

Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Council Plan – End of Year Assessment of Delivery and Performance 2015/16

16 June 2016

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 end of year 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.

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

- Ofsted judged **Children's Services in Gateshead to be Good**. (outcome of the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Board). Out of 85 inspections nationally between November 2013 and 11 March 2016, only 20 others have achieved an overall judgement of 'Good', 22 were 'Inadequate' and 43 'Require Improvement'.
- The level of engagement in children's centres at the end of March 2016 was 57.03% (5141 families), which meets the Ofsted requirement to engage with the "majority of families" (51%).
- The percentage of children attaining Level 4 and above at KS2 was 82%, a 2% increase from the previous year of 80%.
- 63.7% of children achieved a good level of development at age 5, exceeding the target of 59% and significant improvement of 7.1% from 56.6% last year.
- In the autumn term (2015), the take-up of free early learning places for eligible 2-year olds was over 80%, which compares with 72% nationally
- The take-up of 3 and 4 year old places is very high at 98% (June 2015).
- At GCSE (in terms of 5+ A* to C with English and maths), Gateshead has continued to perform better than the national average.
- The latest NEET figure of 5.3% has reduced from 7.6% last year.
- All targets for youth offending have been met showing significant success when compared to regional and national figures
- Overall performance for children's social care remains positive although increasing demand has impacted on numbers of child protection plans and there has been a slight increase in Looked After Children.
- The Family Intervention Team has secured funding to develop support for couples and co-parenting relationships through DWP's Local Family Offer pilot.
- Gateshead Youth Offending Team (YOT) won the 2015 Youth Justice Board's Arts and Culture Award for the First World War Art Project. The young people's work has been displayed at BALTIC as part of the Koestler Trust exhibition.
- 375 children and young people attended the Active Kidz holiday activities (70% were through referrals and 30% through public bookings). 100% of referral partners consulted said that the referral met the identified needs. Outcomes for the children involved included improved social engagement; improved family relationships and improved physical health.
- The introduction of the "MOMO" app has helped us to capture and promote the 'voice of the child' in a more systematic way.
- All special schools in Gateshead have been rated by Ofsted as at least good with Dryden, Eslington and Gibside schools rated as outstanding.
- A registered child's nurse for Gateshead's special schools has been appointed, based at Low Fell Clinic.
- A Young Carers Strategy (up to 2018) has been developed and the memorandum of understanding has been agreed for how children's and adults services will work together.

- Public health is now the responsible commissioner for 0-19 public health services; this provides an opportunity for alternative delivery models and improved integration of services across the system.

Areas for Improvement

- The gap between outcomes for disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils at Key Stage 4 remains large and is continuing to prove challenging. Reducing inequalities in educational achievement for looked after children (LAC), children with special educational needs (SEN), and children receiving free school meals remain a priority; this year none of the equalities targets were met.
- The rate of under 18 conceptions has increased. Gateshead has the 3rd highest rate in the North East and the 11th highest in England.
- Although there has been a decrease in the number of hospital admissions as a result of self harm for young people aged 10-24; Gateshead is still significantly worse than the England average.
- Childhood excess weight and obesity is improving but remains a concern. The evidence suggests that overweight and obese children are more likely to remain obese into adulthood and to develop diseases such as Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at a younger age.
- A significant increase in pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder; Social, Emotional, Mental Health needs and Speech, Language and Communications Needs is adding pressure to numbers in special schools across Gateshead.
- Although permanent exclusions have remained steady over the past 3 years, there has been an increase in 2014/15 at 0.19% from 0.07 the previous year
- While most services received a 'good' rating in the recent Ofsted inspection, the experience and progress of care leavers requires improvement. Reasons for this included: not enough care leavers continuing education, work or training beyond the age of 19 and the Council needing to be more ambitious and persistent for this group.

Key Actions over the next 6 months

- As part of the Council's Change Programme and budget saving exercise the review of children's services as part of the Care, Wellbeing and Learning Redesign will continue. At its meeting on 23rd February, 2016, Cabinet approved the proposal for a new senior management structure within Care, Wellbeing and Learning, effective from April 2016, to enable continued improvement in the coordination of Council functions, the organisation of staff, and to enable Council services to be delivered in a more efficient and effective way. Following the report, phase 1 of these improvements has begun and has involved considering and integrating the commissioning function (adult and children's services and public health) and the development of a Quality Assurance Unit (bringing together independent reviewing officers, safeguarding board support, adult and children's performance teams and policy, development and partnerships). This new model of working will take effect from June 2016. Phase 2 will be ongoing over the next six months and will focus on further work to achieve 2016/17 savings; business support; Disabled Children's Service/Transitions/SEN; redesign of Care First; market

shaping to help and support the new model and developing a performance framework measuring outcomes

- We will take forward actions to respond to the areas for development which were highlighted by the recent Ofsted inspection, through the Learning and Children's Performance Framework
- We will continue to assess the likely impact of a significant reduction in funding around education and the impact of the Government's recent White Paper "Educational Excellence Everywhere". This will include examining how and what education and related services will be funded in the future and will require the development of new delivery models.
- The Early Years and Childcare Service will focus on preparing for the increase in the statutory free entitlement, from 15 to 30 hours, for eligible 3- and 4-year old children (from working households - from September 2017).
- We will carry out the recommendations from the OSC review of Child Protection in Gateshead including an improvement in the availability of GP reports at Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) and Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs), improving the detail of data provided in relation to school referrals to children's social care and consider and evaluate the appropriateness of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as part of the redesign of Care Wellbeing and Learning.
- We will tackle the under 18s conception rate, through linking more effectively with other commissioned services and partners and produce a sexual health strategy to reflect the joint vision for Gateshead in improving sexual health outcomes.

Section A: Performance and analysis for year end 2015/2016 for the 14 strategic outcome indicators

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

In terms of the detail for the 14 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.

7 of the indicators have met the target set for the year and 1 other has improved (although the target has not been met) from the previous reporting period (hospital admissions for self harm).

2 further targets relate to GCSEs (including the 3 equalities targets measuring GCSE attainment, including Maths and English). The overall attainment for secondary pupils at GCSE including English and Maths is just below the target for the year but has remained steady in comparison to the previous year's results. The 3 equalities targets are continuing to prove challenging, however, the results for looked after children have improved considerably this year. The results for those children with SEN has also slightly improved from last year, however, performance for those children accessing free school meals has dropped.

For 2 other strategic outcome indicators (child poverty and % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery), no official update has been available since the last reporting period.

In terms of the indicator around numbers of children subject to a child protection plan, there has been a significant increase in the last six months and the rate remains high in comparison to the national and regional rates.

In relation to the timeliness of adoptions, some of the cases dealt with have been complex and the focus has been on ensuring long term positive outcomes for the children. Such cases inevitably have longer timescales and this has been an anticipated consequence.

Those strategic objectives which have not met their targets will be subject to additional scrutiny through Group Management Team and where performance remains a concern escalated to portfolio holders.

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)

End of year 2014/15	Target	End of year 2015/16
15.1%	12.8%	Data Available November 2016

No further update

There has been no further update since the last reporting period (six monthly report). Data for 2015/16 is expected to be released around November 2016. As a result of the merger of Newcastle and Gateshead CCG's data, there is now no longer separate data published and it is no longer possible to report on the current quarterly position at the year end.

This is currently being looked into to determine whether there is any way we can obtain separate information for Gateshead

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	End of year 2015/16
56.6%	59%	63.7%

Target met and improving

Once again overall outcomes at the end of the early years have improved. The proportion of children attaining a good level of development rose from 56.6% to 63.7% in the last year. In 2013 it was 34%. The increase of 7.1% this year compares with a national increase of 5.9 % to 66.3% so the gap between Gateshead children and other children nationally is closing. Gateshead now performs above the north east average of 63.1%.

Behind the overall figures, children in Gateshead perform above the national figures in all three of the prime areas of learning and development: personal, social and emotional development; physical development and communication and language. This is particularly important as these are the areas where the foundations for future learning success are laid. In part, the reason for this success is the proportion of high quality nursery classes and nursery school provision in Gateshead. When children's original pre-school provision is tracked, those previously attending nursery school perform best at the end of the reception year. Our training programme has also stressed to staff the importance of ensuring that the prime areas are firmly established.

The weakest area in the curriculum continues to be writing, despite an increase of 5.5%. Boys continue to perform less well than girls and this has been an area of focus this year in the support provided to schools.

A recent change in the population to include more children whose first language is not English has also meant that increases in literacy have been achieved with substantial effort. Many of the children come from families who are recent arrivals in the north east and do not have a good grasp of English, in contrast to other more established communities in the north east. Only 40% of EAL (English as an additional language) children attained a good level of development. This issue has been explored as part of the Early Years training programme, alongside the gap between those eligible for free school meals and those who are not. The gap is currently 15% compared to 25% in 2014. Schools have been supported to target and identify those children who are in danger of falling behind at an earlier stage in their school life.

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	End of year 2015/16
36.6% (this covers the period 2013/14)	34.8%	34% (this covers+ the period 2014/15)

Target met and improving

The latest figures for the revised definition of this indicator were released in Dec 15 and show a decrease from 36.6% in 2013/14 to 34.0% in 2014/15 (a 7.10% decrease on the previous year). The data set for this indicator within the public health framework tool has been amended so that it is no longer calculated by the school the child attends but by the child’s postcode. This revision was applied to all previous years of data so we are still able to compare year on year data. However, because of this change there has been a slight change to the figure we provided for last year in the last reporting period.

Gateshead is currently lower than the North East figure of 35.9% and is currently higher but not significantly higher than the England total of 33.2%. Despite this decrease Gateshead did not successfully reach its target for 2014/15 of 31.0%

Looking at the trend data from its highest point in 2009/10 at 38.5%, there has been a steady downward trend for Gateshead (coming down 11.69% since that point). Despite the very slight increase in 2013/14 it appears that the 2014/15 year is continuing that downward trend.

We are now at the lowest level for excess weight since the availability of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data and Gateshead now has the lowest prevalence of excess weight in the North East having previously had the 3rd highest.

In terms of excess weight amongst reception class aged children, the latest figures for the revised definition of this indicator were released in Dec 15 and are for the 2014/15 year. Excess weight levels amongst reception aged children have decreased from 24.4% in 2013/14 to 23.1% in 14/15, which is a decrease of 5.3%. Gateshead is lower than the North East figure of 23.7%, and is higher, but not significantly higher than the England figure of 21.9%.

As a result of this decrease Gateshead surpassed the Care Wellbeing and Learning target that was set for 2014/15 of 24.0% and now has the 4th lowest prevalence in the North East.

Work to tackle the challenges around this indicator include the ongoing work in schools as part of the local Gateshead Healthy Schools Programme, where schools can choose to focus on healthy eating as an option. The School Sport Partnership is also well established and works to support healthy eating and physical education, with a focus on the whole family approach.

We have been supporting a new campaign from Public Health England which encourages parents to get “Sugar Smart” and take control of their children’s sugar intake. Every primary school in Gateshead, which is part of the “School Fruit and Veg Scheme” received healthy eating teaching resources in January and February and Sugar Smart packs to be given to school children and their families.

Childhood excess weight and obesity are still particular areas of concern, as the evidence suggests that overweight and obese children are more likely to stay obese into adulthood and to develop diseases such as Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases (heart disease and stroke) at a younger age.

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

End of year 2014/15	Target	End of year 2015/16
80% (academic year 2013/14)	82%	82% (academic year 2014/15)

Target met

Gateshead Primary Schools have continued to perform strongly. In 2015, in terms of attainment at Key Stage 2 in the reading test, writing teacher assessment and mathematics test, the percentage of children attaining Level 4 and above was 82%, a 2% increase from the previous year of 80%. It was also 80% in 2013.

This places Gateshead above the regional and national average, which was 81% and 80% respectively; the average across England increased from 79% in 2014 and similarly the north east average increased from 79% in 2014.

In 2015 (2014/15 academic year) Gateshead was ranked 44th out of 152 local authorities and improvement compared to the position in 2014 when Gateshead was ranked 50th.

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

End of year 2014/15 (2013/14 academic year)	Target	End of year 2015/16 (2014/15 academic year)
58.5%	59%	58.1%

Target not met (but within agreed tolerance)

In 2014 there was a change in accounting at GCSE, so results from previous years are not directly comparable.

There was a very slight decrease of -0.4 % this 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. This has continued again this year, however, the gap has closed slightly. This is mainly due to the maths results being disappointing. Across England, the average was 53.4% in 2014, with a 0.4% rise in 2015 to 53.8%. Gateshead's results are also above the north east average which was 54.6% in 2014 and which rose 0.8% to 55.4% in 2015.

At 58.1% Gateshead is ranked 63rd out of 152 local authorities (1 being top performing), in comparison to 54th the previous year.

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

End of year 2014/15 7.6% (official January 2015 figure)	Target 7.0%	End of year 2015/16 5.3% (official January 2016 figure)

Target met

The Gateshead NEET figures compare positively with the north east regional figure of 5.7%; however, it is higher than the national figure of 4.2%. The "Not Known" figure which measures how well the local authority has tracked the young people stands at 3.3% against a regional figure of 3.6% and a national figure of 8.4%. In line with Government Directives, there has been an increased focus in 2015/16 on tracking young people's destinations – i.e. education, training apprenticeships, employment or NEET. This has refocused Personal Advisers' time and has resulted in clear improvements in the "Not Known" figure.

Both NEET and "Not Known" figures show significant improvements from last year's figures of 7.6% and 4.8% respectively.

The latest official figures (January 2016) equates to approximately 334 young people, compared to 438 young people the previous year. However, throughout the last year there have been 451 incidences of young people joining the NEET cohort, which demonstrates that this is a dynamic rather than a static figure.

Gateshead data for those young people identified as having Special Educational Needs/Disabilities is also positive. The participation return of 89.9% is above the regional and national figures and compares well to the 2014 figure of 88.2%.

The three year Engaged Project (Youth Contract) has just ended (March 2016). This has been a successful project aimed at re-engaging and supporting those young people who are hardest to help. In the last year the project has helped over 130 young people move from NEET to EET (in education, training or employment). Working closely with partners, a supportive mentoring role for advisers was developed and bespoke solutions to barriers to education or employment found. Many of these working practices will now become mainstreamed.

In the coming year, a two fold focus for improvement for Connexions will be to engage more young people and move them out of the NEET cohort, but also to attempt to target those “engaged” but “at risk of leaving” and becoming NEET, working with them so that they remain settled or seamlessly move to alternative provision. Support is already offered in a targeted way for students in Year 11 of school. The challenge will be how to best target and allocate resource to those in post 16 destinations, where triggers for disengaging can be very different.

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	End of year 2015/16
510 per 100,000 88 (covering period October 2013- September 2014	398 per 100,000 70	276 per 100,000 47 (covering period October 2014- September 2015 (latest official published data)

Improved and target met

In terms of official (published data), the latest YJB data obtained via PNC (Police National Computer), covers the period October 2014 –September 2015) and reports 47 FTEs per 100,000, which is a rate of 276 per 100,000, a 46% reduction from the same period last year. This is lower than the national average of 376 per 100,000 for this period and also below the regional average of 429 per 100,000.

In relation to the information collated locally, the latest provisional figures for quarter 4 (January 2016 – March 2016), show a total of 122 FTEs (per 100,000 of 10-17 year olds), equating to 21 young people. This is an 8% decrease from quarter 3 (24 young people). In this latest quarter the FTEs were made up of 13 males and 8 females, with a mean age of 14 years for the group.

The Youth Crime Education Programme has been delivered to over 1000 pupils across year groups 5 to 11. The programme is targeted at schools and education providers where specific concerns are raised linked to criminogenic behaviours within local communities or specific issues within an educational establishment. The programmes include awareness of anti-social behaviour, the role of the Police, joint enterprise offending, sexting and e-safety healthy relationships, substance misuse, victim awareness and child sexual exploitation.

Gateshead Youth Offending Team has developed “Community Remedy” with Northumbria police. This has ensured that victims of youth crime have their views listened to at the earliest opportunity and young people who have caused harm are brought to account for their actions.

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	End of year 2015/16
64.2 per 10,000 258 CYP	62 per 10,000	68.1 273 CYP

Not met target

At the end of March 2016 (Quarter 4), there were 273 children subject to a CP plan (68.1 per 10K) By comparison, at the end of September 2015 (Quarter 2), there were 221 children (55 per 10K). This represents a 23.5% increase in the number of CP plans over the last six months. The rate per 10K is also higher than the same period at the previous year end and remains higher than the national average (42.9) and the regional average (59.5), both reported in 2014/15.

In the last six months of the year, we have undertaken a review of child protection in Gateshead. The key issues addressed include:

1. An understanding of the child protection system, the policy context and clarity on roles and responsibilities;
2. The opportunity for improvement of systems, the policy context and clarity on roles and responsibilities.
3. The effectiveness of multi-agency working, especially around communication and information sharing.
4. The ways in which views of children, young people and their families are used.

The review consisted of four evidence gathering sessions, where Families OSC Committee examined each stage of the process and explored the way decisions are taken, risks are managed, and the involvement of partners. The sessions also explored how Gateshead undertakes its safeguarding responsibilities in conjunction with partners, within the policy context and legal frameworks for Child Protection.

The recommendations emerging from the review are:

- That additional work is undertaken to further improve the availability of GP reports at ICPCs and RCPCs
- To improve the detail of data provided in relation to school referrals to children’s social care: Providing a breakdown by school to facilitate the committee’s scrutiny of safeguarding within education
- Evaluate the appropriateness of a MASH as part of the redesign of Care Wellbeing and Learning.

The recommendations of the review will inform the work of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) in terms of how it oversees the whole system.

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	End of year 2015/16
11.3%	15%	11.8%

Target met

During the period of April 2015 to March 2016, out of the 338 children who became subject to a child protection plan (CP) plan, 40 children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (11.8%). This cohort comprised 19 individuals, 7 groups of 2 siblings, 1 group of 3 siblings and 1 group of 4 siblings. 13 children out of the cohort were on their second or subsequent plan within 2 years of their previous CP plan ending, 6 of whom were within 12 months of their previous CP plan ending.

At the same time last year, 34 out of 300 children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (11.3%).

The numbers of children subject to a second or subsequent child protection plan remain below the national and regional average, which suggests robust practice in Nationally, 16.6% of children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time and in the north east 14% of children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time. Gateshead’s statistical neighbours reported that 15.7% of children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time. (CIN Census 2014-2015).

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	End of year 2015/16
78.8%	78%	86.0%

Improving and target met

This is not a cumulative indicator and is based on current figures at the end of the period. During the period April 2015 to March 2016, 104 children have been in their placement for at least 2 years out of the 121 children who have been looked after for two and a half years or more (86%). At the same time last year there were 104 children out of 132 (78.8%).

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 to 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	End of year 2015/16
210 days	<181 days	214 days

Target not met

This indicator is published on the National Adoption Scorecard. 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.

In the last year (April 2015-March 2016) there have been 25 adoptions, with a three year average of 214 days between a placement order being granted and the child being matched. The England average for the same period is 223 days.

In relation to the timeliness of the adoptions, some of the cases dealt with have been complex and the focus has been on ensuring long term positive outcomes for the children. Such cases inevitably have longer timescales and this has been an anticipated consequence.

There were 2 particular cases where the average number of days was significantly higher. In one case concerning a child with a number of additional needs, numerous assessments were undertaken including one to determine whether the child should

be placed with other siblings. In another case a child was adopted by a family member but the application was only submitted when the family felt able to proceed. There were also delays in legal proceedings which added to the increase in timescales.

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 2015/16
21.4% (2012 figure)	21% (to reflect 2013 figure)	20.5% (2013 figure)

Target met and improved

The indicator is based on the number of children living in homes with 60% less than the median income.

Child Poverty is normally reported at the end of year; however, the figures were released early this year and were reported in the six monthly report (April 2015-September 2016).

The Government’s Welfare Reform and Work Act achieved Royal Assent in March 2016 and has now been passed into law. It holds significant implications for how child poverty is defined, measured and addressed in the UK. The Government has been interested in making a policy movement away from income-based measures of poverty and the removal of statutory obligations on local authorities to reduce child poverty. Instead, it emphasises tackling worklessness, improving educational attainment and supporting ‘Troubled’ families as the most effective ways to increase the life chances of children living in poverty. Ministers wanted to remove a statutory duty to publish levels of UK household income as part of the welfare reform and work Act, but following a battle with the House of Lords, have accepted that the low income measure should be protected.

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 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 2014/2015	Target	End of year 2015/16
626.5 per 100,000 (for the period 2013/14)	491.7 per 100,000	531.3 per 100,000 (for the period 2014/15)

Target not met but improving

***Please note that the information reported here relates to hospital admissions as a result of self harm amongst children and young people aged 10-24 years.**

The target for the year end at 2014/15 was set at 491.7 Per 100,000, which is also the confirmed target for 2015/16.

The latest information available covers the period (2014/15) and shows a decrease from 626.5 per 100,000 in 2013/14 to 531.3 per 100,000 in 2014/15. Although we have not met the target set, it is a decrease of 15.20%. Gateshead is considered to be significantly worse than the England figure (398.8) and is higher but not significantly higher than the North East figure (477.7).

While Gateshead has the fourth highest rate of admissions for self-harm in the North East, the actual number of admissions has also gone down from 214 to 179. It is 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 the admissions related to 179 separate young people.

The gender differences for the data shows that females are more likely to self harm than males.

Gateshead is currently involved in the “Expanding Minds, Improving Lives”, project alongside NHS Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Newcastle City Council and with an aim to transform mental health services for young people locally. The aim is to deliver an integrated, early response to the emotional and psychological needs of children, young people and families and improve outcomes, reduce inequalities and reduce the impact of poor mental health on the economy and individuals. A major focus of the work is on health inequalities and to explore ways to provide more effective support to vulnerable young people, by adopting models of integrated working. The work of young people involved in the project was celebrated at a recent special Tyneside Pop-up Cinema event. This included a short film called CHAOS, co-produced by young people with Newcastle based Helix Arts, which was premiered at the celebration. The film shone a light on the experiences of young people and gave an outlet to share their experiences and views on how services should change.

In the last reporting period (April-September 2015), we included an addendum with data provided from the North of England Commissioning Support Unit. This was

specific to rates of self harm among 10-17 year olds. This was a requested piece of work and therefore, updated information is not readily available to us and to obtain such information would incur a cost.

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)

End of year 2014/15	Target	End of year 2015/16
8.57% (figures for 2013/14 academic year)	21%	20.00% (for 2014/15 academic year)

Target not met

In the 2014/15 academic year there were 45 looked after children in the cohort (including 16 children out of borough). Performance this year has improved from last year, whereby 20% of those children achieved 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths, however, the target has been narrowly missed. Gateshead compares well against the national and regional averages, where 13.8% of children nationally achieved these results and 11% of children in the north east.

20 children in the Gateshead cohort (44.5%) out of 45 children had statements of SEN/or an Education and Health Care Plan (EHC).

The appointment of a teacher and educational psychologist to the REALAC Team has made a difference over the year. Personalised programmes are offered to pupils at risk of underachieving and liaison with schools on pupils' individual learning needs has improved. The next development is to make a joint appointment with the Behaviour Support Service to recruit a member of staff to work with pupils who are excluded or at risk of exclusion.

The Headteacher of the Virtual School for Looked after Children has produced a "data dashboard" which specifically details the performance of looked after children. This dashboard is produced on an annual basis and will help to highlight performance trends over time and keep track of the gap between disadvantaged and other pupils.

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

End of year 2014/15	Target	End of year 2015/16
29.1% figures for 2013/14 academic year	41%	28.1% Figures for 2014/15 academic year

Target not met

The current figure at 28.1% shows that performance has dropped from last year (29.1%) and the target has not been met.

The figure of 28.1% is also lower than both the North East average of 30.5% and the England average of 33.3%.

In terms of the gap with other pupils in Gateshead, it compares to 62.8% for all other pupils which is a -34.7 gap. In terms of comparison regionally and nationally, the figure shows a -30.1% gap in the north east and a -27.9% gap nationally.

The Closing the Gap project at KS4 which was introduced in September 2014 continues. It provides an opportunity for schools to share good practice in relation to the Closing the Gap agenda, in order to improve performance in relation to this measure.

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

End of year 2014/15	Target	End of year 2015/16
20% (figures for 2013/14 academic year)	25%	21.2% (figures for 2014/15 academic year)

Target not met

The figure shows a slight increase from the previous year's performance and is better than the north east figure of 18.2% and the national figure of 20%. The gap between outcomes for children with SEN and children with no SEN closed by almost 3% in 2015 (it now stands at -42.8%, which is smaller than both the regional gap of -45.2% and the national gap of -44.6%.

The number of children in the cohort in Gateshead was 283.

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 is: infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 live births.

For the period 2012-2014 (combined because of low numbers), Gateshead's rate is 4.5 per 1000 infants, which equates to around 31 deaths (around 10 per year). This is a 4.3 decrease on the previous period where the rate was 4.7%. The Gateshead rate is currently higher (but not significantly higher) than the north east rate for infant mortality at 3.6 per 1000 infants and is also slightly higher (but not significantly higher) than the national rate which is 4.0 per 1000 infants.

From 2001-2003 to the latest data set in 2012-2014, the actual rate of infant mortality has increased by 9.8% from 4.1 per 1000. The current rate of data has reversed a trend that was beginning to show rises in the overall rate, however, it is too early at this stage to know whether there is a definite change in the direction of travel.

Infant mortality is often associated with an increased risk among 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 sleeping campaigns.

Initiation and Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 weeks

There is no further update in terms of figures for these indicators. The latest available data relates to 2014/15 and was reported at the six monthly report stage. It is expected that the 2015/16 data will be published in November 2016. There will no longer be quarterly data available for breast feeding initiation and prevalence at 6 weeks due to the change over to the children's public health 0-5 data set; NHS England no longer publish this data.

To increase both breast feeding initiation and prevalence at 6-8 weeks remains a huge challenge for Gateshead. Gateshead is significantly worse than the England average

Breast feeding has been supported by a number of key partners in Gateshead as we know that there is evidence that babies who are breast fed experience lower levels of gastro-intestinal and respiratory infection. Observational studies have shown that breastfeeding is associated with lower levels of child obesity.

An antenatal pathway has been created by the Breastfeeding Operational Group in Gateshead to support mothers to navigate the antenatal health care system. The new pathway indicates which key professionals will be involved at which stage with the child. This pathway has been highlighted and indicated as an area of good practice regionally.

Children's Centre Reach figures

The reach figure measures the percentage of families of under 5s living in Gateshead who accessed children's centre services during a specific period. The level of engagement at the end of March 2016 was 57.03% (5141 families), which meets the Ofsted requirement to engage with the "majority of families" (51%). This is an increase on the figures from the last 2 years where the reach figure was 54.27% at March 2015 and 54.79% at the end of March 2014.

Gateshead's Children's Centre continues to provide universal and targeted services for children and their families throughout Gateshead. The universal services are now mainly delivered by a range of small local community businesses that have undergone a selection process. The providers of such activities/groups charge parents a nominal fee that has been agreed by the Children's Centre Management, which also does regular quality monitoring checks on the groups. In addition to these groups, staff have maintained their commitment to deliver at least one free universal activity in all the children's centre linked sites.

There has been an increase in the work of the Children's Centre Parent Outreach Workers (POWs) to support families on a one to one basis. These families are identified through the CAF process as being in need of early intervention support. During the last year, they have worked with 273 families. Of those families, 34% returned to universal support following intervention; 41% remain open and continue to receive targeted children's centre support. Of the remaining 25%, 10 families escalated to more intensive support through the FIT and/or statutory social care.

The Positive Pathways Team works with families who have stepped down from the Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams and are placed within the children's centre structure. This team has worked with a case load covering 197 children of which 15 have escalated to higher threshold services and 184 remain open to support.

Partnership working continues to be at the heart of the children's centre and this can be evidenced through the membership of the Children's Centre Advisory Board.

A model has been jointly developed between the Health Visiting Service, Early Years Childcare Service and the Children's Centre Managers to ensure that the 2 year old "integrated assessment" was introduced in line with Government policy by September 2015. This will provide a holistic view of the child, developmentally, both in the home and in childcare settings. These assessments should lead to fewer 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. Children's centre staff will continue to place a priority on increasing the take up of these places.

Risk and Resilience for Young People

Gateshead is implementing a risk and resilience approach to young people's risk taking behaviour to provide education and signposting to services.

Number of young people in drug treatment

The latest data available is for Quarter 3 (2015/16), which is cumulative for the year. This shows that there have been 81 new presentations, with 114 young people using the service (April 2015-December 2015). These figures are lower than those at Quarter 3 the previous year where there had been 103 new presentations and 143 young people using the service (April 2014-December 2014).

The total number of young people in the Drug Treatment Service at December 2015 was 144 (this is a rolling 12 month total), in comparison to 184 young people in the service at December 2014.

In terms of the latest information, cannabis has now surpassed alcohol as the primary substance in treatment; with 73% of clients in treatment for this reason (this is a big increase from only 59% at the same time last year). Alcohol is present for 72% of the clients and nicotine for 50%. This is in contrast to the national picture which indicates that 88% of young people were in treatment for cannabis, 48% for alcohol and only 14% for nicotine. This continues to highlight Gateshead's high levels of nicotine misuse amongst young people.

Overall at Quarter 1 (2015/16, 67% of those in treatment were male and 33 % were female, which is a similar split to the national picture.

Platform (Drug and Alcohol Service) has achieved 100% in waiting times of 3 weeks and under for young people starting their first treatment intervention.

Alcohol specific hospital admissions under 18s

The latest data available covers the period 2012/13-2014/15. At 54.7 per 100,000, this is a 6.97% reduction from the last reporting period of 58.8 per 100,000. The admission rate has continued a downward trend over the past 4 periods of data collection. However, Gateshead, is still significantly worse than the England rate (36.6 per 100,000), but is slightly better than the north east rate (60.4 per 100,000). Gateshead is currently the 4th lowest admission rate of all the north east local authorities. The highest admission rate in the north east is Sunderland at 92.9 per 100,000, which is also the highest rate for England.

Teenage conceptions Under 18s

The latest data available is for the end of year 2014 showing 37.7 under 18 conceptions per 1000. This data shows an increase in the rate from 2013, going from

29.3 per 1000 which is an increase of around 18.4%. Gateshead's figure is now the second highest of the five Tyne and Wear authorities. The lowest is North Tyneside with 22.9 per 1000 and the highest is Sunderland with 35.3 under 18 conceptions per 1000.

Gateshead's rate for 2014 is also higher than the Tyne and Wear (Met County) rate at 32.0 and higher than the north east rate of 30.2. It is also higher than the overall England rate of 22.8.

From 2013 to 2014 there was an increase of 16 under 18 conceptions, from 103 in 2013 to 119 in 2014.

The current rate of U18 conceptions is at its highest level over the last four periods of data collection; this followed a time in 2013 when the rate was at its lowest since the availability of the data.

The most important lesson from the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (1998) was that the solution to teenage pregnancy cannot be achieved by one service alone. A whole system approach is needed, with clear actions for all agencies, supported by strong leadership and accountability.

In moving forward there is an opportunity to link more effectively with other commissioned services and partners in Gateshead. A sexual health strategy will be produced to reflect the joint vision for Gateshead in improving sexual health outcomes.

Permanent exclusions

Although the rate of permanent exclusions in Gateshead has remained steady over the past three years, there has been an increase in the past year, with a rate of 0.19% from 0.07 the previous year (2013/14). There were 52 permanent exclusions in total throughout the year, 50 from secondary schools and 2 from primary schools.

The latest figure for both England and the region (2013/14) was slightly lower than Gateshead at 0.06%.

The Data Source for this information is the Spring/Summer/Autumn Census 2016.

There has been a rise in exclusions arising from drugs, violence and disruptive behaviour. There are no standardised criteria for permanent exclusions and it is based on the school's own behaviour policy; the Local Authority has very little influence over that. It is also difficult to re-locate pupils who display persistent disruptive behaviour or who are found to be in possession of weapons.

Working closely with head teachers, the local authority has been developing the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) to reflect the changing needs of permanently excluded pupils within Gateshead, including the development of a wider range of alternative provision at KS4.

Exclusions will also be a subject of discussion at a forthcoming LSCB Development Day.

Fixed term exclusions

Fixed term exclusions at 2.18% have risen slightly from the previous year at 2.11% but have continued to drop from the previous two years (2.80% in 2012/13 and 3.43% in 2011/12). There were 588 fixed term exclusions in total, with 501 from secondary schools, 62 from primary schools and 25 from special schools. In addition, there were 63 fixed term exclusions from the PRU.

The Data Source for this information is the Spring/Summer/Autumn Census 2016.

The latest figure for England (2013/14) was 3.5% and the regional figure was 3.14.

Attendance/Persistent Absence (PA) trends for primary and secondary Schools

Persistent absence in primary schools for the academic year 2014/15 has remained steady at 1.6%, which is the same as the previous year (2013/14). In 2012/13 it had been 3.2%. In terms of secondary schools, the latest figure shows a rate of 5.18%, which shows a decrease for the fifth consecutive year (5.4% last year and 7.3% the previous year).

The Data Source for this information is the Spring/Summer/Autumn Census 2016. Persistent absentees are defined as those children absent for 57 or more sessions up to the end of the summer term.

Targeted Youth Service

A key area of development for AYSS (Adolescent Youth Support Service) has been the “missing return interview” (independent return interviews). When a child or young person goes missing from care/home, a request is made for a member of the AYSS Team to meet with the young person within 72 hours following his/her return. This gives the young person an opportunity to meet and talk through the “missing episode”. This interview is intended to draw out the level of risk and vulnerability to which the young people may be exposing themselves and is strongly aligned with work around concerns in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE). Over the past year, there has been an improvement in meeting this timescale from just below 50% to over 73%.

From April 2015 to the end of March 2016, 240 children went missing, generating 977 missing episodes. This includes children from care who have gone missing. 389 return interviews were requested during that period and of those 228 were accepted. Of the 977 missing episodes during this period, it was reported at 185 (18.9%) of these that the child could have been at risk of CSE whilst missing.

AYSS worked with police cadets to deliver a range of sessions including a presentation around CSE to schools, universities and youth clubs, culminating in a presentation to over 500 delegates at the Safeguarding Conference in November 2015.

Youth Justice Custodial sentences

The latest Youth Justice Board published data for January 2015 – December 2015 shows the 12 monthly rate of custody for Gateshead at 0.29. This represents 5 custodial sentences in the 12 month period and a 0.12 decrease year on year. This is below the regional average for this period (0.41) and also below the national average (0.40).

In the past twelve months Hassockfield Secure Training Centre was decommissioned by the Youth Justice Board. This has led to young people being sent to alternative custodial establishments, some of which are a considerable distance from their homes. The Youth Offending Team (YOT) has been developing working relationships with those establishments including Aycliffe, Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre and Wetherby and there have been good examples of sharing information and joint working to ensure plans are appropriate and young people are safeguarded.

Young people who receive custodial sentences receive a visit from a Team Manager to ask about their experience of custody, using a safeguarding questionnaire. The meeting gives young people an opportunity to speak honestly and candidly and to identify any concerns with their care. As a result of one such meeting, a young person moved to a different “wing” within the custodial establishment and measures were put in place to safeguard him. All feedback from questionnaires is reported to the YOT Board.

Rate of proven reoffending

The latest 12 month reoffending data from the Police National Computer (PNC) for April 2013-March 2014 sets Gateshead's Binary (number of young people who go on to reoffend) rate of offending at 36.9% (37.9% the previous year) and the Frequency (number of re offences committed per young person) rate of reoffending at 0.93 (1.00 the previous year). This represents a cohort of 179 young people, of whom 66 went on to reoffend.

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.

Social care additional indicators

Referral rates leading to Child in Need (CiN) assessment

During the period April 2015-March 2016, there has been a total of 1994 referrals, of which 1937 have resulted in a child in need assessment (97.1%). At the same time last year, there had been 1752 referrals, of which 1669 resulted in completed child in need assessments (95.3%). The target for 2015-16 was 75%.

There has been a 13.8% increase in the number of referrals in comparison to the same time last year.

% of CIN assessments carried out within 45 days

Between April 2015 and March 2016, a total of 2200 CIN assessments have been completed. Of these, 2043 (92.9%) were completed within timescales. Currently there are 386 open CIN assessments. At the same point last year, 1993 CIN assessments had been completed, 1946 of these were within 45 working days (97.6%). This represents a 10.3% increase in CIN assessments completed, in comparison to the same time last year. The target for 2015-16 was 90%.

CP plans lasting more than 12/24 months

Current CP plans lasting more than 12 months

Of the 273 plans CP plans open at the end of March 2016, 23 have been open for more than one year (8.4%). 1 of those 23 plans has been open for more than 2 years. At the same time last year, 258 plans were open at the end of March 2015, with 42 being open for more than one year (16.3%). 6 cases at that point had been open for more than 2 years.

Ended CP plans lasting more than 24 months

Of the 323 CP plans that have ended between April 2015 and March 2016, 10 had lasted for more than 2 years (3.23%). The target was 4%. At the same time last year, 10 plans out of 319 ended during the time period had lasted more than 2 years (3.1%).

% of CP reviews held within timescale

Of the 174 children who have required reviews between April 2015 and March 2016 and who have been children protected for at least three months and are currently children protected, all have received their reviews within the timescale. There have been 281 reviews carried out in total for the current cohort; last year 209 children had reviews in the same period and all too were within the timescale. Gateshead's figures compare favourably with both the national figure where 94% of children were reviewed within timescale, the north east where 94.6% children were reviewed within timescale and Gateshead's statistical neighbours reported that 92.7% were reviewed within timescale (CIN Census 2014/15).

Numbers of looked after children

The figure at the end of March 2016 was 344 (representing 85.8 children per 10,000) a slight increase from the previous year's position when there were 340 looked after children (84.8 children per 10,000). This year's figure is above the regional average of 82 children per 10,000 and it is also higher than the national average of 60 which has remained relatively stable since 2013 (60 per 10,000).

% of LAC with 3 or more placements

At the end of March 2016, there were 26 looked after children who have had 3 or more placements out of a total of 344 looked after children (7.6%). At the same time last year there were 24 out of 341 looked after children who had 3 or more placements (7%).

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 319 eligible looked after children at the end of March 2016, 99.1% of reviews have been within timescale, with a total of 726 reviews completed since April 2015. Our target was 100%. There are 3 cases where the reviews are not within timescale. 2 of these 3 cases relate to two siblings.

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.

Care leavers in suitable accommodation

There are 144 young people who will turn 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 during 2015-16 and 122 who are in suitable accommodation. There are 19 young people with whom we are not in touch, but who have been reported as not being in suitable accommodation for the purpose of this indicator. There are 2 young people who are in custody and one who is in hospital and is sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

Care leavers in Education, Training or Employment (ETE)

There are 144 young people who will turn 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 during 2015-16, of whom 73 are in some form of ETE. There are 19 young people with whom we are not in touch, but have been reported as not being in ETE for the purpose of this indicator and 2 are in custody. We know that 11 are not in ETE due to parenting reasons and 10 other young people as a result of disabilities.

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

25 adoptions have taken place during the period April 2015-March 2016, of which 17 were within the best interest date (68%). At the same point last year, there had been 34 adoptions, of which 25 were within the best interest timescale (73.5%).

Multi agency working FamiliesGateshead

The number of new Common Assessments being undertaken has risen from 494 at the end of March 2015 to 988 for the period April 2015 to March 2016 (inclusive).

There are currently 1165 active Teams around the Family (TAFs – April 2016), 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 (318). Other services playing a leading role include Education (228 lead practitioners), Positive Pathways Team (167), Health services (134) and the Youth Offending Team (130). Voluntary Service figures have dropped this year as a result of the Oasis Aquila Service being decommissioned. Some cases transferred to other services and some were ended.

FamiliesGateshead

The Family Intervention Team continues to hold the majority (39%) of FamiliesGateshead cases as part of the national troubled families agenda. The FIT has participated in a pilot to take more direct referrals from colleagues in the Gateshead Housing Company where families were subject to legal proceedings on their tenancy.

Family Intervention Team (FIT)

FIT received referrals for 1,044 children between 1/4/15 and 31/3/2016, an increase of 5.5% from the same period last year. 513 referrals (49%) were from Referral and Assessment, 313 (30%) from Education and 105 (10%) from Health. Significantly, the last quarter (January 2016 – March 2016) has seen a 21% increase in referrals to FIT, compared to 2014/15. This is partly due to FIT having become an embedded, more recognisable service to schools and health and the increases have steadily increased throughout 2015/16.

There are also waiting lists and changes to eligibility for behaviour and emotional wellbeing support services and this continues to place more direct referrals into FIT.

FIT closed the cases of 613 children in the last year, without any further action required. This involved 71.6% of all closures. 65 children (7.6%) were referred to the Referral & Assessment Team and 26 (3%) were referred to the Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams.

FIT continues to use evidence based approaches in its intervention work and has completed national standard training in Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, Incredible Years and Drawing Therapy. It has also expanded the number of staff trained in the Respect Young People's Programme (addresses child to adult violence), Family Nurture (parenting approaches) and the Freedom Programme (domestic violence).

The team has developed a 12 month calendar of parenting provision across a wide range of community locations for 2016/17, including an updated programme for

managing adolescent behaviour (Keeping up with your teens) and the new Parents as Partners programme to work with couples and co-parents. The majority of parenting support is delivered during home visits on live/open FIT caseloads but an additional 63 parents completed separate group programmes.

Early Years and Childcare Service

The work of the Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) has continued to focus on the growth of the take-up of free early learning places for eligible 2-year olds. In the autumn term of 2015, we passed the 80% take-up rate for the first time. This compares with a national take-up rate of 72%.

The take-up of 3 and 4 year old places remains stable and very high at 98% (June 2015). There were 54% of children accessing this free entitlement in maintained provision, and 46% in Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) childcare provision. The percentage of children accessing maintained nursery provision has now fallen by 16% in the past 2 years.

DfE has awarded £116, 000 to Gateshead for 'Early Innovator' status to carry out pioneering work around flexibility and sufficiency of places; the outcome will be shared nationally.

Together with educationGateshead, staff continue to provide support and training to the PVI sector, as well as to schools looking to develop their own childcare provision. Whilst Ofsted is the sole arbitrator of quality in the PVI sector, the support that EYCS officers provide is highly valued, and has contributed to quality remaining high, with 84.3% of all registered childcare provision which has been Ofsted inspected, having a grade of good or outstanding.

Domestic Violence

Operation Encompass is a police led initiative that has been established to share information with schools, to be able to support children who are affected following a domestic abuse incident. Since the inception of Operation Encompass in April 2015 to 4 January 2016, there have been 529 separate domestic abuse incidents reported, of which a total of 1,185 children were involved. The average age of the child involved was 9 years. 172 Incidents were open/opened to Children's Services, of which 132 Repeat incidents were recorded. 58 incidents were both repeat incidents and open to Children's Services and 73% of incidents involved households where two children reside.

Subsequently, information is fed into Team around the Family (TAF) meetings and issues are discussed with the child, where appropriate and more covert actions such as monitoring the child's behaviour, attendance and general wellbeing within the school setting are carried out.