

## Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Council Plan – 6 Monthly Update of Delivery and Performance 2016/17

1 December 2016

Portfolio	Children and Young People
Portfolio Member:	Children and Young People – Councillor Angela Douglas
OSC Chair	Councillor Bernadette Oliphant
Lead Officer	Sheila Lock, Interim Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing & Learning
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#### Introduction

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

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

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

**Section A** of this report provides the performance update and analysis for the period April 2016- September 2016 (six months) and includes a total of 24 strategic outcome indicators, an increase from 14 strategic outcome indicators in the previous reporting period. 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. 15 out of the 24 targets are “tracker” targets.

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

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

## Achievements

- A recent Ofsted inspection judged the Council's LearningSkills Service as good overall, with learners' progress towards employment as "outstanding".
- The level of engagement in children's centres at the end of March 2016 remains steady at 55.75% and meets the Ofsted requirement to engage with the "majority of families" (51%).
- The latest figure showing the percentage of outstanding schools in Gateshead, at 32.4%, surpasses both the national average (19%) and the regional average (20%).
- The percentage of schools judged by Ofsted to be outstanding in the nursery, primary and special sectors is 38%.
- Provisional results at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 suggest that they exceed the national average. The results are now measured in terms of children achieving "the expected standard."
- Provisional Key Stage 2 results (2016) published by the DfE have placed Gateshead in the top 10 performing Local Authorities in the Country.
- Although provisional at this stage, 68.3% of children achieved a good level of development at age 5, a growing trend and a 4.6% rise from last year.
- The take-up of the two year old free early learning offer for eligible 2-year olds stands at 80% and compares with 70% nationally.
- The Ofsted grades for registered childcare provision compare favourably with national and regional statistics. Nationally, 78% of provision is good or outstanding, regionally it is 71% and in Gateshead it is 100%.
- At GCSE (including 5+ A\* to C grades with English and Maths), provisional figures suggest that Gateshead's performance has improved at 58.8% (58.1% last year).
- We have developed a new Sexual Health Strategy for Gateshead, which was recently approved at the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- A recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection found "that the work of the Youth Offending Team had improved substantially in all areas" since its previous inspection.
- Active Kidz activities attracted 294 children and young people during the 2016 spring and summer holiday, with 2300 daily bookings. 64% were a result of referrals, with 16% of these being from the Safeguarding Teams.

## Areas for Improvement

- Overall performance for children's social care remains positive although increasing demand continues to impact on high numbers of children with child protection plans and the number of Looked after Children remains higher than the average nationally and regionally.
- There has been a sharp rise in permanent exclusions in Gateshead, in recent years, which is not duplicated nationally or in statistical neighbours. Latest figures show a rise from 0.19% to 0.26%. This is subject to scrutiny of a LSCB task and finish group due to report in April 2017.
- A reduction in the number of childminders is a particular challenge, with 17 fewer than in 2015. A recent event for those interested in childminding attracted only 4 attendees.

- The latest figures show an increase in the % children in low income families in Gateshead (22.2%), in comparison to the previous year (20.5%). It is a similar picture regionally (24.3%) and nationally (19.9%), where the figures have also increased.
- The experience and progress of care leavers remains a challenge around engaging them in education, work, apprenticeships or training. A dedicated group has been set up with representatives from the LAC Team and Connexions to ensure we are persistent in improving outcomes for this group.

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

- Strengthen the Early Help Strategy to empower families, professionals from all sectors, including the voluntary sector and local communities to work collaboratively through an evidence based range of interventions to improve outcomes for our children and their families. This will also help divert families from more expensive specialist interventions.
- Work to understand the significant rise in child protection plans is ongoing, alongside the new planning framework which seeks to make plans smarter and define explicitly what success looks like in reducing the risk of harm to children.
- Connexions and REALAC Team to target and co-ordinate work to improve outcomes for Care leavers, including the development of opportunities for apprenticeships within the Council
- Education Gateshead will continue to focus work with schools around narrowing the gap in attainment for our most vulnerable young people
- A Task and Finish Group, set up to look at the increase in permanent exclusions will focus on individual pupils to identify issues and any recommendations arising to address them.
- The Early Years and Childcare Service will focus on preparing for the increase in the statutory free childcare entitlement, from 15 to 30 hours, for eligible 3 and 4 year old children (from working households - from September 2017).
- Prepare for the forthcoming Local Area SEND inspection, which will examine our effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

## **Section A: Performance and analysis at the six month stage covering the period April to September 2016 for the 24 strategic outcome indicators**

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

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

11 of the indicators are new and have not been reported before. 8 of these are performing well, (% outstanding schools, KS1 results, Attainment 8 and Progression 8 scores, custody rates, 2 year old early learning offer, Troubled Families and support for young carers); three others highlight room for improvement (reducing the gap between attainment and progress 8, supporting care leavers to have an apprenticeship within the council and children being offered their preferred choice in relation to admission to secondary school).

Outcomes for young offenders are continuing to improve, as well as the numbers of young people who are NEET. In terms of education, those children achieving a good level of development at aged 5 continue to rise and although the way KS2 results are measured has changed, provisional results suggest that they are again above the national average. Two 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 has slightly improved again this year (although provisional at this stage) and remains steady in comparison to the previous year's results. The 3 equalities targets are continuing to prove challenging; the results for looked after children have remained similar to last year; the results for those children with SEN has slightly improved from last year, as has the performance for those children accessing free school meals.

For the three health related strategic outcome indicators (% of mothers smoking at the time of delivery, reducing excess weight and hospital admissions for self harm), no official update has been made available since the last reporting period.

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

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

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

<b>Six monthly position 2014/15</b>	<b>Tracker Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>7.0% (June 2015 figure)</b>	<b>4.8% (2020)</b>	<b>5.8% (June 2016 figure)</b>

**Improving**

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

The latest most reliable data is therefore from 30 June 2016, (before education courses ended). At this point, Gateshead returned a NEET figure of 5.8%. While this was above the national average of 4.4%, it compared favourably with the regional figure of 6.1%. Analysis of the ages of the young people demonstrates that for 16 and 17 year olds, the figures of 2.7% and 4.1% respectively were not only better than the regional average but within 1 percentage point of the national figures. The NEET figure amongst 18 year olds of 9.3% is higher than regional and national figures, although the age rise itself reflects a national trend. The “not known” figure for Gateshead was 2.0%, which was better than the region and national figures. From September 2016, the NEET and Not known figures are to be combined as one.

In comparing the figures with the same time last year, they compare well against a NEET figure of 7.0% in June 2015 and a not known figure of 2.9%.

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

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

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Tracker Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>Not previously reported</b>	<b>Tracker – 40% - 2020</b>	<b>32.4% Data for 2015/16 (baseline)</b>

#### **New - Tracker Target – 2020**

This is a new strategic outcome indicator and it is the first time it is being reported. The baseline figure at year end (2015/16) is 32.4%. This compares favourably against both the north east and national figures (20.9% and 19% respectively).

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

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

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

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>95%</b>	<b>97% - 2020</b>	<b>93.7% (baseline)</b>

#### **New -Target – 97% - 2020**

This is a new strategic outcome indicator and is the first time being reported as such. The baseline figure at year end (2016) is 93.7%. This compares to 95% the previous year (2015). The 2016 figure compares favourably against both the north east (92.7%) and the national figure (88.4%).

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

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
92%	95% - 2020	82.8% (baseline)

**New -Target – 95% - 2020**

This is a new strategic outcome indicator and is the first time being reported as such. The baseline figure at year end (2016) is 82.8%. This compares to 92% the previous year (2015). The 2016 figure is considerably lower than the north east figure of (91.8%) and is also lower than the national average of (88.4%).

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

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

**Tracker Target - Not on target**

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

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

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

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



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

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG21: Educational Attainment: Increase the % of children achieving a good level of development at age 5** (Only statutory for one more year)

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
63.7%	N/A Awaiting Government announcement on future of this indicator	68.3% (provisional data) Confirmed data due Oct/Nov 2016

#### Improving (provisional data at this stage)

It is expected that official data will be released in late October/November 2016, therefore, at the time of writing the figure is provisional at this stage.

Work in relation to this indicator has focused on:

- Securing better quality provision across the sector by identifying individual strengths and weaknesses in settings and working with staff to address them
- Developing the quality of assessment across the sector
- Developing the quality of leadership and management across the sector
- Providing training for childminders to address their individual weaknesses and build on their strengths. Many more are now being inspected as "good", as opposed to being "satisfactory".

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22: Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1 in: PG22a) Reading, PG22b) Writing and PG22c) Maths.** These are new measures which will be used from summer 2016.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22a: Reading - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1** (new measure used from summer 2016)

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
N/A New measure (academic year 2014/15)	90% (2020)	76% (academic year 2015/16)

#### New - Target

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



At 76%, Gateshead's figure is better than the national average of 74%. In 2014 and 2015, using the previous system, Gateshead performed slightly below the national average.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22b: Writing - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1** (new measure used from summer 2016)

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
N/A New measure (academic year 2014/15)	84% (2020)	69.1% (academic year 2015/16)

**New - Target**

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

At 69.1%, Gateshead's figure is slightly above the national average. In 2014 and 2015, using the previous method of recording, Gateshead also performed slightly above the national average.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG22c: Maths - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1** (new measure used from summer 2016)

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
N/A New measure (academic year 2014/15)	90% 2020	74.4% (academic year 2015/16)

**New - Target**

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

At 74.4%, Gateshead's figure is better than the national average of 72.6%. In 2014 and 2015, using the previous system, Gateshead performed slightly below the national average.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG23: Increase the % of children attaining the “expected standard” at the end of KS2** (This is a new measure which will be used from summer 2016)

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

**New - Target - Provisional data at this stage**

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

Provisional figures suggest that at 61%, Gateshead performed better than the national average of 53%. This continues the trend for Gateshead to perform above the national average.

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

End of year 2014/15 (2014/15 academic year)	Tracker Target	Six monthly position 2016/17 (2015/16 academic year)
58.1%	59% (for 2015/16 academic year)	58.8% - provisional data
	N/A (final year) no 5 year target set	

**Tracker Target – Provisional data at this stage**

It should be noted that performance measures changed in 2016, and that nationally, 5A\*-C including English and Maths is no longer a key performance indicator. Instead, Attainment 8 and Progress 8 will be reported. The percentage attaining 5+A\*-C grades, including English and maths is used here for purposes of comparison with previous years. At 58.8%, this is an improvement from the previous year. Attainment at GCSE has been consistently higher than the national average (in terms of 5+ A\* to C with English and maths) over recent years. The national and regional figures have not been published.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG25: Raise Attainment 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4** (NB: This is a new measure which will be used from summer 2016)

End of year 2014/15 (2014/15 academic year)	Tracker Target	Six monthly position 2016/17 (2015/16 academic year)
N/A New indicator	C (=50) or 5	49.8 (D) – provisional data

**New Indicator - Tracker Target- Provisional results at this stage**

Attainment 8 is a measure of a pupils' performance across 8 qualifications at Key Stage 4 and has been introduced for the first time in 2016. The attainment 8 score for 2016 in Gateshead is 49.8, which equates to a high **grade D** (C=50). Each grade attained is given a numerical score. These scores are used to calculate the average score across 8 subjects. The average score is then converted back to a grade.

(GCSEs are being reformed and part of the reform means that each result will be given a number rather than a letter. This is being phased in, starting with English and Maths. When all GCSE results are given as numbers, the attainment 8 score will be a number.) Provisional figures at a national and regional level are not yet available.

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG26: Raise progress 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4** (This is a new measure which will be used from summer 2016)

End of year 2014/15 (2014/15 academic year)	Tracker Target	Six monthly position 2016/17 (2015/16 academic year)
N/A New indicator	-0.03	-0.15 – provisional data

**New Indicator –Tracker Target - Provisional results at this stage** Progress 8 is a new secondary accountability measure, aimed at measuring the progress of pupils across a selected set of 8 subjects. This performance is known as the "Attainment 8" score, therefore, to understand Progress 8 it is necessary to first understand Attainment 8. Attainment 8 is the students' **average** achievement across these eight subjects. Progress 8 is a measure of progress from starting points at KS2 to the Attainment 8 score (at Key Stage 4).

The Progress 8 score in Gateshead for 2016 is -0.15. A score of zero means "average progress" from KS2- KS4. Those with positive scores are above-average and those with negative scores are below-average.

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

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG27: Reduce the gap between Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores of disadvantaged pupils/disadvantaged peers at KS4 (This is a new measure which will be used from summer 2016)**

<b>End of year 2014/15 (2014/15 academic year)</b>	<b>Tracker Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17 (2015/16 academic year)</b>
<b>N/A New indicator</b>	<b>To be reviewed following 1<sup>st</sup> publication of data</b>	<b>0.70</b>

**New indicator – Tracker Target - Provisional results at this stage**

For disadvantaged pupils, the Progress 8 score was -0.63, while that of non-disadvantaged pupils was +0.07; the gap is 0.70. Disadvantaged pupils include those who are on Free School Meals (FSM), Looked after Children and service children.

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

**Strategic Outcome Indicator PG28: Equality Objective – Increase the % of vulnerable children achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C 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: (To end at 2015 and be replaced with PG26- Raise Progress 8 (to be used from summer 2016)**

**PG28a: Attainment of vulnerable children - % pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C or equivalent including maths and English for Looked after Children (To end at 2015 and be replaced with PG26)**

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Tracker Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>20.00% (figures for 2014/15 academic year)</b>	<b>21% (for 2015/16)  No 5 year target as final year</b>	<b>19% (for 2015/16 academic year) – provisional at this stage</b>

**Tracker Target - Provisional results at this stage**

The figures are provisional and, therefore, a guide only at this point; official figures are expected to be released at the end of the year. All current figures have been collated from information which has been received directly from schools.

In the 2015/16 academic year there were 37 looked after children in the cohort. Performance this year is similar to last year with a 1% difference - 19% children achieved 5 A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths and 20% of looked after children did so last year.

The cohort for this year had a significantly higher ratio of SEN children, rising from 44% in 2015 to 57% in 2016. 18% of the cohort attend special schools and were not expected to achieve 5A\*-C GCSEs as a result of their SEN needs. 14% of the cohort attends PRUs as a result of being at risk of permanent exclusion.

To help Looked after Children to reach the attainment targets, REALAC/Virtual school has offered the following interventions:

- 1:1 tuition through bespoke private tuition to support GCSE work
- Teacher support from the team on weekly sessions to provide individual support, maintain engagement and support the letterbox programme.
- Mentor support for those at risk of engagement was introduced at the end of last term
- Pay the schools Pupil Premium for Looked after Children, which is used to support individual children; this is monitored and challenged through each child's Personal Education Plan by members of the team.

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 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.

**PG28b: Equality Objective: Increase the % of vulnerable children achieving 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs including Maths and English -children on Free School Meals (FSM) (To end at 2015 and be replaced with PG26)**

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
28.1% figures for 2014/15 academic year	41% (2015/16 academic year)	29.5% - provisional Figures for 2015/16 academic year

#### **Tracker Target - Slight improvement - Provisional results at this stage**

The current figure at 29.5% is a slight improvement from 28.1% the previous year. As the figure is provisional at this stage, there is no comparison with the regional and national average. In terms of the gap with other pupils in Gateshead, it compares to 63.4%, which is a gap of -33.9 gap (it was -34.7) the previous year.

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.

**Equality Objective: PG28c: Equality Objective – Increase the % of vulnerable children achieving 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs including Maths and English -**

**children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)** (NB: to end at 2015 and be replaced with PG26)

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	Six monthly position 2016/17 Provision
21.2% (figures for 2014/15 academic year)	25% (2015/16 academic year)	21.6% (figures for 2015/16 academic year)

**Tracker Target - Provisional at this stage**

The figure shows a very slight increase from the previous year's performance. The number of children in the cohort in Gateshead was 259.

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

End of year 2015/16	Tracker Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
15.1% (2014/15 end of year)	9.9% - 2020	Data for 2015/16 due to be released in November 2016

**Tracker Target - Awaiting official update**

There has been no further update since the last reporting period. 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.

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

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

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

**New Indicator - Equality Target - On track**

The take up of the two year old free entitlement has been consistent at 80%. The latest figures circulated show a national take up of 70%.

In Gateshead, the target set relates to one year only until the position becomes clearer in relation to the 30 hours entitlement.

As an early innovator for the 30 hours entitlement for eligible 3 and 4 year old children, we have been working on a number of themes as we prepare for the

national roll-out in September 2017. These include developing recommended practice for transitions, drafting model admission policies, commissioning a short film to promote the entitlement to parents and working to refine our back office processes in line with the proposed new national funding formula. We have also submitted four capital bids to DfE for funding for additional places. Concerns remain in both the maintained and PVI sectors about the proposed hourly funding rate, which will not be confirmed until the end of this financial year.

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

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
23.1% (this covers the period 2014/15)	18.1% (2020)	To be published in December 2016 (this covers- the period 2015/16)

**Tracker Target – awaiting official update**

No further official update. The data for 2015/16 is not currently available and is due to be released in December 2016.

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

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
34.0% (this covers the period 2014/15)	25% (2020)	To be published in December 2016 (this covers the period 2015/16)

**Tracker Target – awaiting official update**

No further official update. The data for 2015/16 is not currently available and is due to be released in December 2016.

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

End of year 2015/16	Target	Six monthly position 2016/17
68.1 per 10,000 273 CYP	54 per 10,000 – 2020	93.3 per 10,000 374 CYP

**Not on target**

At the end of September, there were 374 children subject to child protection plans. This works out at a rate of 93.3 per 10,000 children. Of those currently on a plan, 5 have been on a plan for more than 2 years (1.3%).



At the same point last year, there were 221 children subject to a child protection plan (55.1 per 10K).

The north east average rate for children on a child protection plan as at 31 March 2015 was 59.5, the England average was 42.9 and Gateshead's statistical neighbour average was 57 (2014-2015 CIN Census).

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

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

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Equality Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>1,054 families allocated to Families Gateshead under Phase 2</b>	<b>1930 families (claims by 2020) as set out by Government</b>  <b>402 by March 2017</b>	<b>1326 families allocated under Phase 2 (since September 2015)</b>  <b>200 families (Quarters 1 and 2 April=September 2016)</b>

#### **New indicator – Equality Target**

FamiliesGateshead (our local response to the Troubled Families Programme) has had a significant impact in the way families are supported and has greatly increased the numbers being supported through CAF/TAF interventions.

To date there have been 1326 families allocated under Phase 2 of the Troubled Families programme, which Gateshead began as an early adopter in September 2015. 776 continue to be open to services and in receipt of support, 346 are in monitoring where successful outcomes have been achieved but not yet sustained for sufficient time to claim Payment By Results (PBR). To date, PBR has been claimed for 230 families under phase 2. The payment recognises where families have made significant and sustained progress against areas of identified need.

In the latest quarter (July - Sept 2016), 96 families have been engaged with Families Gateshead (including allocated, open, ongoing monitoring and claimed cases).

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

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

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Equality Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>97.9%</b>	<b>100% (2020)</b>	<b>80.5%</b>

**New indicator – Equality Target**

For the purpose of the statistical return required annually by the Department for Education, we collate data on young people leaving care whose 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday falls within the collection period.

At the end of September 2016, 87 young people have had a birthday to date out of 153 young people who will turn 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 during 2016/17. 2 of those young people had refused contact and we are not in contact with 12 of the young people. There are 4 YP who are in custody and 1 who is in hospital and is sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

Out of the 87 young people who have had a birthday to date, 80.5% were in suitable accommodation at the end of September 2016.

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

**Equality Objective: To increase levels of ambition and aspiration of vulnerable groups across Gateshead****Strategic Outcome Indicator LW9: Ensure young people leaving care are supported to be in education, employment, apprenticeships and training**

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Equality Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>50%</b>	<b>71% (2020)</b>	<b>44.8% (New indicator)</b>

**New indicator – Equality Target**

For the purpose of the statistical return required annually by the Department for Education, we collate data and report on young people leaving care whose 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday falls within the collection period.

At the end of September 2016, 87 young people have had a birthday to date out of 153 young people who will turn 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 during 2016/17. 2 of those young people had refused contact and we are not in contact with 12 of the young people. There are 4 YP who are in custody and 1 who is in hospital and is sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

At the end of September 2016, 44.8% of young people were in EET out of the 87 young people who have had birthdays this year to date. This includes 6 young people who are care leavers and are currently doing apprenticeships. We know that 1 YP is not in EET due to parenting commitments and 7 as a result of disabilities.

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

We have recently set up an EET (Education, Employment and Training) Group, and looks at young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, the support needed via Connexions and REALAC to avoid this and a RAG rating system has been introduced. There is also a separate “Apprenticeship” sub group, which specifically explores opportunities to promote traineeships and apprenticeships for looked after/leaving care young people, including apprenticeships within the Council.

### **Equality Objective: To promote healthy and inclusive communities**

#### **Strategic Outcome Indicator LW14a: Support for young carers**

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Equality Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>180 new referrals</b>	<b>85 (2020)</b>	<b>105 (New indicator)</b>

#### **New indicator – Equality Target**

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

In the first two quarters of 2016 (April-September), there have been 105 referrals to the service, 98 assessments have been carried out and 43 re-assessments. 30 young people’s cases have been closed to the service and 27 young people have been supported in other ways. In terms of outcomes, 65 young people have been offered “Activities” through the Crossroads Service, 16 have been offered the Crossroads “High Intensity,” programme, 16 young carers have been offered the Crossroads “Under 8s” Service and 1 has been offered the Crossroads “Take a Break” Service.

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

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

<b>End of year 2015/2016</b>	<b>Tracker Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>531.3 per 100,000 (for the period 2014/15)</b>	<b>To reduce</b>	<b>Awaiting data for 2015/16</b>

#### **Tracker Target – awaiting official update**

No further official update. The data for 2015/16 is not currently available and it is anticipated that it will be published in March 2017.

However, North East Commissioning Support has provided an analysis of Gateshead hospital admissions for intentional self-harm in patients aged 10 to 24 for the period April 2014 to June 2016. The data from North East Commissioning

Support for 2015/16 indicates that the rate of hospital admissions has increased to 223 compared to the child health profile 2014/15 data (179). This information is yet to be validated so should be treated with caution at this time.

Three Self-Harm training sessions, developed specifically secondary school staff have taken place to date. The training has been well attended by all secondary schools and there will be 3 follow up sessions with staff who attended the training to look at which systems / policies they have put in place to help support any pupils who have self- harmed or are at risk of self-harm.

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

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Tracker Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>433 per 100,000 73 (covering period April 2014- March 2015)</b>	<b>398 per 100,000 (2020) 70</b>	<b>373 per 100,000 63 (covering period April 2015- March 2016)</b>

**Tracker Target - Working towards target**

In terms of official (published data), the latest YJB data obtained via PNC (Police National Computer ), covers the period April 2015 –March 2016) and reports 63 FTEs per 100,000, which is a rate of 373 per 100,000 of 10-17 year olds, a -13.7% reduction year on year. This is below the regional average for this period (427), but higher than the national average (357).

During the period we have had 36 First Time Entrants in Gateshead. This Quarter (July 2016 - September 2016, we had a total of 24 FTEs in Gateshead, (140 FTEs per 100,000), which is a 100% increase from Quarter 1 (12 FTEs – 70 per 100,000). The FTEs in Quarter 2 were made up of 16 Males and 8 Females with a mean age of 15 years for the group. The reason for such an increase during this period is due to eight young people from this group being part of the Prevention and Triage cohort, who went on to offend and thus receive their first substantive outcome during this period (therefore, becoming FTEs).

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

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

<b>Six monthly position 2015/16</b>	<b>Tracker Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>0.24 per 1,000 10-17 year olds (covers period July 2014- June 2015)</b>	<b>To continue the low numbers of young people remanded to custody</b>	<b>0.24 per 1,000 10-17 year olds (covers period July 2015-June 2016)</b>

**Tracker Target- on target**

The latest YJB published data for July 2015-June 2016 shows the 12 monthly rate of custody for Gateshead at 0.24 per 1000 10-17 year olds, which represents 4 custodial sentences in the 12 month period. This is below the regional average for this period (0.27) and also below the national average (0.26).

There were no young people remanded to custody during this period.

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

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

<b>End of year 2015/16</b>	<b>Equality Target</b>	<b>Six monthly position 2016/17</b>
<b>N/A</b>	<b>Dependent on detail of agreed final Government legislation</b>	No young people who are care leavers have an apprenticeship within the Council.

**New indicator – Equality Target**

There are currently no young people leaving care who are currently undertaking an apprenticeship within the Council.

We have recently set up an EET (Education, Employment and Training) Group, which looks at young people who are at risk of becoming NEET, the support needed via Connexions and REALAC to avoid this and a RAG rating system has been introduced. There is also a separate “Apprenticeship” sub group, which specifically explores the promotion of traineeships and apprenticeships for looked after/leaving care young people and this also includes apprenticeships within the council.

## **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.  
There is no further official update from the previous reporting period.

### **Initiation and Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 weeks**

There is no further official update in terms of figures for these indicators. The latest available data relates to 2014/15 and was reported previously. 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

### **Children's Centre Reach figures**

Engagement rates for families accessing early childhood services remains well above the Ofsted requirement to engage with the majority of families with children under 5 within the borough of Gateshead. (51%). At 55.75% in Gateshead at the end of August 2016, this compares to 56.79% at the same time the previous year.

Children's Centre services have been remodelled, enabling the practitioners to focus on a range of targeted activities such as infant massage, fit and plus, caring for children and family support. These were accessed by 301 families and one to one family support was provided to 273 families (107 of these returning to universal support following intervention). Under the new model, universal capacity has been rebuilt using private and voluntary organisations and partner agencies (such as health and library and leisure services). Universal activities were accessed by 1829 families of under 5s.

The Positive Pathways Team has worked with 118 families between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, and of these 66 cases were closed to the team; 33 of these families had their needs met, 5 moved out of the area, 3 closed due to dis-engagement and 20 required further involvement from the Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams.

### **Number of young people in drug treatment**

No further official update since the last reporting period.

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

No further official update since the last reporting period.

## **Teenage conceptions Under 18s**

No further official update since the last reporting period.

## **Permanent exclusions**

In 2015/16 Gateshead had 72 permanent exclusions (71 secondary and 1 primary) (unvalidated data), which is an increase from the 56 permanent exclusions in the 2014/15 academic year. Although nationally there has been a slight rise in permanent exclusions, over the past years there has been a sharp rise in permanent exclusions in Gateshead which is not duplicated nationally or in statistical neighbours. Two thirds of the permanent exclusions were for persistent disruptive behaviour.

The LSCB requested that a task and finish group undertakes a piece of work to:

- identify the reasons for this increase in permanent exclusions
- identify areas for development which are required to reduce the number of permanent exclusions
- identify future strategies to support both those at risk of and/or those permanently excluded

This work began in June 2016 and is expected to be complete by June 2017.

## **Fixed term exclusions**

The figure is provisional at this point and is based on data taken from EMIS for the academic year (2015-16). It should be noted that all schools are not currently recorded within EMIS and over the forthcoming weeks, Census data will be received from all schools, which will provide a more accurate figure. The figure is expected to increase substantially. DfE will report on this later in the year, based on the school census.

The latest provisional figures show that over the three terms there were 196 fixed term exclusions (0.01 - based on figures from reception - year 11 inclusive.). This includes 179 (autumn term), 13 in the spring term and 4 in the summer term. Last year there were 588 fixed term exclusions in total and an additional 63 fixed term exclusions from the PRU.

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

This figure is provisional at this point and is based on data taken from EMIS for the full academic year (2015-16). DfE will report on this in Spring 2016, based on the school census which will be more accurate as at this point EMIS does not include all schools.

The Government has changed the definition for Persistent absentees and it is now defined as those children absent for 38 or more sessions (<10%), as opposed to 57 or more sessions (< 15%) which has been reported previously. Therefore, it should be noted that the information cannot be compared with previous years.

Persistent absence in primary schools for the academic year 2015/16, although provisional at this stage is 7.24%. This includes primary school pupils, including reception class but does not include the nursery cohort.



In terms of secondary schools, the latest figure shows a rate of 12.63%, which includes children and young people in years 7-11.

### **Targeted Youth Service**

The Adolescent Youth Support Service (AYSS) has been working closely with schools to ensure that contact is maintained with young people and to be able to respond to specific requests for support in an agreed and measured way. The team is currently working with five schools and has nurtured 40 “one to one” interventions and offered a bespoke package of support around a range of issues with 120 young people.

A mobile/detached youth work is delivered three evenings per week across areas identified through particular need and this has involved making contact with more than 60 young people a week throughout the borough.

The AYSS also accepts referrals for young people and families and prioritise those young people who are looked after or where referrals have come from the Safeguarding or the Referral and Assessment Teams. The AYSS currently holds 58 open cases and has worked with young people around issues including child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. One young person has been supported to meet with his mother to help negotiate a return home and another young person is now back in education and achieving good results.

The AYSS Team also carries out independent return interviews for our young people who go missing from home or care. From April 2016 to the end of September 2016, 256 children went missing, generating 851 missing episodes. This includes children from care who have gone missing.

317 return interviews were requested during that period and of those 194 were accepted (61.2%). Of the 851 missing episodes during this period, it was reported that 115 (13.5%) could have involved a child who had been at risk of CSE whilst missing.

Where concerns about vulnerability and risk are heightened or missing episodes are prolific the young people are discussed in the multi-agency forum of MSET to ensure a joined up response is provided. 35 YP have been discussed so far this year with plans in place to reduce missing episodes and minimise risk.

### **Play Service**

FACETS (Families & Children Empowered Through Targeted Services) holiday provision for children and young people with autism and associated complex needs was delivered during the spring and summer holidays. FACETS is currently full with 25 children and young people attending regular. Its popularity has resulted in the age of Active Teenz holiday provision to be lowered to allow early transition from FACETS to Active Teenz. This will free up space at FACETS for younger children.

There has been a significant increase in one to one outreach support for children with disabilities and those referred via Families Gateshead.

### **Rate of proven reoffending**

The latest 12 month reoffending data from the Police National Computer (PNC) for October 2013- September 2014 sets Gateshead's Binary (number of young people who go on to reoffend) rate of offending at 31.1% and the Frequency (number of re offences committed per young person) rate of reoffending at 0.93. This represents a cohort of 183 young people, of whom 57 went on to reoffend and commit 170 re-offences.

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

### **Social care additional indicators**

#### **Referral rates leading to Child in Need (CiN) assessment**

During the period April 2016 to September 2016, there has been a total of 835 referrals, of which 804 have resulted in child in need assessments (96.3%).

At the same time last year, there had been 900 referrals, of which 886 resulted in completed child in need assessments (98.4%).

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

Between April 2016 and September 2016, a total of 1145 CIN assessments have been completed. Of these, 891 (77.8%) were completed within timescales.

At the same point last year, 1007 CIN assessments had been completed, 964 within 45 working days (95.7%). This represents a 13.7% increase in CIN assessments being completed.

#### **% of children subject to a Child Protection plan for a second or subsequent time**

During the period of April 2016 to September 2016, out of the 241 children who became subject to a child protection plan (CP) plan, 47 children became the subject of a CP plan for a second or subsequent time (19.5%). This cohort comprised 1 group of 4 siblings, 6 groups of 3 siblings, 7 groups of 2 siblings and 11 individuals. 7 of 47 children had subsequent plans begun within 12 months of their previous CP Plan ending (14.8%).

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

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

Of the CP plans open at the end of March 2016, there were 9.1% lasting more than 12 months. The target is less than 15%.

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

During the period of April 2016 to September 2016, 138 CP plans have been ended, of which 2 had duration greater than 2 years or more (1.45%). Currently, there are 5 children on CP plans that have lasted for 2 years.

At the same time last year, 168 plans had been ended, of which 1 had a duration greater than 2 years or more (0.6%).

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

Of the 266 children who have required reviews between April 2016 and September 2016, who have had a child protection plan for at least three months and currently have a child protection plan, all have received their reviews within timescale.

### **Numbers of looked after children**

At the end of September 2016, there were 345 looked after children in Gateshead. The rate of looked after children per 10,000 stood at 86, which remains above the regional average of 82 per 10,000 and higher than the national average of 60 per 10,000.

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

During the period April 2016 to September 2016, 101 children have been in their placement for at least 2 years out of the 115 children who have been looked after for two and a half years or more (88%). At the same time last year there were 107 children out of 132 (81.1%).

### **% of LAC with 3 or more placements**

During the period April to September 2016, there were 5 looked after children who have had 3 or more placements. This equates to 1.4% of the overall number of looked after children at this time (345 looked after children).

At the same time last year, there were 18 out of 371 looked after children who had 3 or more placements (5%).

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. Overall, performance is strong in terms of LAC reviews and the use of MOMO has improved young people's engagement with their review.

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

During April to September 2016, 11 adoptions took place, 9 of which were within the best interest date timescale (81.8%). At the same point last year, there were 11 adoptions, of which 7 were within the best interest timescale (63.6%).

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

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

In the last year (April 2015-March 2016) there were 26 adoptions, and the 2013-2016 average is expected to be approximately 199 days. Our target was less than 181 days. The England average for the period 2012-2015 was 223 days.

### **Multi agency working FamiliesGateshead**

363 new Common Assessments have been registered in the last 6 months.

There are currently 1089 active Teams around the Family (TAFs – October 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 (326). Other services playing a leading role include Education (212 lead practitioners), Health services (133), the Youth Offending Team (115) and the Positive Pathways Team (104).

These figures represent the number of families being supported through our multi-agency approach to early intervention. The CAF/TAF approach has been increasingly impacted on by our approach through the FamiliesGateshead programme (our local version of the Troubled Families programme).

### **Family Intervention Team (FIT)**

Between April 2016 and June 2016, FIT received referrals for 254 children (147 families). 157 children (96 families) were referred from Tier 3 services. The team also had 111 referrals for group parenting programmes during the same period; 58 of those met the threshold for the FamiliesGateshead programme.

In terms of closures, 142 children's cases (72 families) were closed requiring no further action at Tier 2, which is 75.5% of all closures. 10 children (4 families) were referred to Safeguarding, 18 children (11 families) were referred to the Referral & Assessment Team, which is 14.95% of all closures.

The Family Intervention Team is currently submitting a bid for £100K (following on from the grant from DWP to improve couple and co-parenting relationships), following an evidence review by the Early Intervention Foundation which concludes that family support interventions will have limited effectiveness without using test approaches to improving relationship quality in families.

### **Early Years and Childcare Service**

The Ofsted grades of registered childcare provision compare favourably with national and regional statistics. Nationally, 78% of early years provision is good or outstanding and 71% in the north east region. In Gateshead, of providers with Ofsted ratings (i.e. not those recently registered), 100% of day nurseries and pre-schools are good or outstanding , as are 96% of out of school clubs and 92% of childminders.

A particular concern for us relates to the reduction in the number of registered childminders. Currently, there are 132 registered child minders, a reduction of 17 from 2015. A recent briefing held for those interested in becoming childminders attracted only four attendees. This is a challenge, particularly, as childminders could work in partnership with other providers, for example, schools, to provide the 30 hours extended entitlement.