

**Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
3 December 2015**

**Council Plan - 6 Monthly Update of Delivery and Performance 2015/16**

Portfolio	Children and Young People
Portfolio Member:	Children and Young People – Councillor Angela Douglas
OSC Chair	Councillor Malcolm Brain
Lead Officer	David Bunce , Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing & Learning
Support Officer	Ann Day , Service Manager, Children’s Commissioning

**Introduction**

1. 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.
2. ‘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)
3. 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.
4. **Section A** of this report provides the 6 month performance update and analysis for 2015/16 and includes a total of 14 strategic outcome indicators. The strategic outcome indicators 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.
5. Of the 14 indicators strategic outcome indicators, 13 are normally scheduled to be reported on at the 6 month stage. Child Poverty is normally reported at the end of year; however, the figures have been released early this year and are included in this report. For 4 of the indicators being reported, the data is provisional/unvalidated at this stage and therefore subject to change. For two of the strategic outcome indicators, no further update is available since the last performance report (F03- excess weight in primary school in year 6 and Adoption – average time between placement order being granted and child being matched).

6. The Children and Families Social Care Service has continued to experience high numbers of families requiring assessment and support. The service has performed well against the majority of indicators and while numbers of children subject to child protection plans under the category of neglect are still high, there has been a reduction since March 2014. There has been a slight downturn in some of the remaining performance indicators but most remain within acceptable tolerance levels and remain under close scrutiny through weekly reporting and monthly performance clinics.
7. In terms of early intervention, there has been a steady increase in the number of families who are being worked with through Gateshead's multiagency approach to early intervention and the CAF/TAF approach. This has been increasingly key to our work with those families identified as part of the FamiliesGateshead programme.
8. **Section B** of this report provides a summary of additional indicators that underpin our work with children, young people and their families.
9. **Annex 1** provides a summary table of all the performance information provided within this report. The strategic outcome indicators are highlighted in bold.

10. **Achievements**

- 64% of children achieved a good level of development at age 5, exceeding the target of 59% and improving on previous years (57% last year and 34% in 2013. We are 2% closer to the national average of 66%.
- There has been a 14.3% decrease in children subject to a child protection plan over the last six months.
- New "neglect" guidance has been developed and disseminated across the service, providing a consistent definition of neglect across all levels of intervention and providing guidance for staff teams on how to identify "neglect".
- Over 700 taxi drivers and call handlers have received training to help recognise children at risk of being sexually exploited. Safeguarding training is now compulsory for taxi drivers applying for their first licence and those renewing them.
- 100% of our schools have signed up to a new project, Operation Encompass, and will receive regular information from the police to help support and protect young people who have witnessed domestic violence in the family home.
- Gateshead College has received an "outstanding" rating from Ofsted, one of only 2 FE colleges to receive this rating in the latest academic year. The college is exceeding national targets for its performance, at 8.2% above the national average.
- The holiday hunger programme "Fill the Holiday Gap" offered daily hot meals to children who normally receive free school meals, benefiting

over 1500 children and 500 parents. The All School Parliamentary Group has recommended other local authorities to resource and support such programmes.

- The expansion of Eslington School (rated outstanding) by Ofsted, from September 2015, has created a split site school and resulted in an additional 30 specialist school places for children from 4-11 years (previously 5 years).
- At September 2015, out of 83 schools inspected in Gateshead, 28 are outstanding (34%), 44 are good (53%), 10 require improvement (12%) and 1 is inadequate (1%) –(*report by Ofsted at September 2015 in terms of the most recent overall effectiveness judgements for schools inspected*)
- Missing children and young people referrals are now managed by the LAC Admin Team, creating a more robust system.
- Active Kidz activities attracted 375 children and young people during the spring and summer holiday periods. The majority attended on a number of days resulting in 3,150 daily bookings. 70% were referrals from Social Care and 30% from public bookings.
- Immunisation take up in Gateshead continues to be above the national average.
- The new model for the Healthy Schools Programme has been launched, which will include a core offer for all schools and an optional supplementary offer. The programme will include a focus on emotional health and wellbeing as well as tackling childhood obesity and reducing risk taking behaviour.
- A dedicated worker to manage all Looked-after Children has been created within YOT.

## 11. **Areas for Improvement**

- Work has begun on the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of child protection.
- We have developed a Care Leavers Accommodation and Support Panel (CLASP), (between Housing Services and the LAC Team), to provide a more structured and consistent approach to the accommodation needs of care leavers.
- As smoking during pregnancy has been identified as probably the number one cause of adverse outcomes for babies, health visiting services play a key role in supporting women and their families to stop smoking during the antenatal period. Discussions, where relevant, are held at each visit.
- While the latest locally collated data for NEET is showing an improvement, there remains a significant difference in NEET figures across the academic ages, with young people at year 14 (18/19 year olds), proving to be the most difficult to tackle. A member of the Connexions team has now specific responsibility to reduce 18+ NEET young people. The improvement of partnership working is a key focus.
- Numbers of children admitted to hospital as a result of self harm continue to be of concern. Although there are some positive signs; from

2013/14 to 2014/15 Gateshead Local Authority saw a 15.4% drop in the number of 10 to 24 year olds being admitted for self-harm (214 to 181). Based on the current number of patients having been admitted for 2015/16 there may be a 7.2% decrease in admissions in comparison to 2014/15.

- Provisional figures suggest an improvement in the number of looked after children achieving A\*-C in English and maths (from 8.57% to 20%), however, this remains an area of challenge.
- Infant mortality figures are showing a 6.8% increase from the previous reporting period and are higher than both the north east and the national figure.
- Persistent absence in primary schools has risen from 1.6% to 2.87%.
- Although the latest statistics suggest that relative poverty is decreasing, child poverty in Gateshead continues to be above the national average.
- Under 18 conception rates are worse than the England average.
- While there has been a reduction in under 18 hospital admissions due to alcohol specific conditions, this still remains higher than the national average.
- Hospital admissions due to substance misuse is significantly higher than the national average; this will be monitored in order to examine trends.
- Mothers smoking at the time of delivery remains above the England average rate.
- Rates of breastfeeding initiation are below the national average, however regionally Gateshead is performing well.
- A&E attendances of 0-4 year olds have increased over the last three years and are currently higher than the national average. In particular there has been an increase in hospital admissions due to asthma. While this is usually a result of emergency admissions the increase in respiratory problems needs to be examined further.
- At 68.2% breast feeding rates continue to be significantly lower than nationally (74.3%) and have decreased by 1% since the last reporting period.
- Workloads and capacity have been a challenge over the last 6 months for the Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams and the service has experienced a higher level of staff turnover which has created some disruption in the service. Recruitment has been largely successful with new social workers joining the service in the near future.

## 12. **Key Actions over the next 6 months**

- Undertake a review of how child protection works in Gateshead Council.
- Focus on 0 to 19 as part of the transformation and integration agenda. This will include the transfer of the 0-5's public health commissioning responsibility to the Council from October 2015 and a number of reviews including healthy weight in childhood (as part of the Integrated Wellness approach).

- Prevent Training to be delivered in all schools, addressing approaches to extremism, cyber crime and other forms of exploitation
- Preparation for the Ofsted single framework (SIF) inspection which inspects local authority services for vulnerable children. It brings together into one inspection child protection, services for looked after children and care leavers and local authority fostering and adoption services. The service is working closely with other authorities that have been inspected.
- A CSE regional conference is to be held at Gateshead College on 20 October 2015, with 125 places allocated for Gateshead staff.
- Gateshead will be participating in the Step up to Social Work and Frontline programmes in 2016. 7 student social workers will join the service for a year's intensive training to achieve their social work qualification. The aim is for high calibre graduates to develop into outstanding practitioners who will add to the quality of the workforce in Gateshead.
- LSCB will conduct an Inquiry into child sexual exploitation and the effectiveness of the response in Gateshead.

### **Section A: Performance and analysis for the first six months of 2015/2016 for the 14 strategic outcome indicators**

13. The overall picture is that for the 14 strategic outcome indicators where information is available, albeit provisional, the pace of improvement is good, with performance on most key deliverables being maintained or improving. In light of increasing demand and ongoing service reductions this shows a positive picture.
14. 7 of the indicators have met the target set and are improving on performance from previous reporting periods.
15. 2 strategic outcome indicators relating to health have not met the target include the % mothers smoking at the time of delivery which has slightly increased since last year and hospital admissions for self harm, which has seen a significant increase.
16. 2 of the targets relate to GCSEs (including the 3 equalities targets measuring GCSE including maths and English). Although the data is provisional at this stage, there has been a slight decrease in the attainment of 5A\* - Cs amongst pupils overall. The results for those vulnerable pupils are particularly disappointing, including those accessing free school meals and those with SEND which are also showing a decrease in performance. While results for children who are looked after have improved, their overall achievement rate is still low.
17. For 2 further strategic outcome indicators, no official update has been available (Data for excess weight in year 6 at primary school is due to be released in December 2015 and timeliness of adoptions data will be released in the next couple of months).

18. 1 strategic outcome indicator around NEET figures is showing improvement although the data has been collated locally at this point and the official figures are not directly comparable.
19. The strategic outcome indicators which have not met their targets will be subject to additional scrutiny through Group Management Team and where appropriate, LSCB and the Children's Trust.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F01: Prevention of ill health: pre natal outcomes - % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery (Rate of smoking at time of delivery per 100 maternities)**

<b>End of year 2014/15</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2015/16 6 month position</b>
<b>15.0%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>15.1 (for year ending 2014/15)</b>

20. **Target not met**  
For the end of year 2014/15 the figure for mothers smoking at the time of delivery was 15.1%. This was a 0.7% increase on the total of 15.0% in 13/14. The Gateshead rate for 14/15 was significantly worse than the England average (11.4%) but was better than the North East (18.0%) and the CNTW rate (15.4%) (Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear). It is not possible to predict at this point in time whether this slight increase is demonstrating a change in the previous direction of trend which has seen the rate of smoking at time of delivery decreasing since 2009/10.
21. These end of year figures provide the latest data available for Gateshead. As a result of the merger between Gateshead CCG, Newcastle North and East and Newcastle West CCGs, there is now no longer separate data published. This is currently being looked at to find out whether there is an opportunity to obtain separate information for Gateshead.
22. Please note that the figures quoted for the North East are un-validated. NHS England does not publish quarterly totals for the North East. As a result of the changes from PCT and SHA areas to CCG and Area Teams the North East has now been replaced by Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear area team (CNTW).
23. As smoking during pregnancy has been identified as probably the number one cause of adverse outcomes for babies we continue to work on the Babyclear programme which involves referring women to smoking cessation services if the 12 week baby scan records a particularly high CO2 reading. Our Health visiting service also plays a key role in supporting women and their families to stop smoking during the antenatal period with discussions taking place, as relevant, at every visit.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F02: Readiness for school: Children achieving a good level of development at age 5 (Early Year Foundation Stage) EYFS profile changed in 2012)**

End of year 2014/15	Target	2015/16 6 month position
57%	59%	64%

**24. Improving – Target met**

Outcomes at the end of reception for 2015 are positive and indicative of a three year improving trend. The proportion reaching a good level of development has improved to 64%, an increase of 7% from 2014 (57%). The official national average figure has just been released and at 66% this shows that we are 2% closer to the national average than in 2014. The national figure has also improved from 64% in 2014.

25. Outcomes improved in all areas of learning and development and although boys’ attainment is still below that of girls, the gap between them in literacy (where there was the biggest gap) has reduced by 2%.

26. Our strategies to support improved outcomes have included:

- Training focused on ensuring high aspirations and challenge for all children
- Support to develop the quality of those teaching young children including their skills in the prime areas of learning and development ( the building blocks for future success)
- Further development of the leadership within Early Years provision to ensure that we are building capacity within the sector.
- A dedicated programme of training for newly qualified teachers in the Early Years.
- The production of resources to support effective assessment within the Early Years.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F03: Reduce Excess weight in primary school children in Year 6 (excess weight defined as a combination of “overweight” and “obese” from 2014/15 onwards)**

End of year 2014/15	Target	2015/16 6 month position
37.2% (this covers the period 2013/14)  Data not comparable from 2013/14 to 2014/15	34.8%	No further update

**27. No further update**

The data that is currently available for children at year 6 is for the 2013/14 academic year which was reported in the year end performance report (2014/15). The data for 2014/15 for this indicator is not currently available; it

will be released with NCMP data sets in Dec 2015. We have completed a five year target setting exercise and have established a set of challenging targets up to 2018/19 to tackle this challenging area of work.

28. In terms of children at reception stage, there has been no change to the data available for excess weight at school age reception (excess weight defined as a combination of overweight and obese (from 2014/15 onwards). The data that is currently available is for the 2013/14 academic year which was officially released in Dec 2014 and was reported in the last performance report. The new NCMP data for 2014/15 will not be available until Dec 2015.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F04: Educational attainment primary (previously % pupils achieving level 4 in English and Maths at key Stage 2)**

End of year 2013/14	Target	2015/16 6 month position
80% (academic year 2012/13)	82%	82% (provisional for academic year 2014/15)

29. **Target met (although provisional at this stage)**  
Performance at Key Stage 2 has been strong over time and remains so. Although provisional at this stage, figures indicate that the target has been met; Gateshead has improved performance by 2% from the previous year and remains above the national average of 80% and the north east average of 81%.
30. Seven primary schools were inspected by Ofsted during this period (spring and summer terms). Three were judged to be good, three were judged as “requires improvement” and one remains in special measures (Following HMI’s visit to the school there is some optimism that the school may be taken out of special measures during the autumn term). 1 school improved its overall effectiveness rating from the previous inspection, 5 schools maintained the overall effectiveness rating from the previous inspection and 1 school received a lower overall effectiveness rating from the previous inspection.
31. Our achievable ambition is that all schools are good or outstanding schools in Gateshead. Considerable focus and resource is being aimed at maintained schools that are not yet identified by Ofsted to be good schools. Work includes forming Governor Steering Groups, facilitating links with outstanding schools, increasing input from officers and support from the regional HMI. Where appropriate, the LA works closely with the local church dioceses. In general, schools in this situation are making strong progress in improving standards of education as they move towards becoming “good” schools.



**Strategic Outcome Indicator F05: Educational attainment secondary (% pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\* - C or equivalent including Maths & English)**

End of year 2013/14 (2012/13 academic year)	Target	2014/15 6 month position (provisional for 2013/14 academic year)
58.5%	59%	57.4%

**32. Target not met (provisional at this stage)**

The results reported here are provisional results and show a slight decrease from the previous year. As DFE Performance measures for KS 4 changed significantly in 2014, figures are not directly comparable with the years before that. However, under the new accounting rules Gateshead has performed above the England average of 52.8% and the north east average of 54.4%.

33. One secondary school was inspected by Ofsted during this period (spring and summer terms) and was judged as “requires improvement”, overall but in the category of “leadership and management” and “behaviour and safety of pupils”, it was judged to be “good”.

34. The percentage of good or outstanding secondary schools in Gateshead, at 75%, is higher than the national average of 68.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F06: NEET (% not in education, training or employment as a proportion of 16-18 year olds)**

End of year 2013/14	Target	2014/15 6 month position
7.6% (official January 2015) 8.9% (July 2014)	7.0%	6.6% (July 2015) (local data)

**35. Improving (however, target figure and 6 monthly reporting are not directly comparable)**

The last reliable data set produced by Connexions is for 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015. Following the academic year the data becomes unreliable (the time between young people leaving school and moving on to training or employment), until it settles down in late October when young people re-engage. This is recognised by the Department for Education which excludes this period from the official performance publications.

36. This period has seen a continued decline in both NEET and “Not known” figures. NEET stood at 7.1% on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and had reduced to 6.6% by end of July 2015 (401 young people). This compared with 8.9% for the same period last year. Similarly, the Not Known figure showed a continued decline, reducing from 3.6% on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 2.7% at the end of July 2015. This compared to 6.2% the previous year.

37. There remains a significant difference in the NEET figures across the academic ages, which is proving difficult to tackle. Academic Year 12 (16/17

year olds) had a NEET figure of 2.8%, whilst Year 13 (17/18 Yr. olds) showed a higher rate of 6.2%. However, at academic Year 14 (18 /19 yr olds), the figure stands at 10.5%, over half the total figure. This compares favourably with the previous year when it was 13.7% but still represents over half of the NEET group.

- 38. A variety of work has been undertaken with NEET young people by Connexions and the Adolescent Youth Support Service, including personal mentors, door knocking exercises and provision of a small budget to enable barriers to the labour market to be challenged.
- 39. A member of the Connexions team has now taken responsibility to look at reducing 18+ NEET young people and will be aiming to create better partnerships and aligned working between services within the council and with external partners.
- 40. Challenges for the future will be to counter the fragmentation and decline in work based learning programmes within Gateshead, and the ending of the 16-17 year old Youth Contract (N-Gaged) on 31st August 2015. Both of these will have a detrimental effect upon progressions of the more 'vulnerable' young person.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F07: Life chances: First time entrants to the youth justice system. (Calculated per 100,000 10-17 year olds in Gateshead)**

End of year 2014/15	Target	2014/15 6 month position
74 FTEs  462 per 100,000 (provisional)	70 FTEs 398 per 100,000	10 FTEs (provisional) 57 per 100,000

- 41. **Improving (quarterly targets met)**  
In terms of official (published data), the latest YJB data obtained via PNC (Police National Computer ), covers the period April 2014 –March 2015) and reports 74 FTEs per 100,000, which is a rate of 462, a 9.8% reduction year on year. However, it is higher than the national average of 402 per 100,000.
- 42. The latest provisional figure for quarter 2 (July – September 2015), shows a total of 87 FTEs (per 100,000 of 10017 year olds), which equates to 15 young people. This is a 50% increase from quarter 1 (10 young people and 57 per 100,000) but is within our target for quarter 2 of 16 FTE's (91 per 100,000).
- 43. This quarter the FTEs were made up of 12 males and 3 females, with a mean age of 15 years for the group. One young person was a looked after child. The leading categories were "theft and handling" (19%), followed by "criminal damage" at 15%.

44. The service continues to identify children and young people on the cusp of offending or involved with anti-social behaviour. The continued reduction in FTE is being achieved through the development and expansion of the current Prevention Programme within YOT, work with schools and the new Child to Adult Violence work and Pre-pubescent Sexualised Behaviour work that has been identified as a trend in current caseloads. There has also been work undertaken around development of new partnerships to ensure children and young people are referred in a timely and appropriate manner.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F08: Early Intervention – reducing the numbers of children subject to a child protection plan (numbers with child protection plans per 10,000)**

End of year 2014/15	Target	2014/15 6 month position
64.2 per 10,000	62 per 10,000	55.1 per 10,000

45. **Improving and on target**  
The number of children subject to a child protection plan increased significantly during 2013/14 to 276 at the end of that year, which was a 68% increase over the course of the year. The figure remained fairly stable over the first quarter of 2014/5, with 277 children subject to a CP plan at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014, at the end of September 2014 this had risen to 287 and at the end of December 2014 it was 300. This was the highest figure experienced in Gateshead and made the authority a statistical outlier. However, by March 2015, the figure had fallen to 258 (64.2 per 10K). The reduction, has, in part, been achieved by the reduction of 14 children who were subject to double protection. By the end of September 2015, this figure has further reduced to 221 children (55.1 per 10K). While at 55.1 per 10,000 children, Gateshead remains significantly higher than the 2013/14 national average of 42.1 per 10,000, it is now lower than the regional average of 59.3 reported in 2013/14.
46. Those children subject to a plan as a result of neglect continue to remain the highest proportion at 67%; however, this has reduced from the end of March 2014 when it was 73.9%. Categories given as the reason for the CP plan are an “on the day” count and thus provide a snapshot picture.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F09: Safeguarding – % of children subject to a Child Protection plan for a second or subsequent time**

End of year 2014/15	Target	2015/16 6 month position
11.3%	15%	9.9 %

47. **Improving and on target**  
During the period of April to September 2015, out of the 131 children who became subject to a child protection (CP) plan, 13 children became the

subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (9.9%). This cohort includes 1 group of 4 siblings, 2 groups of 2 siblings, and 5 individuals. 8 of these cases began their current CP plan over 2 years from when their previous CP plan ended. At the same time last year, 25 out of 153 children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (16.3%). Nationally, this figure stands at 15.8% and in the north east 12.6% (2013-2014 CIN Census).

48. Performance remains strong in this area. While there will always be changes in circumstances that make it appropriate for a child to become subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time, a low rate is an indication that CP plans are effective at providing support to families so that once ended they result in a safe and stable situation for the child.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F10: Looked After Children - % 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)

End of year 2014/15	Target	2014/15 6 month position
78.8%	78%	81.06%

49. **Improved and on target**  
During the period of April to September 2015, 107 children have been in their placement for at least 2 years out of the 132 children who have been looked after for 2 and a half years or more. At the same time last year there were 95 out of 123 children (77.2%).
50. A number of initiatives are ongoing to ensure that 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.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F11: Adoption – average time between placement order being granted and child being matched in days**

End of year 2014/15	Target	Six month position
208 days	<181 days	No further update

51. **Awaiting latest information to assess against Target**  
So far this year we have had 11 adoptions with an average of 240 days.
52. This indicator is published on the National Adoption Scorecard. We are waiting for the most recent figures to be published from Government. 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 figure is based on a 3 year average.

53. The average time between entering care for these 11 children and moving in with an adoptive family is 530 days (based on a 3 year average).
54. The focus for the adoption service over the last 6 months has been the implementation of the ASF (Adoption Support Fund) and the beginning of discussions and planning for Regionalisation of Adoption Services. The Adoption Support Fund was launched in May and the service has made some successful bids to the fund to provide therapeutic services to adopting families. In addition, an early bid has been presented to the DfE in collaboration with 3 neighbouring local authorities, proposing a model of regionalised delivery of adoption services. Further work is needed in respect of the proposal to be accepted by DfE.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F12: Reduce child poverty rates (% less than 60% average income and out of work benefits)**

End of year 2014/15	Target	End of year 2014/15
21.4% (2012 figure)	21% (to reflect 2013 figure)	20.5% (2013 figure)

55. **Improving and target met**  
New data was made available in October 2015 (a month earlier than expected).
56. The indicator is based on the number of children living in homes with 60% less than the median income
57. The latest figures for child poverty in Gateshead show that 20.5% of children were judged to be living in poverty (snapshot at August 2013 latest figures). This figure shows a fall in the number of children living in poverty from the previous year at 24.1% and it also represents a reduction in child poverty from a high of 24.8% in 2007. The gap between Gateshead and England has narrowed very slightly over this period, with the current England average at 18%. Gateshead's figure is lower than the average for the north east of 22.2%. The highest rate of child poverty in the region is Middlesbrough (at 31.8%) and the lowest rate is Northumberland (16.8%).  
In Gateshead
58. Poverty and the impact of welfare reform in particular, continue to be a major challenge in Gateshead. The wards that have a high proportion of children in poverty are clustered in or around the central area of Gateshead and include: Felling at 40.2%, Deckham at 33.8%, High Fell at 32.8% and Dunston & Teams at 27.8%.

59. In Gateshead efforts to mitigate against the effects of welfare reform are continuing through our work on financial inclusion; the Families Gateshead programme; and supporting young people into education, employment and training. Other initiatives are through the Employment and Enterprise Growth and Job Centre Plus to get people into work and tackle low wages. We are also trying to break the cycle of poverty through targeted support to improve the attainment of children in areas of disadvantage at the early year's foundation through rolling out the 2 year offer and application of evidence based parenting programmes.
60. Initiatives in schools to tackle child poverty have included work in schools to raise financial capability skills. To help engage students at an early age, a Money Safety Booklet has been designed for Primary Schools to help raise awareness to children and their parents of managing money effectively. Gateshead Advice Centre is working closely with sixth form schools delivering programmes on safety, money and employment. This enables young people to gain the financial knowledge and skills needed prior to moving on to adult life.
61. In July 2015, the Government's Work and Pensions Secretary announced that the Government will remove its child poverty target and replace it with a new duty to report levels of educational attainment, worklessness and addiction, rather than relative material disadvantage. The government has reaffirmed its commitment to continued independent scrutiny of progress in relation to social mobility, life chances and poverty.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F13: Equalities Objective - Promote positive emotional mental health amongst the school age population (Hospital admissions for self harm rate per 10,000) under 18 years**

End of year 2013/14	Target end of year 2014/15	2014/15 6 month position
491.7 per 100, 000 (this relates to 2012/13 year end) 10-24 years	491.7 per 100, 000	626.5 per 100,000 (2013/14 year end data) 10-24 years

62. **This is also currently the confirmed target for 15/16 with the reduction rate still to be confirmed.**

The currently available data is for the 2013/14 and shows that the figure has risen from 491.7 per 100,000 in 2012/13 to 626.5 per 100,000 in 2013/14, an increase of 27.4%. Gateshead is considered to be significantly worse than the England figure (412.1) and is now also significantly worse than the North East (507.2). Gateshead has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest rate of admissions for self-harm in the North East. The actual number of admissions has also gone up from 170 to 214. It is important to bear in mind, however, that the data for this indicator refers to episodes of admissions and not persons so it should not be taken that this was 214 different young people who were admitted.

63. Nationally and regionally mental health problems and self harm rates are also increasing for young people. The gender differences for the data shows that females are more likely to self-harm than males.
64. It is unclear as to what is the reason behind the increase, however, one reason could be that more young people and professionals are becoming aware of self harm and as a result, better reporting of incidents and those seeking help could explain the increase.
65. Unfortunately as there is only 2 years of data available it is very difficult to infer if the data demonstrates an increasing trend in this indicator or if the 2013/14 year illustrates a one off increase.
66. The development of the Gateshead Self Harm Protocol, along with greater awareness and sign up to training, will give professionals working with children and young people a greater awareness and more confidence in identifying, addressing and supporting incidents of self-harm in the future

**Addendum to data**

67. From data that was provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NECS) we have been able to produce some further analysis on the rates of self-Harm for ages 10 to 17 years.

<b>2013/14 Year</b>	<b>2014/15 year</b>
477.6 per 100,000 (10-17 years)	471.0 per 100,000 (10 – 17 years)

68. *Please note there are caveats associated with this data set. The information reported here is the result of a specifically requested piece of work by NECS and it is unlikely that this data set will be available going forward. The rates per 100,000 stated here are crude rates not directly standardised rates and have been calculated by Gateshead PM&I MIRO. The data sources used are the Hospital Admissions for self-harm by age and gender provided by NECS for 10 to 17 years for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and the ONS mid-year population statistics for 2013 and 2014. Because of the calculation this data is not comparable with other North East local authorities or with national rates of 10-17 self-harm and should not be quoted as an official Gateshead rate.*
69. For the 2013/14 year the admissions for self-harm for 10-17 year olds rate per 100,000 was 477.6, for 2014/15 this rate has decreased to 471.0 per 100,000 a drop of 1.4%. The total number of actual admissions has decreased as well going down from 84 to 81 (note this is the number of admissions not individual young people). For the 2014/15 year females accounted for significantly more actual admissions for self-harm than males.
70. The numbers of females admitted for self-harm in 2014/15 has actually increased compared to 2013/14 whereas for males for the same period the number of actual admissions has gone down.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator F14: Equalities Objective - Attainment of Vulnerable Young People - % pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent including Maths and English for a) Looked after Children (including those in custody), b) Pupils on Free School Meals and c) Children with Special Educational Needs:**

**F14a: Equalities Objective - Attainment of vulnerable young people - % pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent including Maths and English for looked after children (including those in custody)**

<b>End of year 2014/15</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2015/16 6 month position</b>
<b>8.57%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20 % provisional figures for academic year 2014/15 academic year</b>

71. **Provisional Improving - Not Met target**  
Provisional figures suggest that out of the 45 looked after children in Gateshead, 20% achieved 5A\*-C including English and Maths. This figure includes those Looked after children in Gateshead schools and out of borough. 20 children (44%) had special educational needs and/or a disability.
72. Out of the 29 looked after children attending Gateshead schools, 17% achieved A\*-C including English and Maths.
73. The results (although provisional at this stage) show a significant improvement on the previous year (8.57%).  
When Gateshead and out of borough pupils are compared to LAC nationally over 3 years, we are above the national average for A\*-C. In 2013 and 2015 we compare well to national averages although 2015 is currently a prediction. The highest percentage of pupils with SEND in 2014/15 were in years 10 and 11, which is impacting on GCSE results.
74. Work has been stepped up to improve outcomes for looked after children. There has been a focus on improving PEPs (personal education plans). To date (September 2015), PEP documents for primary, secondary, post 16 (school sixth forms only) and for Looked After Children with SEN (those with a statement or single plan on roll at a special or maintained school) are available and reviewed regularly. A PEP for Early Years is being considered for development and the development of a Post 16 PEP Career Plan for those Looked after Children over 16 years attending educational settings such as colleges is being led by the LAC team.
75. We are also developing a system of school visits and tighter team management of cases.



**F14b: Equalities Objective - Attainment of vulnerable young people % pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent including Maths and English for Pupils on Free School Meals**

<b>End of year 2014/15</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2015/16 6 month position</b>
29.1% figures for 2013/14 academic year	41%	31.8%

**76. Provisional and not met target**

Although the provisional figure is disappointing and below the target, it shows a slight improvement from the previous year. This area continues to be a challenge in Gateshead and we are challenging and supporting secondary schools and academies to accelerate progress and raise attainment for those students entitled to free school meals.

**F14c: Equalities Objective - Attainment of vulnerable young people % pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent including Maths and English for Children with Special Educational Needs**

<b>End of year 2014/15</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2015/16 6 month position</b>
20.0% figures for 2013/14 academic year	25%	20.8% provisional figures for 2014/15 academic year

**77. Provisional and target not met**

It should be noted that these are provisional figures which show a very slight increase from the previous year's performance. As official figures are not yet released, there is no information available at this stage to illustrate how Gateshead performs against other local authorities.

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

78. The following additional measures all contribute towards the overall picture of whether children are being given the best start in life.
79. **Infant mortality** – this is one of our high level outcome measures. It is time lagged data and is produced nationally measuring the number of children dying at less than 1 year of age per 1000.
80. The latest data is for the period 2011-13 (combined because of small numbers) Gateshead's rate is 4.7 per 1000 which equates to around 33 deaths for this period. It shows a 6.8% increase on the previous period (4.4 per 1000). The Gateshead rate is currently higher (but not significantly higher) than the North East rate for infant mortality at 3.3 per 1000 and is also slightly higher (but not significantly higher) than the England rate at 4.0 per 1000.
81. From 2001-03 to the latest data set in 2010-12 the actual rate of Infant mortality has increased by 14.6% from 4.1 per 1000. The last two periods of data have both shown rises in the rate but it is too early at this stage to predict whether this is the beginning of a new upward trend.
82. Infant mortality is often associated with and at increased risk for those families living in poverty and mothers who smoke during pregnancy. Interventions to reduce infant mortality include reducing teenage conceptions; smoking cessation programmes targeting pregnant women, improving maternal nutrition, and safe sleep campaigns. Gateshead currently delivers the baby clear programme which at 12 week booking scan a CO2 monitor reading is taken of the mother, and if her reading is greater than 4 parts per million she is referred to the stop smoking service.
83. **Initiation and Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 weeks**  
Latest available data is year-end 2014/15 and quarter 1 of 15/16.  
  
(To obtain the breastfeeding initiation rate maternity services are required to submit number of births, number of mothers initiating breastfeeding, and those not.)
84. Gateshead initiation rate for breastfeeding for 2014/15 was 67.5% a 1% decrease on the figure at the end of 2013/14 of 68.2%. This is first time since 2011/12 that the breastfeeding initiation rate for Gateshead has gone down at the year end figures.  
The figure was higher than the North East rate at 60.1% and higher than the CNTW figure of 64.4%. However, Gateshead was significantly lower than the overall England rate of 74.3%.
85. For the latest available quarter Q1 15/16 Gateshead's initiation rate for that quarter was 66.7%, which is down on the rate for the same period last year Q1 14/15 of 69.8%. However it is an increase on the quarterly rate for Q4

14/15 of 61.3%. Gateshead's rate for quarter 1 is higher than the CNTW rate (64.3%) but is lower than the England rate of 73.8%. The North East rate is not available for quarterly information.

86. **For mothers continuing to breast feed at 6-8 weeks**, the latest available data is year-end 2014/15 and quarter 1 15/16.
87. Gateshead breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks for 14/15 was 37.2%, which is a 2.2% increase on the figure for end of year 13/14 (36.4%). In spite of this increase, Gateshead is still considered to be significantly worse than the England rate for 2014/15 which was 43.8%. We are currently unable to compare the Gateshead data for 14/15 with the regional North East or the new CNTW figures as these two data sets failed their validation criteria for year end and the % rates have not been published at this time.
88. From Breastfeeding Initiation to prevalence at 6-8 weeks there is a currently a 44.9% reduction in the percentage of children being breastfed for Gateshead, which is similar to a slightly smaller 41.1% reduction nationally.
89. Quarter 1 data for Gateshead in 2015/16 has not passed the validation criteria and has not been published; however, unofficial rates suggest that the figure is 32.0%, compared to 37% at this time last year, which is worse than the CNTW rate of 34% and significantly worse than the national rate of (45.2%).
90. Work is underway with midwives and health visitors to ensure improvement in this area. Continued support is offered to all mothers to initiate breastfeeding through community midwives and breastfeeding peer supporters within the community. .

## Early Years

91. Outcomes from inspections of Early Years provision are again positive. All but two provisions within the school sector are good or better within Early Years and in the non-maintained sector all but 4 provisions are good or better. One setting has recently been downgraded from good to requires improvement and we are taking all considerable action to ensure that the provision improves rapidly.
92. While there are more childminders judged to be less than good we have reduced the number of new childminders being admitted to the Early Years register who are judged to be less than good as a result of more rigorous training and induction.
93. Training and support continues to be accessed free by the non-maintained sector which means that it is available to the widest range of individuals. Through our improved knowledge of inspection, we continue to offer targeted and highly effective support to those settings which cause more concern. As we have limited powers to intervene with the non-maintained sector, we continue to work hard to develop and maintain positive relationships.

## Children's Centres Reach figures

94. Engagement rates for families accessing early childhood services have increased from 54.27% in March 2015 to 56.79% at the end of August 2015.
95. Through the transfer of the commissioning of the Health Visiting (HV) service into the LA in October 2015, partnership work will be further strengthened. Work is already underway to progress the integration of service delivery to avoid duplication of work and to move towards shared resources between health visitors and children's centre staff. Evidence of this is can be seen from the joint facilitation of 1<sup>st</sup> stage weaning programmes giving staff capacity to deliver 2<sup>nd</sup> stage weaning programmes.
96. The take up of 2 year old free early learning places across Gateshead has increased to 67% of eligible families.
97. The 2 year old Integrated Assessment has been launched in Gateshead. This provides a holistic view of the child, developmentally, both in the home and in childcare settings. It is a more accurate assessment and will lead to less children 'slipping through the net', before reaching school and support being offered earlier, particularly for those children who are accessing their 2 year old free early learning place.
98. In terms of universal services (open to all families), there were 285 families reached through Baby and Toddler Groups and 426 families reached through Library Service Rhyme Time sessions during the summer 2015 term. Children's Centre staff continue to provide free universal groups within the most deprived areas of Gateshead. These groups are free to service users and during summer 2015 term were attended by 1,848 families of which 1,129 were from Children's Centre target groups and 1,034 of these target group families only accessed the universal service provision.
99. In terms of targeted work, during the last six months, children's centres undertook family support work on an individual basis with 149 families. Of those families 41 (27.7%) returned to universal support following intervention, 83 cases (56.1%) remain open and continue to receive targeted CC support, of the remaining families; 1 escalated to statutory social care, 2 families escalated to Family Intervention Team, 15 families closed due to disengagement and 6 families moved out of Gateshead area.

## Number of young people in drug treatment

100. The data for Q4 2014/15 is currently the latest end of year data available and shows 133 new presentations to treatment (year to date April 14 – March 15). This is a reduction from 163 presentations for the same period 2013/14. The rolling 12 month figure of young people using the service at the end of quarter 4 for 14/15 is 173, which is also a reduction from 212 the previous year.
101. 47% of all referrals in this period were from the Youth Justice system, 15% from Children's and Family Services, 16% from Health and Mental Health

services, 10% from Education services, 11% from Family, Friends and self and 1% from Substance Misuse services. This is quite different to the split nationally with 30% of all referrals in this period coming from the Youth Justice system, 26% from Education services, 17% from Children's and Family Services, 11% from Family, Friends, 8% from Health and Mental Health services, 4% Other referral source and 4% from Substance Misuse services. On average 61% of the service users spent between 0-12 weeks in treatment compared to 41% nationally. Gateshead had 5% of its service users spending more than 52 weeks in treatment compared to 9% nationally. Of the 133 new presentations to treatment 30% of these had previously been in structured treatment which is higher than the national figure of 22%.

102. 84% of exits from the service were in a planned way (slightly down on last year (88%)), this was above the national average of 79%.
103. Alcohol remains the primary substance with 77% of clients using alcohol (slightly down on previous), Nicotine is present in 51% of clients (also a decrease) and Cannabis was 58% (showing a slight increase). This is in contrast to the to the national picture which indicates that 86% of young people were using cannabis, 51% using alcohol and only 12% using nicotine. This split shows the scale of the nicotine problem among young people in Gateshead.
104. In terms of gender split for Gateshead 63% (slightly down on the previous year) of those in treatment were male and 37% were female (a slight increase) compared to the national split which is currently very similar of 63% male and 35% female.
105. For the split by age ranges Gateshead's highest age bracket was those aged 17 years with 29% of those in treatment; his is again similar to the national picture with 27% of those in treatment from the 17 years age bracket.
106. The data for Quarter 1 15/16 has also been released and shows 20 new presentations with 57 young people using the service (Year to date April 15 to June 15). These figures show a reduction from quarter 1 in 2014/15 where there had been 42 new presentations and 83 people using the service during the same period.
107. The total number of young people in the service as of June 2015 was 156 (this is the rolling 12 month total), which is a reduction from 198 the previous year.
108. For this period Alcohol remains the primary substance with 77% of clients in treatment for this reason. Nicotine is present in 40% of clients and Cannabis in 68%. This is in contrast to the to the national picture which indicates that 88% of young people were in treatment for cannabis, 48% for alcohol and only 14% for nicotine which is continuing to showcase Gateshead's high levels of nicotine misuse amongst young people.

109. Overall at Q1 15/16, 65% of those in treatment were male and 35% were female, this is an identical split to the national picture

### **Alcohol specific hospital admissions under 18s**

110. The latest available data covers the period 2011/12 – 2012/14, where Gateshead's rate was 58.8 per 100,000, a decrease of 17.6% on the previous period. The Gateshead rate was lower than the North East rate of 65.8 but still significantly higher than the England rate of 40.1.
111. This reduction represents the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive period of data that has shown a fall in the rate of U18 admissions to hospital as a result of alcohol; the trend would suggest that this is set to continue. Gateshead's rate of 58.8 per 100,000 represents 70 admissions to hospital which is the lowest number we have seen since the publication of these figures (120 in 2006/7-2008/9).
112. Gateshead had the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of U18 admissions out of the North East local authorities, with Newcastle being the lowest at 41.5 and South Tyneside the highest at 90.4.

### **Teenage conceptions - Under 18s**

113. The latest available data is for quarter 2 of 2014. For Quarter 2 2014 the Gateshead rate of under 18 conceptions was 43.1 per 1000. This is a marked increase on the rate at Q2 2013 of 25.1 and is also an increase on the rate for Q1 2014 of 41.1 per 1000. The number of conceptions for the quarter has also gone up on Q1 2014 from 35 to 37 and is a significant increase on the number from Q2 2013 of 22. Currently Gateshead's rate is higher than the North East rate (32.5) and significantly higher than the England rate (23.2).
114. Teenage pregnancy specialist midwives are in post to provide early help, intervention and support to teenage mothers in conjunction with the Family Nurse Partnership.

### **Permanent exclusions**

115. The figure is provisional at this point and is based on 6 monthly data taken from EMIS. DfE will report on this in spring 2016, based on the school census. Permanent exclusions are at 0.02 of total school population, an improvement on last year's figure of 0.7.

### **Fixed term exclusions**

116. Fixed term exclusions at 2.17 are slightly increased from the previous year where 2.11 of the total school population received fixed term exclusion. This figure is provisional at this point and is based on 6 monthly data taken from EMIS. DfE will report on this in spring 2016, based on the school census.

## Attendance/PA trends for primary and Secondary Schools

117. This figure is provisional at this point and is based on 6 monthly data taken from EMIS and based on a combined view of the autumn and spring terms. DfE will report on this in spring 2016, based on the school census. Persistent absence in primary schools has risen to 2.87 from 1.60% the previous year.
118. Persistent absence in secondary schools has risen to 7.09% from 6.66% in the previous year. This figure is provisional at this point and is based on 6 monthly data taken from EMIS. DfE will report on this in spring 2016, based on the school census.

## Targeted Youth service

119. In terms of "Health Drop In" sessions, the 3 venues (Thomas Hepburn, Heworth Comprehensive and Lord Lawson) have had 191 contacts and 110 young people regularly participating.
120. The impact of this work has meant that young people have been supported with LGBT issues, young people have become more aware of issues which affect their health, e.g. drugs and alcohol and are able to make more informed decisions and where they can go for help and support.
121. We have had 65 young people participating in "enrichment programmes" which included 30 ASDAN accreditations. Separately, 6 young people have been working on the Gold award for Duke of Edinburgh (1 complete), 8 young people on the silver award (3 complete) and 38 on the Bronze award (16 complete).
122. 26 Open Access sessions have taken place with 476 participants in terms of (centre/detached/mobile work). This has offered social, educational and creative opportunities, as well as information, advice and guidance on issues ranging from employment to volunteering, bullying, child sexual exploitation, sexual health, self-harm/ suicide, DV and positive relationships.
123. Staff have undertaken training to better support young people in these issues and a part time Youth Worker Conference gave staff up to date information on CSE and Legal Highs.
124. Successful Keyfund bids have allowed young people to take part in various trips and activities.
125. Overall the service has had 1179 recorded contacts over the last six; as a result of the changes in the service and the focus on targeted work, we no longer compare these figures with previous years.
126. Over the past six months, 29 young people have been members of Gateshead Youth Assembly. The Assembly's activities over the six months have included a "Convivial Supper" with Gateshead Young Inspectors, show

casing their work to OSC members and attending a protest in London against British and American Tobacco Companies working practices. They funded and hosted a Poverty Symposium to highlight how schools can poverty proof the school day and how to alleviate the effects of poverty on their students. Four young people worked on and were awarded the ASDAN Community Volunteer Qualification, which is equivalent to an average grade A level, for their work on GYA over the past two years. The older members also delivered political awareness sessions in their sixth forms, taking along voter registration forms and encouraging their peers to register and vote.

## **Youth Justice Custodial sentences**

127. To date, there have been 5 custodial sentences during the past six months from a total of 44 court disposals.
128. The latest YJB published data for July 2014-June 2015 shows the 12 monthly rate of custody for Gateshead at 0.23- this represents 4 custodial sentences in the 12 month period and a 0.06 decrease year on year. This is below the regional average for this period (0.47) and also below the national average (0.43).

## **Rate of proven reoffending**

129. The latest 12 month reoffending data from the Police National Computer (PNC) for January 2012 - December 2012 sets Gateshead's Binary (number of young people who go on to reoffend) rate of offending at 39.2% and the Frequency (number of re offences committed per young person) rate of reoffending at 1.04. This represents a cohort of 212 young people, of whom 83 went on to reoffend and commit 212 re-offences.
130. When comparing this PNC data with Gateshead's latest reoffending performance data taken from our Reoffending Live Tracker (January 2014-December 2014), it is encouraging to note that since 2008 there has been a 77% reduction in cohort size, which equates to 689 young people (in 2008) to 160 young people currently. There is also a 78% reduction in re-offenders, which equates from 230 re-offenders (in 2008) to 51 reoffenders.
131. The reoffending figures continue to demonstrate the prolific nature of some young people and the challenges faced by the service to reduce their reoffending.

## **Social care additional indicators**

### **Referral rates leading to CiN assessment**

132. The number of referrals to children's social care remains lower than the peaks experienced from 2012-2014. At the end of quarter 2, there have been a total of 900 referrals. This is a 3% increase in the number of referrals in comparison to the same period last year. There have also been slight



variations in the agencies referring, with a percentage increase in the number of referrals coming from health (24.8%) and other referrals (“other” referrals include those from “other” agencies – 62 referrals in total), including fire service/youth workers/solicitors/NSPCC), Home Office (2 referrals), housing association (17 referrals), and other local authorities (35 referrals). The majority of referrals continue to come from police/probation/courts and this has remained stable since the end of the year (March 2015) at 34.1%.

133. Of the referrals received so far this year, 886 have resulted in completed child in need assessments (98.4%). At the same time last year, there had been 873 referrals, of which 842 resulted in completed child in need assessments (96.4%)
134. Re-referrals within 12 months have continued to remain low at 11.6%. This is lower than at the same time last year when it stood at 19.4%, and is also lower than the England average of 23.4% and the North East average of 22.9% (2013/14 CIN Census). This suggests that a greater proportion of children and young people who require support are receiving this in a timely way once they come to the attention of children’s social care.

#### **% of CIN assessments carried out within 45 days**

135. Between April to September 2015, a total of 1007 CIN assessments have been completed; this includes a number of CIN assessments which are not completed as the result of the referral but are part of ongoing work with the family. Of the total number of CIN assessments completed, 964(95.7%) were completed within timescales which continues to represent strong performance in this area. At the same point last year, 1133 CIN assessments had been completed, with 1110 of these being within 45 working days (98%).
136. Although this appears to represent a decrease in work completed, due to the time taken to complete most assessments, the numbers completed in April and May 2014 were the result of a larger than average number of referrals in February and March 2014. There has actually been a small increase (4%) in the number of CIN assessments beginning during 2015-16 so far.
137. 49% of assessments were completed between 41 and 45 working days during the first and second quarter, which is similar to the 53% completed during 2014-2015. It is likely that this is due to the complexity of cases that are being assessed. Managers retain close oversight at regular intervals during assessment to ensure there is no drift in undertaking assessment.

#### **Section 47 enquiries**

138. At the end of September 2015, there had been 268 Section 47 enquiries initiated. In comparison to 245 completed last year, this shows a 9.4% increase. Of those 245 enquiries undertaken, 47.4% (127) did not proceed to an initial conference, which is lower than the national average of 54.9%.

139. Of those 141 Section 47 enquiries which did not proceed to conference, 127 (90%) resulted in the children being made subject to a Child Protection Plan, which indicates that appropriate cases are going to conference and that there is a multi-agency agreement on the way to progress these cases. So far, all cases that proceeded to conference did so within the 15 day timescale (100%), which is well above the national average of 69% (2013/2014 CIN Census).

### **CP plans lasting more than 12/24 months**

#### **Current CP plans lasting more than 12 months**

140. At the end of September 2015 there were 221 open CP plans, of which 64 had been open for a year or more (29%). 3 of these plans have now been open for more than 2 years (1.3%).

#### **Ended CP plans lasting more than 24 months**

141. The duration of child protection plans is a proxy measure for the success of the plan. For children no longer subject to a CP plan we scrutinise the percentage lasting longer than 12/24 months. The former NI set focused on 24 months. While the 24 month indicator looked at the duration of ended plans only, the 12 month indicator looks at current CP plans and their duration. During the period April to September 2015, 168 CP plans have been ended, of which 1 had a duration greater than 2 years or more (0.6%). At the same time last year, 144 plans had been ended, of which 4 were in place for 2 years or more (2.7%). This represents both an improvement on last year, and is favourable compared to the national figure of 4.5%.
142. While numbers remain low for plans lasting longer than 2 years, the circumstances of the cases involved make the longer timescale for the plan appropriate. Cases that remain open over 1 year continue to be scrutinised and monitored by service managers and discussed within the performance clinic to ensure there is no drift nor delay in moving the case forward.

#### **% of CP reviews held within timescale**

143. Of the 151 children who have required reviews between April and September 2015, who have been CP for at least three months and are currently CP, all have received their reviews within timescale (100%).
- There have been 179 reviews carried out in total.
- Last year, 200 children had reviews in the same period, with none being out of timescale.
144. Nationally, 94.6% of children were reviewed within timescale and in the North East 96.8% were reviewed within timescale (2013-2014 CIN Census)

## **Numbers of looked after children**

145. The number of looked after children has increased since March 2015 (340 - which represents 84.8 children per 10,000), and at the end of September 2015 was 371 (92.5 per 10,000). This is lower than the rate of 96 per 10,000 reported at the end of March 2014, but is still above the regional average of 80.4 per 10,000 and is significantly higher than the national average of 59.7 per 10,000. Work is ongoing to scrutinise the reasons behind the increase.

## **% of LAC with 3 or more placements 6 monthly figure 5%**

146. At the end of September 2015, there were 18 looked after children who have had 3 or more placements out of a total of 371 looked after children. This equates to 5%.  
At the same time last year there were 11 out of a total of 337 looked after children which was 3.3%.
147. A number of initiatives are ongoing to ensure the focus on providing high quality stable placements is maintained. This includes permanence practice, training for foster carers to support placement stability such as behaviour management and the payment for skills fostering initiative.

## **LAC reviews held within timescale 6 monthly figure 99.27% – Lynne to confirm)**

148. At 99.27%, the proportion of Looked after children whose reviews were held within timescale is above the national average (91%). However, there are three children who have had their reviews out of timescale. Work is ongoing to ensure that children and young people are sufficiently engaged in their LAC reviews.

## **Care leavers in suitable accommodation**

149. There are 145 young people who will turn 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 during 2015-2016. Out of the 128 cases we are in touch with, there are 4 young people who are in unsuitable accommodation (96.9% in suitable accommodation).
150. We have developed a Care Leavers Accommodation and Support Panel (CLASP), (between Housing Services and the LAC Team), to provide a more structured and consistent approach to the accommodation needs of care leavers. A CLASP flag list of all 63 young people in or leaving care age 17 years and over at July 2015 highlighted that 17 are flagged as red indicating their accommodation is potentially unstable (these tend to be our complex young people), 35 are flagged as Amber this indicates moderate needs and support and may have further accommodation needs in the future. 14 are flagged as green indicating that at this time their accommodation is stable.

*\*Please note – there are 17 young people who we are not in contact with. We know where these young people are however they either refuse our services or no longer want to be contacted.*

### **Care leavers in education, employment or training**

151. There are 145 young people who will turn 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 during 2015-2016. Out of the 128 cases we are in touch with, there are 74 in some form of EET (57.8%).
152. Current support for care leavers into training and employment includes: offering employment and training opportunities to care leavers within the local authority (the family firm); use of data in strategic planning and setting our own targets for EET; strengthened joint working between Youth Services/Connexions and DWP; continuing to improve links with training and further education providers; improved links with Higher Education; development of a post 16 PEP (career planning tool); specialist EET guidance and advice for care leavers up to the age of 25; DWP – benefits – protocol and work experience opportunities and development of apprenticeships.
153. A Corporate Parenting awareness-raising event was recently held to map and align support provided to care leavers. An outcome of the event is that colleagues within the Council's Learning and Skills Service will now guarantee an offer of an interview for an appropriate traineeship/ apprenticeship to looked after children and care leavers.  
*\*Please note – there are 17 young people who we are not in contact with. We know where these young people are however they either refuse our services or no longer want to be contacted.*

### **Adoption children whose placements started within best interest dates**

154. 11 adoptions have taken place during April-September 2015, of which 7 were within the best interest date (63.6%). At the same point last year there had been 21 adoptions, of which 12 were within the best interest dates (57.10%).
155. Work continues with the courts to eliminate any drift or delay.

### **Multi agency working**

156. The number of new Common Assessments being undertaken has increased. 445 new Common Assessments have been registered in the last 6 months (which is just below the whole of the annual figure for 2014/15 of 494).
157. There are currently 1139 active Teams around the Family (TAFs), which provides a more accurate representation of the multiagency work being undertaken in Gateshead. A number of the active TAFs will not have a CAF as they are step down cases from statutory social care for families where

support needs to be maintained but at a less specialist level. The majority of Lead Practitioners are from the Family Intervention Team (383), with Education (199) and Positive Pathways services (150)

### **Family Intervention Team**

158. 138 families (265 children) were referred to the Family Intervention Team in the first quarter of the year (April – June 2015). 65 of those families (122) children were referred by the Referral and Assessment Team, 46.7% of all referrals made. The cases of 73 (133 children) families were closed to FIT in the same quarter, requiring no further action at Tier 2. 8 families (21 children) required specialist social care intervention and were stepped up to the Referral and Assessment Team, (9%) of all cases closed. 1 family was referred to the Safeguarding and Care Planning Team (1.1%) of cases closed.
159. In the six months between April and September 2015, 155 referrals were made to group parenting programmes and all parents will be offered a place on a programme.
160. The Family Intervention Team has also led on work with DWP on developing a “relational” approach to family support work, as part of the national Family Stability Project. This has involved training 12 team members across children’s services to deliver the Parents as Partners programme by the Tavistock Centre for the Couple Relationship (an evidence based intervention with co-parenting couples with relationship difficulties). Consultancy support and funding will be offered by DWP to develop this work further. Separately, 3 FIT staff members were trained in the Respect Young People’s Programme (evidence based and for perpetrators of child to adult violence); the programme is now being delivered to open FIT cases, often in conjunction with YOT workers. FIT has also developed a pilot in partnership with Gateshead Housing Company, enabling the Neighbourhood Relations Team to fast track referrals to FIT where legal proceedings are pending. 5 families have been referred in July and August.