6) and regional average (95).

More recent North East benchmarking data is available but please note this is from regionally compiled data and not nationally published data. This data, compares 2017/18 year end to 2018/19 Quarter 2 (September 2018) and shows that:

There has been a 5% increase in the rate of looked after children since March 2018. 10 of the 12 local authorities have seen an increase. Two authorities have seen a 3% reduction, namely South Tyneside and Northumberland.

Darlington has seen the largest percentage increase, at 18.96%, in the number of children looked after per 10,000 population in this period.



#### **LOOKED AFTER - ALLOCATION & REVIEWS**

#### DEFINITION

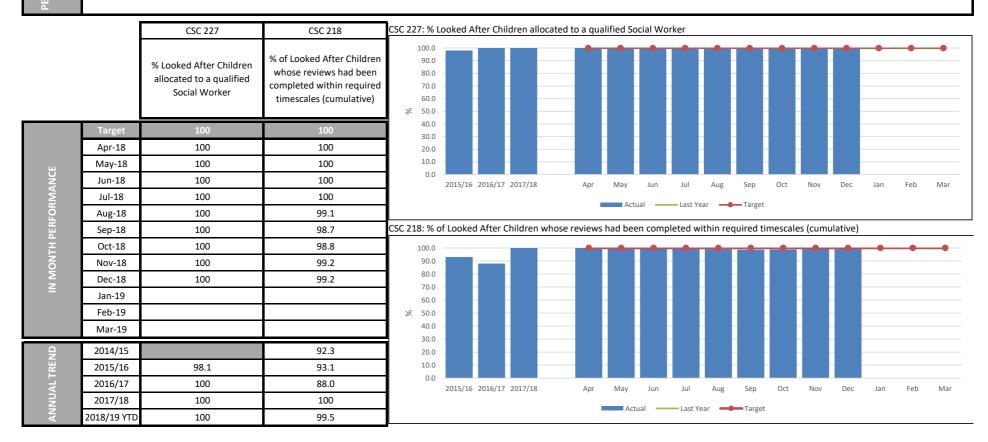
The percentage of Looked After Children cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time during the year and the percentage of Looked After Children cases that were allocated to a qualified Social Worker at the end of the month.

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

# RFORMANC ANALYSIS

100% of Looked After Children (LAC) are allocated to a qualified Social Worker.

99.2% of all Looked After reviews had been completed within required timescales which is 483 out of 485.



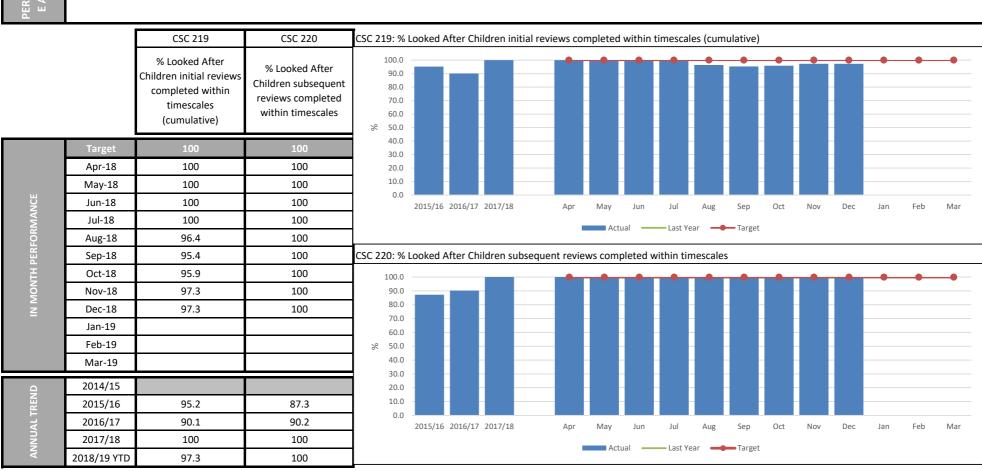
# LOOKED AFTER - REVIEWS

**DEFINITION** 

Percentage of the current Looked After Children who had had their initial reviews and all of their subsequent reviews completed within the required timescales.

PERFORMANC E ANALYSIS

73 of 75 initial Looked After reviews (97.3%) had been completed within required timescales year to date and a 100% of subsequent reviews have been completed in timescale.



# **LOOKED AFTER - STATUTORY VISITS**

#### **DEFINITION**

Percentage of Looked After Children who had all statutory visits completed within required timescales and percentage of Looked After statutory visits completed within timescales each month and year to date.

# PERFORMAN( F ANALYSIS

89.5% (638 out of 713) of Looked After Children's (LAC) statutory visits due in Quarter 3 were completed within timescale. This is an improvement on Quarter 2 which saw 87.7% of visits completed in timescale.

89.6% (1,956 out of 2,182) of Looked After Children's (LAC) statutory visits have been completed in timescale year to date.



#### LOOKED AFTER - PLACEMENTS

#### **DEFINITION**

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

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

10.4% (26) of children in care as at December 2018 have had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months. This is comparable to December 2017 which saw 10.8% of the children in care having had 3 or more placement moves.

As at December 2018, 73% (46 out of 63) of Looked After Children aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) have been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years. This is a positive increase when compared to December 2017 which saw 57.8% of Looked After Children having been in their current placement continuously for at least 2 years.

9.4% of children have been placed 20 or more miles away from home as at December 2018 which is the same as that in December 2017.

		CSC 228	CSC 229	CSC 230	CSC 228: % LAC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months			
		% LAC with 3 or more placements moves during last 12 months	% LAC who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years	% LAC placed 20 miles or more away from home	20.0 15.0 8 10.0 5.0 0.0			
	Target	10	68	10	Totaliz Totaliz Totaliz Vol. Vol. Vol. Vol. Vol. Vol. Vol. Vol.			
	Apr-18	7.9	67.2	11.0				
N MONTH PERFORMANCE	May-18	8.9	66.7	11.9	Actual —— Last Year —— Target			
	Jun-18	9.7	64.1	12.4	CSC 229: % LAC who have been in their current placement for 2 or more years			
	Jul-18	9.2	63.5	11.3	80.0			
	Aug-18	9.7	63.2	10.9	60.0			
	Sep-18	9.8	63.1	10.1	% 40.0 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
	Oct-18	10.3	70.3	9.7	20.0			
Ŏ.	Nov-18	10.7	71.4	10.5	0.0 1.5 1.1.5 1.1.5 kg, 1.1.4 hr. hr. hr. kn. 266 Oc. 100, Oc. 12, 450, 11.1.			
	Dec-18	10.4	73.0	9.4				
	Jan-19				Actual —— Last Year —— Target			
	Feb-19				CSC 230: % LAC placed 20 miles or more away from home			
	Mar-19				15.0			
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	12.0	70.0	7.0	10.0			
	2015/16	11.7	57.8	12.8	× 5.0 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 ·			
	2016/17	14.1	52.4	7.8				
	2017/18	9.8	65.1	12.0	ZGLAI ZGLSI ZGLSI ZGLTI ACTI ACT			
A	2018/19 YTD	10.4	73.0	9.4	Actual — Last Year Target			

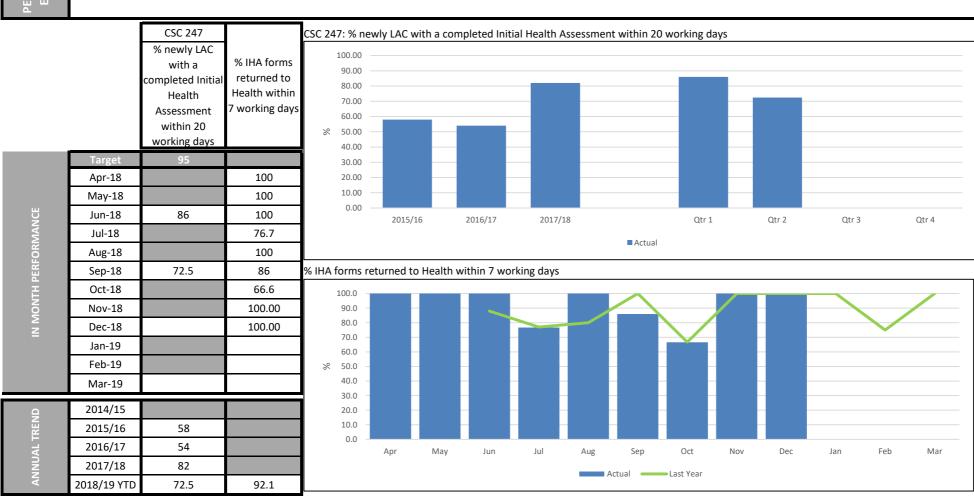
# **LOOKED AFTER - INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**

**DEFINITION** 

Percentage of Initial Health Assessments completed within 20 working days of a child becoming Looked After year to date, and percentage of IHA forms returned to Health within 7 working days.

ERFORMANG F ANALYSIS

90.9% IHA assessments were returned within 7 days during Quarter 3.



#### LOOKED AFTER - HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

DEFINITION

Of the children in care 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.

Looked After Children 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 Looked After Children in 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 Looked After Children.

ERFORMAN F ANALYSIS

At the end of December 2018, 69.3% (115 out of 166 required) of Looked After Children have an up to date health check, this is an improvement on December 2017 which had 59.6% with an up to date health check.

Of those children that are due a Review Health Assessment, 93.2% have been carried out within timescale year to date.

PE										
		CSC 250	CSC 250a	CSC 250b	CSC 250 % of Looked After Children (LAC) with up to date Health Checks (CLA 1 yr. +)					
			500 -500		100.0					
					90.0					
		% of Looked	The % of Looked	The % of Looked	80.0					
		After Children	After Children (LAC	After Children (LAC	70.0					
		(LAC) with up	for 1y+ ) who were	for 1y+ ) who were due a Review Health						
			due a Review Health	Assessment and	% 50.0 -					
		Checks (CLA 1 yr. +)	Assessment in the month and was	was completed	40.0					
		yı. ı,	completed in	(cumulative)	30.0					
			month.		20.0 -					
_					10.0					
	Target	90		90	0.0					
	Apr-18	8.2	85.7	85.7	2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 Apr-18 May-18 Jun-18 Jul-18 Aug-18 Sep-18 Oct-18 Nov-18 Dec-18 Jan-19 Feb-19 Mar-					
	May-18	17.6	100.0	100.0						
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jun-18	26.0	71.4	94.1	■ In month					
MΑ	Jul-18	35.4	100.0	97.7	CSC 250a&b The % of Looked After Children how have had there RHA completed monthly and cumulative.					
FOR	Aug-18	41.3	50.0	92.6	120.0					
PER	Sep-18	47.4	85.7	93.6						
Ę	Oct-18	58.2	77.8	87.5	100.0					
MO	Nov-18	63.7	83.3	87.5						
Ξ	Dec-18	69.3	93.8	93.2	80.0					
	Jan-19				% 60.0					
	Feb-19									
	Mar-19				40.0					
9	2014/15	92.6			20.0					
TRE	2015/16	57.9			0.0					
. TAL	2016/17	71.6			Apr-18 May-18 Jun-18 Jul-18 Aug-18 Sep-18 Oct-18 Nov-18 Dec-18 Jan-19 Feb-19 Mar-19					
ANNUAL TREND	2017/18	91.3			In month ——Cumulative					
_	2018/19 YTD	69.3	93.8	93.2	in month Cumulative					

# LOOKED AFTER - DENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

#### DEFINITION

Of the children in care 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.

Looked After Children 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 LAC in 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 Looked After Children.

# RFORMANG

At the end of December 2018, 77.1 % (128 out of 166 required) of Looked After Children have an up to date dental check, this is an improvement on December 2017 which had 51% with an up to date dental check.

Of those children that are due a dental check, 91.4% have been carried out within timescale year to date.



# Care Leavers

# **Quarter 3 Performance Summary**

#### Accommodation:

We continue to be in touch with all Care Leavers. At the end of Quarter 3, 94.7% of Care Leavers were in suitable accommodation. The 5.3% in unsuitable accommodation equates to less than 5 young people who are currently serving a custodial sentence. This percentage is a slight decrease on Quarter 2 (96.2%), but slightly below target of 100%, and represents one more Care Leaver serving a custodial sentence.

#### Not in education, employment or training (NEET):

19.3% of Care Leavers were NEET (11 Care Leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 out of 57). This is significantly better than target of 33% and is a reduction of 5.7% of Quarter 2 figure (25%).

Of the 11 Care Leavers who are not in education, employment or training:

- o 45.6% were NEET because of illness or disability
- o 27.2% were NEET because of other circumstances
- o 27.2% were NEET because of pregnancy or parenting

The monthly NEET Reduction Group manages all NEETs, each young person who falls into this cohort are discussed and plans developed in an effort to reengage them in education, employment or training.

In addition to this, the weekly Job Club (commenced in May 2018), delivered in partnership with the Morrison's Trust, focuses on further engaging the NEET population in an effort to re-engage them with education, employment or training.

Of the 80.7% (46 out of 57) of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment or Training:

- o 6 were engaged in full-time studies in higher education (i.e. Studies beyond A level)
- o 15 were engaged in full-time training or employment
- o 25 were engaged in part-time training or education

At the end of Quarter 3, there were 131 eligible, former relevant and relevant Care Leavers who were entitled to a service. Of these 131 Care Leavers, there are:

- o 24 eligible Care Leavers who are aged 16 18 years old and are still Looked After
- 5 relevant Care Leavers who have left care aged 16 18 years old who are supported with a service without a Care Order in place
- $\circ$  102 former relevant Care Leavers aged 18 25 who have left care.

#### **CARE LEAVERS**

**DEFINITION** 

The percentage of former care leavers who are eligible for care leavers support who are under the age of 21, who were in suitable accommodation at their most recent contact, and the percentage who were not in employment, education or training at their most recent contact.

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.

REORMANC ...

94.7% (54 out of 57) of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of December. The 3 young people not in suitable accommodation was due to them currently being in custody.

There were 11 young people (aged 19-21) in December who were not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

5 NEET because of illness or disability

