

Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Council Plan – Year End Update of Delivery and Performance 2016/17

15 June 2017

Portfolio	Children and Young People
Portfolio Member:	Children and Young People – Councillor Angela Douglas
OSC Chair	Councillor Bernadette Oliphant
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Introduction

The Council Plan 2015-2020 sets out the vision for the Council and together with Children Gateshead (the plan for children, young people and families) and the Active, Healthy and Well Gateshead Strategy provides the strategic outcomes framework for children and young people. The overarching strategic outcome for children and young people threaded throughout is that they are **given the best start in life**, which is in line with the shared outcomes in the Council Plan and in particular “Live Well Gateshead”, to develop a healthy, inclusive and nurturing place for all.

‘The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual, emotional - are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well being from obesity, heart disease and mental health to educational achievement and economic status.’ (Marmot)

In order to do this we believe that they should have healthy lives, live in a safe environment where families are supported when they need it, are free from poverty and are supported educationally to achieve their full potential. In order to measure and monitor our progress in achieving these outcomes, we need to look at a number of outcome measures and performance indicators. This report provides a picture of how well we are doing in achieving our strategic outcomes and monitors the performance of services that contribute towards those outcomes.

Section A of this report provides the performance update and analysis for the period April 2016- March 2017 (twelve months) and includes a total of 24 strategic outcome indicators, which have been identified as providing a high level picture of the strategic priorities for the Council and its partners in relation to children and young people. 15 out of the 24 targets are “tracker” targets.

Section B of this report provides a summary of additional indicators that underpin our work with children, young people and their families.

Annex 1 provides a summary table of all the performance information provided within this report. The strategic outcome indicators are highlighted in bold.

Achievements

- The take up of two year olds accessing free early learning continues to be strong, with an 84% take up, compared to the national take up of 70%
- The percentage of outstanding schools in Gateshead is 38.3%. This surpasses the national average (19%) and the north east average (21.4%).
- Provisional indications show that 96% of children offered a place at their preferred primary school has improved compared to last year with 96% receiving an offer at their first choice.
- Attainment 8 performance for Gateshead pupils at KS4 in 2016 equated to a high D grade (C=50) which is just below the national average and better than the regional average. The attainment of Looked after children was also better than the national and regional averages.
- The results for children attaining an “expected standard” at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 compare favourably with the national and regional averages, with all areas of attainment (reading, writing and maths) being exceeded.
- The number of Child Protection (CP) reviews held within timescale was 100% and the rate of CP plans lasting more than 2 years or more has improved with only 1.1% (5 children) compared to 3.1% (10 children) in 2015/16.
- Whilst the number of looked after children (LAC) remains high, the number who had 3 or more placements was within target, a total of 22 children (5.9%) having 3 or more placements. The stability of looked after children has also improved with 88.8% of children remaining in the same placement for more than 2 years. 98.8% of LAC had a review within timescale.
- The level of engagement in children’s centres at the end of December 2016 remains steady at 55% and meets the Ofsted requirement to engage with the “majority of families (51%).
- The 12 monthly rate of young people remanded to custody continues to decrease, with 0.18 per 1,000 10 to 17 year olds in custody, which is below both the regional (0.38) and national (0.37) averages.
- A total of 1545 families have been engaged with under the Troubled Families programme. To date a total of 459 families have had successful outcomes and payment by result has been claimed. As at the 31st March 2017 a total of 24% of the overall target has been achieved.

Areas for Improvement

- Overall performance for children’s social care remains positive although increasing demand continues to impact on high numbers of looked after children and children with protection plans. The rates for CP remain above the regional and national averages.
- There has been a sharp rise in permanent exclusions in Gateshead, in recent years, which is not duplicated nationally or in statistical neighbours. Latest figures show a rise from 0.19% to 0.26%. The LSCB will continue to explore with partners both the issues leading up to permanent exclusions and strategies that can be implemented to address the issues
- The number of pupils offered a 1st preference secondary school (88%) has reduced compared to last year (92%) and remains below the challenging target of 95%. Gateshead however, has performed favourably against the 2016 national average (84%).

- The latest information for the number of young people re-offending after 12 months continues to show a decline, with 29.1% re-offending with a frequency of 0.91 offences. However, these figures still demonstrate a challenge in reducing the rate of re-offending.
- Care leavers engaging in education, work, apprenticeships or training is challenging. A dedicated group has been set up with representatives from the LAC Team and Connexions to ensure we are persistent in improving outcomes for this group.
- The number of registered childminders has reduced. Currently, there are 127 registered child minders, a reduction of 22 from 2015. Public engagement and on-line marketing is carried out where possible and information is communicated to the current network and those making enquiries around the introduction of a £500 government start up grant.

Key Actions over the next 6 months

- Strengthen the Early Help Strategy to empower families, professionals from all sectors, including the voluntary sector and local communities to work collaboratively through an evidence based range of interventions to improve outcomes for our children and their families. This will also help divert families from more expensive specialist interventions.
- Work to understand the significant rise in child protection plans is ongoing, alongside the new planning framework which seeks to make plans smarter and define explicitly what success looks like in reducing the risk of harm to children.
- Connexions and REALAC Team to target and co-ordinate work to improve outcomes for Care leavers, including the development of opportunities for apprenticeships within the Council
- Education Gateshead will continue to focus work with schools around narrowing the gap in attainment for our most vulnerable young people
- A Task and Finish Group, set up to look at the increase in permanent exclusions will focus on individual pupils to identify issues and any recommendations arising to address them.
- The Early Years and Childcare Service will focus on preparing for the increase in the statutory free childcare entitlement, from 15 to 30 hours, for eligible 3 and 4 year old children (from working households - from September 2017).
- Ofsted/Care Quality Commission carried out a joint local area inspection of SEND services in Gateshead during week commencing 6 February 2017. The inspection outcome letter is not yet available but is expected to be published soon.
- Oversee the SEND Joint Commissioning arrangements ensuring key actions identified are delivered

Section A: Performance and analysis at the year-end 2016/17, covering the 24 strategic outcome indicators

In light of increasing demand and ongoing reductions, there is a positive picture overall.

In terms of the detail for the 24 strategic outcome indicators, where information is available, the picture is mixed, with performance on some key deliverables being maintained or improving, while others continue to pose a challenge.

Eleven of the indicators are new for the 2016/17 (of which one has no further update) reporting period, 8 of these are performing well, (% outstanding schools, KS1 results, Attainment 8 scores, Progression 8 scores and custody rates, NEET); 3 others highlight room for improvement (reducing the gap between attainment and progress 8 and children being offered their preferred choice in relation to admission to secondary school).

Outcomes for young offenders are continuing to improve, as well as the numbers of young people who are NEET. In terms of Education, those children achieving a good level of development at aged 5 continue to rise and although the way KS2 results are measured has changed, results show that they are again above the national average. The overall attainment for secondary pupils at GCSE has slightly improved again this year and remains steady in comparison to the previous year's results. For the first year of measuring progress 8 attainment, LAC and SEN have demonstrated favourable results, being better than regional and national averages. The results for those children accessing free school meals are lower than national and regional averages however.

For the three health related strategic outcome indicators (% of mothers smoking at the time of delivery, reducing excess weight and hospital admissions for self harm), no official update has been made available since the last reporting period. Further updates have not been provided for NEET and LAC supported in apprenticeships.

In terms of the indicator around numbers of children subject to a child protection plan, the significant increase has continued and the rate remains high. There has been an increase in child poverty rates, where the % of children living in low income families has increased and further work is needed to improve outcomes for care leavers.

Those strategic objectives which continue to pose a challenge will be subject to additional scrutiny through Group Management Team and where performance remains a concern escalated to portfolio holders.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG17: Reduce NEET rate (% not in education, training or employment as a proportion of 16-18 year olds)

Six monthly position 2014/15	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
7.0%* (Feb 2016)	4.8% (2020)	5.4% (Feb 2017)

*This was based on a different government measure

Following the academic year the data for this indicator becomes unreliable (the time between young people leaving school and moving on to training or employment), until it settles down in autumn when young people re-engage. This is recognised by the Department for Education which excludes this period from the official performance publications.

The official return figure for Gateshead is a three month average from November to January. Since September 2016 the count has seen two changes from previous years, required by Government. First the cohort covered is reduced by an academic year. Previously the count contained all those who were in academic years 12 to 14, covering ages 16 to some 19 year olds. The second is that the NEET and Not Known figure are to be combined together to give one composite figure, rather than a NEET figure that is then adjusted to accommodate the Not Known figure.

These averages in February 2017 were 4.0% NEET and 1.4% Not Known, giving a combined aggregate figure of 5.4%. Assuming that the government stays firm in its reporting, this 5.4% will be the official Gateshead return.

This compares well with both National figures of 6.7% (2.7% NEET and 4% Not Known) and North Eastern figures of 5.7% (4% NEET and 1.7% Not Known). As this is a new count, there are not official comparative figures to compare with from the previous year. Unofficial figures, however, suggest a slightly lower figure for Gateshead in 2016; that of 4.8% (3.3% NEET and 1.5% Not Known).

This figure is the result of a rise in the number of young people in academic year 13, who were NEET.

Connexions Gateshead has focused exclusively on vulnerable groups, including looked after children; those with special educational needs, young people who are NEET and those at risk of becoming NEET. The service has not provided careers support and guidance to the wider young people in school years 11, 12 and 13. The impact of this reduction is being mitigated through improved partnerships with schools. Other areas of careers guidance, such as considering college and university courses will be taken up by the schools. There has also been continued focus on improving working partnerships between council services, including a RAG rating procedure established with the LAC Team to support looked after children and more aligned service delivery with Families Gateshead.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG18: Increase the % of Gateshead schools rated Outstanding

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
32.4% (Baseline year)	Tracker – 40% - 2020	38%

This is a new strategic outcome indicator and it is the first time it is being reported for the 2016/17 period. The Gateshead figure at end of year 2016/17 compares favourably against both the national figure for 2016/17 which is 19.4% and the North East figure which is 21.4%.

The baseline figure at year end (2015/16) is 32.4% which also compares favourably against both the north east and national figures (20.9% and 19% respectively).

Each term the Council’s school inspection team assesses the performance of each school against the criteria identified in the School Intervention and Support Policy (SISP). The purpose of “SISP” is to identify issues early in schools and to take appropriate action to improve the situation. This process is well established in the service and with schools.

Considerable focus and resource is aimed at maintained schools that are not yet identified by Ofsted to be good schools. This includes the formation of a Governor Steering Group, links facilitated with outstanding schools, increased officer input and commonly, support from the regional HMI. Where appropriate, the LA works closely with the Dioceses. Schools in this situation are commonly making strong progress in improving standards of education as they move towards becoming “good” schools. However, Government Policy is increasingly aggressive in forcing schools to become Academies if they are deemed to be failing or “coasting”.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG19a: Maximise the % of children offered a place at their preferred primary school

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
95%	97% - 2020	96%

Preference data is not yet finalised for the 2017 intake, however it is expected that it will be in the region of 96% (applicants receiving an offer at their first preference school).

The DfE will publish national data for 2017 on 13th June, so we can see how Gateshead compares with its neighbouring LA's and also nationally following this date.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG19b: Maximise the % of children offered a place at their preferred secondary school

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
92%	95% - 2020	88%

The figure of 82.8% published for 2016 in the previous 6 month report is inaccurate as this excluded over 100 first preference offers for Emmanuel College which took Gateshead's first preference match to 90.5% for the 2016 intake. 98% of applicants received an offer at one of their preferred schools.

The number of pupils offered a 1st preference secondary school for 2017 is 88%. Although this is slightly lower than last year, a total of 98% of applicants did receive an offer at one of their preferred schools.

The DfE have not yet published the national statistics for 2017. When comparing the 2016 data to last year's national average of 84% receiving a 1st preference offer and 95% receiving an offer at one of their preferred schools, Gateshead performed favourably in both areas

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG20: Reduce the % of children in low income families (children in poverty)

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
20.5% (2013 figure)	Tracker indicator – 18.5% -2020	22.2% (2014 figure)

The indicator is based on the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure which shows the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of UK median income. It is based on an annual snapshot (in this case - August 2014).

These latest figures show an increase in the percentage of children in low income families in Gateshead (22.2%), in comparison to the previous year (20.5%). It is a similar picture both regionally and nationally, where the figures have also increased. Nationally, the average is 19.9% (18% the previous year) and the north east average is 24.3% (22.2% the previous year). Gateshead's figure is lower than the average for the north east. The highest rate of child poverty in the region is Middlesbrough (at 34.1%) and the lowest rate is Northumberland (18.4%).

Official sources from Government say that the rise is the result of an increase in the number of families earning 60% less than the median, not because families with children are getting poorer. The threshold below which a family is considered to have a low income went from £334 a week to £387 per week (for a couple with two children) between 2013 and 2014. For a single parent with two children, it went from £262 to £304 over the same time.

In Gateshead, poverty and the impact of welfare reform in particular, continues to be a major challenge. The wards that have the highest proportion of children in poverty are clustered in or around the central area of Gateshead and include: Felling at 44.9%, Deckham at 35.6%, High Fell at 34.7%, Lobley Hill & Bensham at 27.4% and Dunston & Teams at 26.5%.

In Gateshead, efforts to tackle child poverty are being focused on: financial inclusion, including working with Credit Unions, enforcement activity and prevalence of high interest loans. Work is also ongoing to mitigate the impact of welfare reforms (also a GSP agenda), supporting young people into education, employment and training, frontline support and advice via children’s centres and other initiatives through the Employment and Enterprise Growth and Job Centre Plus to get people into work.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG21: Educational Attainment: Increase the % of children achieving a good level of development at age 5 (This is the last time it will be reported)

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
63.7% (2015 outcomes)	N/A Awaiting Government announcement on future of this indicator	68.3% (2016 outcomes)

It is expected that official data will be released in late October/November 2017, therefore, at the time of writing the figure is provisional at this stage.

Work in relation to this indicator has focused on Securing better quality provision across the sector by identifying individual strengths and weaknesses in settings and working with staff to address them, developing the quality of assessment and the quality of leadership and management across the sector and providing training for childminders to address their individual weaknesses and build on their strengths. Many more are now being inspected as “good”, as opposed to being “satisfactory”.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22: Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1 in: PG22a) Reading, PG22b) Writing and PG22c) Maths.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22a: Reading - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
N/A New measure (academic year 2014/15)	90% (2020)	77% (academic year 2015/16)

The percentage of children reaching “the expected standard” in “reading” is now being used to record outcomes for children at KS1 from 2016. Previously, outcomes were recorded by level; therefore, this year’s performance is not comparable with previous years.

At 77%, Gateshead's figure compares favourably with both the national average of 74% and the regional average of 75%.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22b: Writing - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
N/A New measure (academic year 2014/15)	84% (2020)	69% (academic year 2015/16)

The percentage of children reaching "the expected standard" in writing is now being used to record outcomes for children at KS1 from 2016. Previously, outcomes were recorded by level; therefore, this year's performance is not comparable with previous years.

At 69%, Gateshead's figure compares favourably with both the national average of 65% and the regional average of 68%.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22c: Maths - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
N/A New measure (academic year 2014/15)	90% (2020)	74% (academic year 2015/16)

The percentage of children reaching "the expected standard" in maths is now being used to record outcomes for children at KS1 from 2016. Previously, outcomes were recorded by level; therefore, this year's performance is not comparable with previous years.

At 74%, Gateshead's figure compares favourably with the national average of 73% and is equal to the regional average.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG23: Increase the % of children attaining the "expected standard" at the end of KS2

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of year 2016/17
82% (academic year 2014/15)	85% (2020)	61% (academic year 2015/16)

From 2016, the percentage of children reaching "the expected standard" is now being used to record outcomes for children at KS2. Previously, outcomes were recorded by level; therefore, this year's performance is not comparable with previous years.

At 61%, Gateshead performed better than the national average of 53%, and better than the North East Regional average of 57%. This continues the trend for Gateshead to perform above the national average at KS2.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG24: Increase % of children achieving 5 or more A* - C GCSEs including Maths & English (the final year is 2016 and 2017 will be the first year of the new 1-9 grades)

End of year 2014/15	Tracker Target	End of year 2016/17
58.1% (2014/15 academic year)	59% (for 2015/16 academic year) N/A (final year) no 5 year target set	59% (academic year 2015/16)

It should be noted that performance measures changed in 2016, and that nationally, 5A*-C including English and Maths is no longer a key performance indicator. Instead, Attainment 8 and Progress 8 are reported.

The percentage attaining 5+A*-C grades, including English and maths is used here for purposes of comparison with previous years. At 59.0%, this is an improvement from the previous year. Attainment at GCSE has been consistently higher than the national average (in terms of 5+ A*to C with English and maths) over recent years.

The national figure is 53.5% and the regional figure is 56.3%.

The next 6 strategic indicators relate to new education measures which have been used from summer 2016:

Attainment 8 is a measure of a pupil's performance across 8 qualifications at Key Stage 4.

Progress 8 is a new secondary accountability measure, aimed at measuring the progress of pupils across a selected set of 8 subjects. This performance is linked to the Attainment 8 score, and is a measure of how much progress young people have made from their attainment at the end of Key Stage 2, to their attainment at Key Stage 4.

A score of zero means "average progress" has been made from KS2- KS4. Those with positive scores have made above-average progress and those with negative scores have made below-average progress.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG25: Raise Attainment 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4

End of year 2014/15	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
N/A New indicator	C (=50) or 5	49.9 (2015/16 academic year)

The attainment 8 score for 2016 in Gateshead is 49.9, which equates to a high **grade D** (C=50). Each grade attained is given a numerical score. These scores are used to calculate the average score across 8 subjects

This attainment score is very close to the national average of 50.1, and higher than the regional average of 48.7

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG26: Raise progress 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4

End of year 2014/15	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17 (2015/16 academic year)
N/A New indicator	-0.03	-0.15

The Progress 8 score in Gateshead for 2016 is -0.15. This is below the national average of -0.03 but above the regional average of -0.16.

Equality Objective: To increase levels of ambition and aspiration of vulnerable groups across Gateshead.

Strategic Outcome Indicator PG27: Reduce the gap between Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores of disadvantaged pupils/disadvantaged peers at KS4

Note: Disadvantaged pupils include those who are on Free School Meals (FSM), Looked after Children and service children.

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target <u>Attainment 8</u> Gap	End of Year 2016/17 (2015/16 academic year)
N/A New indicator	To be reviewed following 1 st publication of data	-14.6

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target <u>Progress 8</u> Gap	End of Year 2016/17 (2015/16 academic year)
N/A New indicator	To be reviewed following 1 st publication of data	-0.71

For disadvantaged pupils, the Attainment 8 score was 39.8, while that of non-disadvantaged pupils was 54.4; the gap is -14.6.

The national gap in Attainment 8 is -12.3, and the regional gap is -13.3. For disadvantaged pupils, the Progress 8 score was -0.64, while that of non-disadvantaged pupils was +0.07; the gap is -0.71.

The national gap in Progress 8 is -0.48 and the regional gap is -0.54.

There has been an attainment and achievement gap between Gateshead's disadvantaged (and FSM) young people and their non-disadvantaged peers for some years and the change in accountability measures shows that the gap is

proving stubborn to close, despite the project work that has been undertaken with secondary schools recently.

Equality Objective: To increase levels of ambition and aspiration of vulnerable groups across Gateshead.

PG28a: Attainment of vulnerable children. Raise progress 8 scores of Looked after Children at the end of KS4

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
N/A New indicator	0	-1.07

The Progress 8 score for Looked After Children in Gateshead for 2016/17 is -1.07. This is below the national average of -0.03 for all children but better than the England figure for Looked after Children of -1.14 and better than the North East Region average of -1.22.

PG28b: Equality Objective: Raise the Progress 8 scores of vulnerable children - children on Free School Meals (FSM)

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
N/A New Indicator	0.0	-0.77

The Progress 8 score for Gateshead's 253 children in receipt of free school meals is lower than the national figure of -0.46 for similar pupils and lower than the regional figure of -0.60.

There has been an attainment and achievement gap between Gateshead's FSM (and disadvantaged) young people and their non-disadvantaged peers for some years and the change in accountability measures shows that the gap is proving stubborn to close, despite the project work that has been undertaken with secondary schools recently.

PG28c: Equality Objective –Raise the Progress 8 scores of vulnerable children - children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17 SEN Support	End of Year 2016/17 Statement or Care Plan
N/A New Indicator	0	-0.24	-1.26

Gateshead had 161 children in receipt of SEN Support and 91 with a Statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

At -0.24 the Progress 8 score for the SEN Support group was better than the score of -0.38 for this group nationally and also better than the regional average for the group of -0.45.

At -1.26 the Progress 8 score for young people with a Statement or EHCP is not as good as the national average of -1.03 but is better than the regional average of -1.38. Gateshead ranks 3rd amongst the 12 regional neighbours for this group.

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW2: % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery (Rate of smoking at time of delivery per 100 maternities)

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
15.1% (2014/15 end of year)	9.9% - 2020	13.2% (2015/16 year end)

Data for 2016/17 is not available at this time and won't be released until around November 2017.

For the end of year 2015/16 Gateshead had 13.2% of mothers smoking at time of delivery, this was a 12.6% decrease on the total from 14/15 of 15.1%. The Gateshead rate for 15/16 is significantly worse than the England average (10.6%) but was considered significantly better than the North East (16.7%) and the CNTW rate (14.6%). Gateshead is progressing in the right direction to reach the target set for 19/20.

As a result of the merger of Gateshead CCG, Newcastle North and East and Newcastle West CCGs there is now no longer separate data published. This is currently being looked into to find out if there is a way of obtaining separate information for Gateshead but at this time there are no further updates.

Gateshead had the joint lowest rate of mothers smoking at time delivery alongside Newcastle and North Tyneside. The highest rate was South Tyneside at 21.8%

Equality Objective: To support vulnerable groups most at risk of poverty and deprivation

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW3: The number of eligible 2 year olds accessing their free early learning place)

End of year 2015/16	Equality Target	End of year 2016/17
80%	85% (academic year 2016/17) No target set yet for 2020	84%

The take up of the two year old free entitlement has been consistently above 80% in all 3 terms. The latest figures circulated show a national take up of 70%.

We anticipate, in some areas, a loss of some 2 year old places, with some providers preferring to offer 30 hour places for 3 and 4 year olds. This will be monitored carefully, however, with no further grants available, the LA will have no means of

supporting providers to ensure sufficiency.

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW4a: Reduce Excess weight 4-5 year olds -
excess weight =obese/overweight

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
23.1% (this covers the period 2014/15)	18.1% (2020)	22.3% (2015/16 end of year)

The data for 2016/17 for this indicator is not currently available and will be released with NCMP data sets in December 2017.

The latest figures for this indicator were released in Dec 16 and are for the 2015/16 year. In 2015/16, excess weight levels amongst reception aged children have decreased from 23.1% in 2014/15 to 22.3%, a decrease of 3.5%.

Gateshead is significantly better than the North East average of 24.5%, and is higher but is considered not significantly different to the England value of 22.1%. Gateshead is now at its second lowest prevalence for excess weight amongst 4-5 year olds in the last 7 periods of data.

As a result of this decrease Gateshead now has the lowest prevalence of excess weight in 4-5 year olds in the in the North East, the next highest is Northumberland with 23.0%. The highest rate is Middleborough with 30.1%.

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW4b: Reduce Excess weight 10-11 year olds -
excess weight =obese/overweight

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
34.0% (this covers the period 2014/15)	25% (2020)	37.9% (2015/16 End of Year)

The data for 2016/17 for this indicator is not currently available it will be released with NCMP data sets in December 2017.

The latest figures for this indicator were released in December 2016 and are for the 2015/16 year. In 2015/16, excess weight levels amongst Year 6 children have increased from 34.0% in 14/15 to 37.9%, an 11.5% increase on the previous year.

Gateshead is currently higher than the North East total of 37.0% and is significantly worse than the England rate of 34.2%.

As a result of this increase Gateshead are experiencing the highest prevalence of excess weight amongst Year 6 children in the last 6 periods of data (its highest level was 38.5% back in 2009/10).

Despite this sharp increase in prevalence Gateshead only has the 6th highest rate in the North East with Sunderland the highest at 39.8% and Northumberland the lowest at 33.0%.

This increase in Year 6 excess weight is not limited to just Gateshead; across the North East and England as a whole there was also a rise in the rate of prevalence.

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW6: Number of children with a child protection plan

End of year 2015/16	Target	End of Year 2016/17
68 per 10,000 271 CYP	54 per 10,000 – 2020	78.7 per 10,000 314 CYP

At the end of March, there were 314 children subject to child protection plans. This works out at a rate of 78.7 per 10,000 children. Of those currently on a plan, 5 have been on a plan for more than 2 years (1.6%).

This number is lower than that reported in September 2016, when 374 children were subject to a plan (93.3 per 10,000), however, it is higher than the March 2016 figure, which was 271 (67.1 per 10k). Over the 12 months, this represents a 13.6% increase in the rate of children on child protection plans.

The North East average rate for children on a child protection plan as at March 31 2016 stood at 59.6, the England average rate stood at 43.1, and Gateshead's statistical neighbour average stood at 56.07 (LAIT).

Equality Objective: To support vulnerable groups most at risk of poverty and deprivation

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW7: Work with families– National Troubled Families Programme - Number of families engaged by Families Gateshead

End of year 2015/16	Equality Target	End of Year 2016/17
1,054 families allocated to Families Gateshead under Phase 2	1930 families (claims by 2020) as set out by Government 402 by March 2017	1,545 families allocated under Phase 2

Families Gateshead (our local response to the Troubled Families Programme) has had a significant impact in the way families are supported and has greatly increased the numbers being supported through Common Assessment Framework (CAF) / Team around Family (TAF) interventions.

To date, there have been 1,545 families allocated under Phase 2 of the Troubled Families programme, which Gateshead began as an early adopter in September 2014. 742 continue to be open to services and in receipt of support, 391 are in monitoring where successful outcomes have been achieved but not yet sustained for sufficient time to claim Payment By Results (PBR).

To date, PBR has been claimed for 459 families under phase 2. The payment recognises where families have made significant and sustained progress against areas of identified need.

In terms of national targets for 2020, as of 31st March 2017 Gateshead has achieved 24% (459/1930) of the overall target compared to an equivalent national average of 18%.

Note: The figures add up beyond 1,545 as one family may be in more than one category

Equality Objective: Gateshead the Place – To improve the range of housing across Gateshead for vulnerable groups

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW8: Ensure young people leaving care and homeless are supported to have a safe place to live, appropriate and sustainable accommodation

End of year 2015/16	Equality Target	End of Year 2016/17
97.9%	100% (2020)	95.4%

For the purpose of the annual statistical return required by the Department for Education, data is collated for young people leaving care whose 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday falls within the collection period.

Out of the 151 care leavers that we were in touch with during 2016/17, 7 were in unsuitable accommodation. 5 of these young people are in custody, 1 is in hospital and sectioned under the Mental Health Act, 1 is temporarily staying between friends.

Please note that the DFE published calculation for this indicator includes cases we are not in touch with, last year this included 19 cases and this year it includes 9 cases. The above figures are based on who we are in touch with.

In the future, changes to our recording practice will provide a fuller picture of the position for all children in the cohort, including those who have not yet had a birthday.

Equality Objective: To increase levels of ambition and aspiration of vulnerable groups across Gateshead

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW9: Ensure young people leaving care are supported to be in education, employment, apprenticeships and training

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
57.6%	71% (2020)	50%

For the purpose of the annual statistical return required by the Department for Education, data is collated for young people leaving care whose 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday falls within the collection period.

There are 151 relevant and former relevant care leavers who we are in touch with that had their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday during the 2016/17 period. 75 (50%) are in some form of Education, Employment or Training (EET).

We know that 13 young people are not in EET due to parenting commitments and 14 as a result of disabilities.

An EET Group, reviews young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, the support needed via Connexions and REALAC to avoid this and a RAG rating system has been introduced. There is also a separate Apprenticeship sub group, which specifically explores opportunities to promote traineeships and apprenticeships for looked after/leaving care young people, including apprenticeships within the Council.

Please note that the DFE published calculation for this indicator includes cases we are not in touch with, last year this included 19 cases and this year it includes 10 cases. The above figures are based on who we are in touch with rather than those who are not.

Equality Objective: To promote healthy and inclusive communities
Strategic Outcome Indicator LW14a: Support for young carers

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of year 2016/17
180 new referrals	85 (2020)	174 new referrals

The Council's Children's Commissioning Service monitors the contract for the Young Carers Assessment Service which is provided by Carers Trust (Crossroads).

In 2016-2017 (April-March), there have been 174 referrals to the service, 147 assessments have been carried out and 91 re-assessments. 77 young people's cases have been closed to the service and 54 young people have been supported in other ways. Performance against the 2020 tracker target of 85 new referrals has been achieved.

In terms of outcomes for the 147 new assessments, 95 young people have been offered “Activities” through the Crossroads Service, 22 have been offered the Crossroads “High Intensity,” programme, 24 young carers have been offered the Crossroads “Under 8s” Service, 4 have been offered the Crossroads “Take a Break” Service and 2 have been referred to other support / signposting services.

Equality Objective: To increase levels of ambition and aspiration of vulnerable groups across Gateshead

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW16: Equality Objective - Promote positive emotional mental health amongst the school age population (Hospital admissions for self harm rate per 10,000) age 10-24

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
531.3 per 100,000 (for the period 2014/15)	To reduce	544.9 per 100,000 (2015/16 reporting period)

The 2019/20 target has been set ‘to reduce’ due to the erratic nature of the data set.

The 2016/17 data is not currently available and is anticipated to be published with the Child Health profiles in March 2018.

The available data is for 2015/16 and shows that this strategic indicator has gone up from 531.3 per 100,000 in 2014/15 to 544.9 per 100,000 in 2015/16 an increase of 2.6%. Gateshead is considered to be significantly worse than the England value (430.5) and is also significantly worse than the North East value (442.9). Gateshead has the 2nd highest rate of admissions for self-harm in the North East; the highest is Stockton on Tees (577.6) and the lowest is Newcastle (369.9).

The actual number of admissions has also gone up from 179 to 189. It is however important to bear in mind that the data for this indicator refers to episodes of admissions and not persons so it should **not** be taken that this was 189 different young people who were admitted.

Unfortunately due to the highly varying nature of the 5 years of available data it is currently not possible to infer any trends or the direction of travel of the data.

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW29: First time entrants to the youth justice system. (PNC (Police national Computer) rate - Calculated per 100,000 10-17 year olds in Gateshead)

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
373 per 100,000 (63 FTE) (Apr 2015 to Mar 2016)	398 per 100,000 (2020) 70 FTE	493 per 100,000 74 FTE (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)

In terms of official published data, the latest Youth Justice Board (YJB) data obtained via the Police National Computer (PNC), covers the period October 2015 to September 2016 and reports 74 First Time Entrants (FTE's) per 100,000, which is a rate of 439 per 100,000 of 10-17 year olds, a 54% Increase year on year. This is above the regional average for this period (391), and also higher than the national average (334).

Latest verified data for quarter 3 (Oct 2016 - Dec 2016) shows 17 First Time Entrants in Gateshead, (101 FTEs per 100,000), which is a 29% decrease from Quarter 2 (24 FTEs – 140 per 100,000). The FTEs in Quarter 3 were made up of 13 Males and 4 Females with a mean age of 14 years for the group.

Early analysis of the development of the Live Tracking Tool for young people known to prevention and triage interventions has shown it to be instrumental in supporting the low figures in Gateshead for first time entrants. The Child to Adult Violence work is now embedded across the team and we continue the partnership work developed with the NSPCC, and the development of the prevention and early intervention work with families within the Families Gateshead Programme.

Strategic Outcome Indicator LW30: Custody – Use of custody rate per 1000 of 10-17 years population

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	End of Year 2016/17
0.24 per 1,000 10-17 year olds (covers period Apr 2015 – Mar 2016)	To continue the low numbers of young people remanded to custody	0.18 per 1,000 10-17 year olds (covers period Jan 2016 - Dec 2016)

Tracker Target- on target

The latest YJB published data for Jan 2016 - Dec 2016 shows the 12 monthly rate of custody for Gateshead at 0.18 per 1000 10-17 year olds, which represents 3 custodial sentences in the 12 month period. This is below the regional average for this period (0.38) and also below the national average (0.37). There were no young people remanded to custody during this period.

Equality Objective: To increase levels of ambition and aspiration of vulnerable groups across Gateshead

Strategic Outcome Indicator CP10: Equality Target: Ensure young people leaving care are supported to have an opportunity in the Council for an apprenticeship

End of year 2015/16	Equality Target	2016/17
N/A	Dependent on detail of agreed final Government legislation	N/A New for 17/18

The Public Sector Apprenticeship Targets Regulations 2017 confirmed that at least 2.3% of the workforce in public sector bodies in England will have to be apprentices.

There have been 3 young people leaving care who have undertaken an apprenticeship within the Council.

Applications have been made for apprenticeships in The Housing Company.

Other exploration of work experience with traineeships is in progress.

Section B: Summary of additional indicators that underpin our work with children, young people and their families.

The following additional measures all contribute towards the overall picture of whether children are being given the best start in life.

Infant mortality (The definition of infant mortality is: infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 live births).

The latest period available covers 2013-15 (combined because of small numbers) the Gateshead rate is 4.3 per 1000, which this equates to 29 deaths. This is a 4.4% decrease on the previous period (4.5 per 1000).

The Gateshead rate is currently higher (but not significantly higher) than the North East rate for infant mortality at 3.6 per 1000 and the England rate at 3.9 per 1000.

From 2001-03 to the latest data set in 2013-15 the actual rate of Infant mortality has increased by 4.9% from 4.1 per 1000. The current period of data however, has continued a reversal of trend that was beginning to show a rise in the overall rate.

Initiation and Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 weeks

Breastfeeding Initiation

The latest data available is for the 2015/16 and has been published by NHS Digital but this has not been uploaded onto the Public Health Frameworks Tool, and consequently should be treated as provisional at this time.

To obtain the breastfeeding initiation rate maternity services are required to submit number of births, number of mothers initiating breastfeeding, and those not.

Gateshead's provisional initiation rate for breastfeeding for 2015/16 was 66.4%, a decrease on the figure at the end of 2014/15 which was 67.5%. The North East data is not available at this time as the NHS Digital publication was only by NHS Trust area, Gateshead was lower than the overall England rate of 74.3%.

If the provisional data is confirmed this would be the second period in a row that the breastfeeding initiation rate for Gateshead has gone down at the year-end figures. Quarterly data will now be available for this indicator; however we are currently waiting to see when the publications will be.

Breastfeeding prevalence 6-8 Weeks (The latest available data is year-end 2015/16 and is part of the new Health Visitor Metrics data set)

The 2016/17 data will not be available until it is published in July 2017.

There is currently only one year of data available and it is not possible to compare this data to previous years 6-8 week prevalence as the data is now collected through the 0-5 Health Visitor metrics data set and is not comparable to the previous collection method.

Gateshead breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks for 15/16 was 36.7%.

Gateshead is considered to be significantly worse than the England rate for 2015/16 of 43.2% but is significantly better than the North East rate of 31.4%. Gateshead has the 3rd highest rate in the North East for this; Newcastle has the highest at 46.6% and Redcar & Cleveland the lowest published rate at 23.9%. 2 LA's did not have a value published due to failed validations.

It is currently not possible to compare the difference between breastfeeding initiation and 6-8 week prevalence as the 15/16 initiation data has not been published yet.

Children's Centre Reach figures

Engagement rates for families accessing early childhood services remains well above the Ofsted requirement to engage with the majority of families with children under 5 within the borough of Gateshead of 51%. Engagement rate was 55.06% in Gateshead at the end of December 2016, this compares to 57.03% at the same time the previous year.

Children's Centre services have been remodelled, enabling the practitioners to focus on a range of targeted activities such as infant massage, fit and plus, caring for children and family support. During year ended 31st December 2016 these were accessed by 330 families and one to one family support was provided to 240 families (104 of these returning to universal support following intervention). Under the new model, universal capacity has been rebuilt using private and voluntary organisations and partner agencies (such as health and library and leisure services). Universal activities were accessed by 3,523 families of under 5s during year ended 31st December 2016.

The Positive Pathways Team has worked with 103 families during year ended 31 December 2016, and of these 57 cases were closed to the team; 40 of these families had their needs met, 3 moved out of the area, 3 closed due to dis-engagement and 11 required further involvement from the Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams.

Number of young people in drug treatment

At the end of the 4th quarter 2016/17 there were 119 new presentations to treatment (year to date Apr - Mar), this is up on the number for 2015/16 period of 117. The rolling 12 month figure of young people using the service at the end of quarter 4 for 16/17 is 149 which is also up on the figure 2015/16 of 145.

44% of all referrals in this period were from the Youth Justice system, 25% from Health and Mental Health services (the majority of these came from A&E, 19%), 13% from Children's and Family Services, 13% from Education services, 6% from Family, Friends and self and 1% from Substance Misuse services. This is quite different to the split nationally with 25% of all referrals in this period coming from the Youth Justice system, 28% from Education services, 19% from Children's and Family Services, 11% from Family, Friends, 10% from Health and Mental Health services, 3% Other referral source and 3% from Substance Misuse services.

On average 54% (down from 61% 15/16) of the service users spent between 0-12 weeks in treatment compared to 42% nationally. Gateshead had 2% (up from 1% in 15/16) of its service users spending more than 52 weeks in treatment compared to 8% nationally. Of the 119 new presentations to treatment 32% of these had

previously been in structured treatment which is higher than the national figure of 19%.

For quarter 4 2016/17 a planned exit is for the period between Oct 2015 and September 2016 with representations up to March 17. A representation into YP, Adult Drug or Adult alcohol treatment is counted as a representation. 73% of exits from the service were in a planned way (down on last year 75%), this was below the national average of 82%. For Gateshead, 5% of its planned exits re-presented to treatment within 6 months, which is the same as the national percentage.

Alcohol is the primary substance for treatment with 71% of clients citing this as the reason for treatment. Cannabis is the next highest with 66% which is down from 71% in 15/16. Nicotine is present in 57% of clients (a big increase on 15/16 where this was only 48%). We have seen a slight drop in the percentage that cited NPS as a reason for treatment with only 3% indicating this was the reason compared with 4% in 15/16. (Please note a user can cite more than one substance as a reason for treatment so percentages can add up to more than 100%)

This is in contrast to the to the national picture which indicates were 88% of young people were using cannabis, 49% using alcohol and only 17% using nicotine. This split shows the scale of the nicotine and alcohol problems among young people in Gateshead whilst showing that we could be starting to see increasing levels of nicotine use again.

Alcohol specific hospital admissions under 18s

Currently available data covers the period 2012/13 – 14/15 and is the latest published. **Gateshead rate was 54.7 per 100,000** a drop of 7.0% on the previous period. The rate was lower than the North East rate of 60.4 but still significantly higher than the England rate of 36.6.

This represents the 5th consecutive period of data that has shown a fall in the rate of U18 admissions to hospital as a result of alcohol and the trend would suggest that this is set to continue. The rate of 54.7 per 100,000 represents 66 admissions to hospital which is the lowest number we have seen since the publication of these figures

Gateshead had the 4th lowest rate of U18 admissions out of the North East local authorities with Newcastle being the lowest at 29.5 and Sunderland the highest at 92.9.

Teenage conceptions Under 18s

Currently available data covers year ending 2015. 2016 will not be available until March 2018. The 2015 End of Year performance is **27.8 under 18s conceptions per 1000 population**.

The data for 2015 has decreased from 2014, going from 34.7 (per 1000) to 27.8 (per 1000), a decrease of around 19.9% (this is similar to the trend displayed nationally).

Gateshead rate is the 2nd highest of the 5 Tyne and Wear authorities; the lowest being North Tyneside with 24.9 and the highest being Sunderland at 34.6. For Gateshead the rate for 2015 is lower than the Tyne and Wear (Met County) rate at 28.2 and lower than the North East rate of 30.2. It is higher than the overall England rate of 20.8.

From 2014 to 2015 there was a decrease in conceptions from 119 in 2014 to 90 in 2015. The current rate of U18 conceptions is now down to the lowest ever level based on published data (since 1998), this was after the rate in 2014 had increased by nearly 20% compared to 2013.

Permanent exclusions

Although nationally permanent exclusions are on the rise, in Gateshead the number of permanent exclusions at a secondary level has been well above the national average. In 2013/14 there were 24 secondary permanent exclusions in Gateshead; last year (2015/16) there were 70 secondary permanent exclusions. There were 2 exclusions from primary schools.

Over half of all of Gateshead's permanent exclusions are for persistent disruptive behaviour; 68% compared to the national rate of just under 33%. Of those permanently excluded 34 had no history of fixed term exclusion and of the 49 pupils permanently excluded for persistent disruptive behaviour 20 had no fixed term exclusion prior to their permanent exclusion.

A report has recently been presented to the LSCB on Permanent exclusions and next steps for improvement have been outlined with further considerations to be made, with completion expected by June 2017.

Fixed term exclusions

In the 2015/16 academic Year, Gateshead had 531 Fixed Term exclusions (34 in Primary Schools and 497 in Secondary Schools). This represents a decrease of 48 from the previous academic year (2014/15) which recorded 579 Fixed Term Exclusions (Primary 70, Secondary 509). This information has been taken from school census data.

The 3 exclusion reasons of Persistent Disruptive Behaviour (19.87%), Verbal Abuse against an Adult (18.39%), and, Other (32.51%) equated to 70.77% of the total exclusion reasons. The remaining 29.23% of exclusions were spread across the remaining 9 official reasons.

There were a further 78 Fixed Term Exclusions between Behaviour Support (62) and Special Schools (16).

Attendance/Persistent Absence trends for primary and secondary Schools

The attendance and absence table for the 2015/16 academic year have recently been released by DfE at the end of March 2017. The attendance data includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15, and, the number of sessions missed due to overall/authorised/unauthorised is absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

Please Note: The definition of persistent absence has changed for the 2015/16 academic year. Pupil enrolments missing 10 percent or more of their own possible sessions (due to authorised or unauthorised absence) are now classified as persistent absentees. Previously persistent absence was based on 15%, therefore previous year's figures are not comparable.

For Primary Schools in the 2015/16 academic year, the Persistent Absence rate was 7.2%, whilst the overall absence rate was 3.7% (Authorised Absence = 2.6%, Unauthorised Absence = 1.1%). This was down 0.1% from 3.8% in the previous year.

For Secondary Schools in the 2015/16 academic year, the Persistent Absence rate was 13.1%, whilst the overall absence rate was 5.3% (Authorised Absence = 3.9%, Unauthorised Absence = 1.4%). This was down 0.2% from 5.5% in the previous year.

Targeted Youth Service

The Service is still working across the five schools and have developed their work to support an increased number of pupils identified by each school as requiring additional support.

- 45 pupils have attained Asdan Activity Awards (LLOB and Heworth Grange)
- 72 pupils attended lunch time drop-ins that addressed various issues (transition, Health, Bullying, SRE)
- 170 pupils attended structured group-work sessions around Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Violence and Aggression, Anti-Social Behaviour, Positive Relationships and Domestic Abuse
- 142 pupils have benefitted from one-to-one support to help them deal with personal issues that impact on their schooling.

110 young people have been contacted and worked has developed through our Mobile and Outreach resource. This work has supported Community Safety and targeted work in areas that the Council and Partners have identified as requiring additional support and resources.

Between Oct 2016 and March 2017, 147 young people have gone missing from Care/Home on 515 occasions. AYSS have been able to carry out a "Return Interview" with over 52% of those young people and all information and intelligence gathered fed into the Missing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Group led by Northumbria Police.

Currently the Service has 55 open cases and has successfully supported a number of positive outcomes. Two young Care leavers have successful moved into Independent living and a small number made the successful transition into Education and Training

Play Service

Active Kidz holiday provision is delivered during spring and summer holiday periods. 294 children and young people booked to attend over the 8 week period in 2016. The majority attended on a number of days resulting in 2300 daily bookings. 64% of the bookings were referrals from service included Children with Disabilities, Family Intervention Team, Youth Offending Team, Safeguarding and Schools. 36% were via public booking.

FACETS (Families & Children Empowered through Targeted Services) holiday provision for children and young people with autism and associated complex needs is delivered during the spring, May, summer, October and February half term holiday

periods. FACETS is currently full with 28 children and young people attending regularly.

Active Teenz for young people with additional needs is delivered during spring, summer, October and February holiday periods. 19 young people attended the provision during the 7 weeks delivery in 2016/7.

The Play Service continues to deliver a variety of play provision including TOPS, Dads Group, Community Events, Outdoor Play and Community Outreach. There has been a significant increase in one to one outreach support for children with disabilities and those referred via Families Gateshead.

Rate of proven reoffending

The latest 12 month reoffending data from the Police National Computer (PNC) for April 2014- march 2015 sets Gateshead's Binary (number of young people who go on to reoffend) rate of offending at 29.1% and the Frequency (number of re offences committed per young person) rate of reoffending at 0.91. This represents a cohort of 127 young people, of whom 37 went on to reoffend and commit 115 re-offences.

Taking into account the continued reduction in First Time Entrants (FTEs) and the low numbers of young people in the cohort, the reoffending figures demonstrate the prolific nature of some young people and the challenges faced by the service to reduce their reoffending.

Referral rates leading to Child in Need (CiN) assessment

During the period of April 2016 to March 2017, there have been a total of 1849 referrals, of which 1761 have resulted in child in need assessments (95.2%). At the same time last year, there had been 2084 referrals, of which 2024 resulted in completed child in need assessments (97.1%).

% of children subject to a Child Protection plan for a 2nd or subsequent time

During the period of April 2016 to March 2017, out of the 397 children who became subject to a child protection (CP) plan, 65 children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (16.4%). This cohort included 1 group of 4 siblings, 9 groups of 3 siblings, 9 groups of 2 siblings and 19 individuals.

13 of 65 that had subsequent plans which began within 12 months of their previous CP plan ending (20%).

CP plans lasting more than 12/24 months

Current CP plans lasting more than 12 months

Of the CP plans open at the end of March 2017, there were 18.8% lasting more than 12 months. The target is less than 15%.

Ended CP plans lasting more than 24 months

During the period of April 2016 to March 2017, 353 CP plans have been ended, of which 4 had duration greater than 2 years or more (1.1%). Currently, there are 5 children on CP plans that have lasted for 2 years. At the same time last year, 323 plans had been ended, of which 10 had duration greater than 2 years or more (3.1%).

% of CP reviews held within timescale

Of the 242 children who have required reviews in between April 2016 and March 2017 who have been CP for at least three months and are currently CP, all have received their reviews within timescale.

Numbers of looked after children

At the end of March 2017, there were 377 looked after children in Gateshead. The rate of looked after children per 10,000 stood at 94, which remains above the regional average of 84 per 10,000 and higher than the national average of 60 per 10,000. There are seven local authorities with higher levels of Looked After Children in the North East.

% children living continuously in the same placement for 2 years (This is not a cumulative indicator, which means it is based on a current figure at the end of the period, rather than a total figure built up during the year)

During the period of April to March 2017, 103 children have been in their placement for at least 2 years out of the 116 children who have been looked after for 2 and a half years or more (88.8%). At the same time last year there were 104 out of 121 (86%).

% of LAC with 3 or more placements

During the period of April to March 2017 there were 22 Looked after children (LAC) who have had 3 or more placements. The total number of LAC at the end of the period was 377 (5.9%). At the same time last year there was 26 / 344 LAC who had 3 or more placements (7.6%).

A number of initiatives are ongoing to ensure the focus on providing high quality stable placements is maintained including permanence practice, training for foster carers that support placement stability such as behaviour management and the payment for skills fostering initiative.

Looked after Children (LAC) reviews held within timescale

Of the 326 eligible children at the end of March 2017, 322 had a review completed in timescale (98.8%). A total of 725 reviews were completed during this time. At this point last year, 325/328 (99.1%) reviews were completed within timescale.

Gateshead's figure remains higher than the national average of 91%. Work is ongoing to ensure that children and young people are sufficiently engaged in their LAC reviews. Overall, performance is strong in terms of LAC reviews and the use of MOMO has improved young people's engagement with their review.

Adoption children whose placements started within best interest dates end of year figure

During April to March 2017, 23 adoptions took place, of which 19 were within the best interest date timescale (82.6%). At the same point last year there were 26 adoptions, of which 18 were within time (69.2%).

Adoption – average time between placement order being granted and child being matched in days

This indicator is published on the National Adoption Scorecard using three year averages. The indicator looks at the time taken for the local authority (LA) to match a child to its adoptive family once the court has granted a placement order.

The 2013-2016 average was 208 days, the England average for this period was 226 days.

Multi agency working FamiliesGateshead

566 children in Gateshead have engaged in a new Common Assessment (early help) in the period October 2016 - March 2017. A more accurate representation of multi-agency early help delivery in Gateshead is the number of children currently being supported by a Team Around the Family (TAF). As of 31st March 2017, this equates to 1186 children.

It is quite normal for the number of active Teams Around the Families to be significantly higher than the number of registered Common Assessments as this figure incorporates cases that have stepped down from statutory social care.

Each TAF will be determined by a multi-agency support plan and will identify a Lead Practitioner to be the first point of contact for the family.

Family Intervention Team (FIT)

The reporting period April 2016 to March 2017 recorded 1087 children being referred to FIT. The main source of referrals continues to be Referral & Assessment (524) - 48.2% of all referrals. The majority of these (436 or 40.1%) are social work duty referrals, while referrals after assessment (88) account for 8.1%. Education is the next largest referral source (335 or 30.8%), while health services refer 113 children (10.4%). A significant proportion of health referrals (41) originate from the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS). Safeguarding & Care Planning referred 48 children (4.4%).

Referrals from Tier 3 account for 572 children (52.6%) of all referrals to FIT. The remainder of referrals originate from a wide range of providers, including probation, housing, early years, voluntary sector and children's centres.

FIT closed the cases of 540 children (67.3%) without the need for further action i.e. needs were met, while 41 children (5.1% of all closures) were escalated to Referral & Assessment. A total of 50 were (6.3%) were transferred to Safeguarding & Care Planning. FIT continues to take significant volumes of casework with increasing complexity and risk evident in referrals.

FIT have delivered evidence-based group parenting interventions to 141 parents and carers in 2016/17, with 125 (89%) completing a full programme. FIT also secured national recognition from the Association of Psychological Therapies (APT) in December 2016 for the outcomes achieved by the ADHD Parenting Factor programme.

FIT have led and delivered the national (DWP) Local Family Offer pilot to test new approaches to improving couple and co-parenting relationships, including up to £89K for workforce development, new couple therapy and group pathways and a first 'relationship directory' for the Local Authority.

Early Years and Childcare Service

The Ofsted grades of registered childcare provision compare favourably with national and regional statistics. Nationally, 93% of early years provision is good or outstanding and 94% in the north east region. In Gateshead, of providers with Ofsted ratings (i.e. not those recently registered), 100% of day nurseries and pre-schools are good or outstanding , as are 98% of out of school clubs and 92% of childminders.

A particular concern for us relates to the reduction in the number of registered childminders. Currently, there are 127 registered child minders, a reduction of 22 from 2015. Nationally, numbers of registered childminders has fallen by 23% since August 2012. A recent briefing held for those interested in becoming childminders in the past year attracted only four attendees. This is a challenge, particularly, as childminders could work in partnership with other providers, for example, schools, to provide the 30 hours extended entitlement.