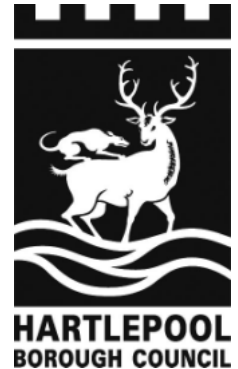


# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



**Tuesday 31 January 2012**

**at 4.30 pm**

**in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Fleet, Griffin, Ingham, Lauderdale, Maness, P Thompson, Wells and Wilcox.

Co-opted Members: Eira Ballingall and Sacha Paul Bedding.

Resident Representatives: Joan Steel, and 2 vacancies.

Young People's Representatives: Hanna Bew , Ashleigh Bostock, Bianca Gascoigne and Kim Henry

School Council Representatives: Two vacancies

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2012 (*to follow*)

**4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items

**5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items

**6. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

- 6.1 Proposals For Inclusion In Child And Adult Services Departmental Plan 2012/13 – *Child and Adult Services Departmental Management Team*

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**INVESTIGATION INTO THE 'PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN / YOUNG PEOPLE'**

- 7.1 Views of looked after children / young people:-
- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
  - (b) Presentation – *Looked after children / young people*
- 7.2 Verbal feedback from the site visits to The Star Centre held on 12 December 2011, the children's home in Hartlepool and the children's home in Stockton held on 24 January 2012 – *Members of the Forum who attended the visits*
- 7.3 Progress report on the recommendations from the investigations into Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service (2008/09) and Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason (2008/09) – *Assistant Director of Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services*
- 7.4 Formulation of Recommendations – *Members of the Forum*

**8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

- 8.1 Executive's Forward Plan – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

**9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 27 March 2012, commencing at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

Date: 31 January 2012



**Report of:** Child and Adult Services Departmental Management Team

**Subject:** PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION IN CHILD AND ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2012/13

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider the proposals for inclusion in the 2012/13 Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For 2012/13 a review of the Outcome Framework has been undertaken to ensure that it still accurately reflects the key outcomes that the Council and Partners have identified as being important for the future of town. A revised outcome framework, to be implemented from April 2012, was reported to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 11 November 2011 and Cabinet on 19 December 2011.
- 2.2 As in previous years detailed proposals are being considered by each of the Scrutiny Forums in January/February. A report will be prepared for Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 17 February 2012 detailing the comments/observations of each of the Scrutiny Forums to inform a response to Cabinet.
- 2.3 The Departmental Plan is a working document and as such there are still a small number of areas where further information is still to be provided. This information will be included in the version of the Plan that is to be considered by Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and by Cabinet in March 2012.

### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Assistant Directors, Performance and Achievement and Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services, will deliver a short presentation at the meeting detailing the key challenges that the department faces over the next year, and beyond, and setting out proposals for how these will be addressed.

- 3.2 The focus of the presentation will be on the actions that have been identified by officers from across the Council, that set out in detail how the outcomes will be delivered in 2012/13. The Scrutiny Forum will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposals throughout the presentation. Only those outcomes and actions that fall under the remit of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum will be included in the presentation.
- 3.3 In addition to the actions included in the presentation, officers from across the Council have also been identifying the Performance Indicators (PIs) that will be monitored throughout the year to measure progress and these, together with the actions are included in the proposed Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan, attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 As In 2011/12, only Key Performance Indicators will include future targets, and other indicators will be included for monitoring purposes only. For those indicators where targets have been proposed it may be necessary for the targets to be revised based on final year outturns for 2011/12 and/or final budget decisions. Any changes to proposed targets will be included in future proposals to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and Cabinet.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The remainder of the Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan has already been discussed by Health Scrutiny Forum on 26 January and will be discussed by Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum on 1 February 2012. Comments and observations from those Scrutiny Forums will be added to those received at today's meeting and included in the overall presentation to the meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 17 February 2012.
- 4.2 The Child and Adult Departmental Plan will then be considered, alongside the Council's Corporate Plan and other Departmental Plans, by Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 8 March 2012 before being formally agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 19 March 2012.
- 4.3 Progress towards achieving the actions and targets included in the Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan will be monitored throughout 2012/13 by officers across the Council and progress reported quarterly to Cabinet and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum: -
- considers the proposed outcome templates for inclusion in the 2012/13 Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan

- formulates any comments and observations to be included in the overall presentation to the meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 17 February 2012.

**Contact Officer:** - Caroline O'Neill  
Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement  
Tel: 01429 523914  
E-mail: [Caroline.O'Neill@Hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.O'Neill@Hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Proposals for inclusion in Child and Adult Services Departmental Plan 2012/13 (Children's Services)**

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS					
<b>Theme</b>	Jobs and the Economy	<b>Outcome</b>	3. Hartlepool has increased employment and skills levels with a competitive workforce that meets the demands of employers and the economy	<b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b>	Yes

SECTION 2 ACTIONS			
Action	Corporate Plan	Due Date	Assignee
Reduce the level of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) by implementing NEET Strategy.	Yes	March 2013	James Sindair
Implement the Hartlepool 14-19 Strategy.	Yes	March 2013	Tom Argument
Provide support for vulnerable young people to enable them to be economically active.		March 2013	Tom Argument/Mark Smith
Ensure access to high quality learning opportunities that increase the skills and qualifications of local residents via implementing the Adult Education Service Plan		July 2013	Maggie Heaps
Increase the take up of Apprenticeships by liaising with local employers to increase opportunities		July 2013	Maggie Heaps

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
NI 117	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	James Sinclair/Mark Smith	Targeted	Yes	Financial Year	6.9%	6.6%	TBC
NI 79	Percentage of young people achieving a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	Tom Argument	Targeted	Yes	Financial Year	74.7%	76.5%	78.5%
NI 80	Percentage of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	Tom Argument	Targeted	Yes	Financial Year	45.6%	47.0%	49.5%
NI 81	Percentage gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 between those claiming free schools meals at academic age 15 and those that were not	Tom Argument	Targeted		Financial Year	22.9%	22.5%	21.0%

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
NI 82	Percentage of young people who were in receipt of free school meals at academic age 15 who attained Level 2 Qualifications by the age of 19	Tom Argument	Targeted		Financial Year	62.5%	65.4%	67.4%
NI 91	Percentage of 17 year-olds in education or training	Tom Argument	Targeted		Financial Year	83.6%	85.0%	92.0%
NI 106	Percentage gap between those young people from low income backgrounds and those that are not progressing to higher education	Kelly Armstrong	Targeted		Financial Year	22.0%	21.0%	20.0%

SECTION 4 RISKS		
Code	Risk	Assignee
New	Effect of the economic downturn on jobs and the economy which may prevent young people finding suitable employment.	Tom Argument

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS				
<b>Theme</b>	Jobs and the Economy	<b>Outcome:</b>	6. Fewer children experiencing the effects of poverty	<b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b> Yes

SECTION 2 ACTIONS			
Action	Corporate Plan	Due Date	Assignee
Implement Child Poverty Action Plan	Yes	March 2013	Danielle Swainston
Develop pathways within Early Intervention Strategy to improve parents access to support re: financial inclusion		March 2013	Danielle Swainston
Develop training package for family workforce to identify poverty issues and support parents in poverty		March 2013	Danielle Swainston

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
New	Proportion of children in poverty	Danielle Swainston	Targeted	Yes	Financial Year	31.2% (current) 2010	30%	28%
NI 106	Percentage gap between those young people from low income backgrounds and those that are not progressing to higher education	Kelly Armstrong	Targeted		Financial Year	22.0%	21.0%	20.0%
NI 102a	Percentage gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving at least level 4 in English and Maths at Key Stage 2	TBC	Monitor		Academic Year	Not Required		
NI 102b	Percentage gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE (and equivalent) including GCSE English and Mathematics at Key Stage 4	Tom Argument	Monitor		Academic Year	Not Required		

SECTION 4 RISKS		
Code	Risk	Assignee
CAD R002	Increased demand on services due to demographic pressures and current economic climate	Jill Harrison



SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS					
<b>Theme</b>	Lifelong Learning and Skills	<b>Outcome:</b>	7. To promote opportunities for all children and young people to reach their full potential by accessing good quality teaching and curriculum provision which fully meets their needs and enables them to participate in and enjoy their learning	<b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b>	Yes

SECTION 2 ACTIONS			
Action	Corporate Plan	Due Date	Assignee
Analyse Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) data and challenge schools with anomalies. Provide support and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to identified schools. Monitor impact through Foundation Stage Profile software.	Yes	September 2013	Danielle Swainston
Analyse Key Stage 2 data in English and mathematics. Identify schools below 60% floor target in combined English and mathematics and with below average progress in English and mathematics separately and report to Portfolio Holder under Council's schools causing concern.	Yes	March 2013	Caroline O'Neill
Analyse Key Stage 4 data. Identify schools below 35% for 5A*-C (including English and mathematics) threshold and report to Portfolio Holder under Council's schools causing concern.	Yes	March 2013	Tom Argument
Implement appropriate actions from Children and Young Person's Plan and 14-19 strategy		March 2013	Caroline O'Neill
Provide challenge, intervention and support in inverse proportion to school success.		September 2013	Caroline O'Neill
To implement all the actions identified in the SEN Pathfinder Project Initiation Document		March 2013	Zoe Westley

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
NI 73	Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	Caroline O'Neill	Targeted	Yes	Academic Year	82% (10/11)	78% (11/12)	79% (12/13)
NI 75	Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	Tom Argument	Targeted	Yes	Academic Year	57.1% (10/11)	58% (11/12)	60% (12/13)
NI 93	Percentage of pupils progressing by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Caroline O'Neill	Targeted	Yes	Academic Year	94% (10/11)	88% (11/12)	89% (12/13)
NI 94	Percentage of pupils progressing by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Caroline O'Neill	Targeted	Yes	Academic Year	92% (10/11)	86% (11/12)	87% (12/13)
NI 99	Percentage of looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	Zoe Westley	Monitor		Academic Year	Not required		

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
NI 100	Percentage of looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2	Zoe Westley	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
NI 101	Percentage of looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and mathematics)	Zoe Westley	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
NI 102a	Percentage gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving at least level 4 in English and Maths at Key Stage 2	Caroline O'Neill	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
NI 102b	Percentage gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE (and equivalent) including GCSE English and Mathematics at Key Stage 4	Tom Argument	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
NI 104	Percentage gap between pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their peers achieving level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	Zoe Westley	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
NI 105	Percentage gap between pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their peers achieving 5 A*-C grades or equivalent including English and Maths at Key Stage 4	Zoe Westley	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
CSD P040	Percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate	Tom Argument	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
NI 87	Percentage of Secondary school pupils who are persistently absent	Jackie Webb	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
CSD P041	Percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent	Tom Argument	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	
New	Number of primary schools below the floor standard at Key Stage 2 (less than 60% of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in combined English and mathematics and making less than average progress in English and mathematics separately)	Caroline O'Neill	Monitor		Academic Year		Not required	

SECTION 4 RISKS		
Code	Risk	Assignee
CAD R001	Services issues as a result of insufficient budget allocation or changes in national funding/grants (Actively Managed)	Caroline O'Neill
CAD R004	An increase in the number of schools falling below Department for Education floor standard at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 (Actively Managed)	Caroline O'Neill
CAD R005	Failure to meet the statutory duties and requirements vested within the Child and Adult Services department (Actively Managed)	Caroline O'Neill
CAD R012	Failure to plan school provision appropriately	Peter McIntosh
CAD R015	Failure to carry out specific statutory duties and/or comply with regulatory codes of practice	Caroline O'Neill

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS				
<b>Theme</b>	Health and Wellbeing	<b>Outcome:</b>	10. Be healthy – children enjoy good physical and emotional health and live a healthy lifestyle	<b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b> Yes

SECTION 2 ACTIONS			
Action	Corporate Plan	Due Date	Assignee
Reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of services delivered, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (including targeted school provision), Children with complex needs, Health Visiting, Speech and Language Therapy, Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and School Nursing		March 2013	Louise Wallace
Implement Breast Feeding Strategy		March 2013	Louise Wallace
Implement Child Measurement Programme	Yes	March 2013	Louise Wallace
Ensure range of Physical Activity available for children & young people		March 2013	Pat Usher
Implement Smoking in Pregnancy Action Plan	Yes	March 2013	Carole Johnson
Work with partner agencies, young people, schools and families to tackle substance misuse (including alcohol)		March 2013	John Robinson
Implement Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and action plan	Yes	March 2013	Deborah Gibbin
Commission effective substance misuse services for young people		March 2013	John Robinson
Implement the British Heart Foundation Younger Wiser funding and roll out across schools		March 2013	Louise Wallace
Develop a robust action plan	Yes	March 2013	Louise Wallace
Increase the uptake of child vaccinations		March 2013	Louise Wallace

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
LAA HW P001	Percentage of women smoking at time of delivery	Carole Johnson	Targeted	Yes	Financial Year	22	22	TBC
NI 57	Percentage of children aged 5-16 participating in at least 2 hours a week of high quality curriculum time PE and sport	Andrew Jordan	Monitor		Financial Year – biennial	Not Required		
VSB12_MO2	Access to Mental Health Services for 16-17 year olds	Louise Wallace	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		
NI 53a	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth - Percentage of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks	Louise Wallace	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		
New	Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) immunisation rate – children aged 2 (1 <sup>st</sup> dose)	Louise Wallace	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		
New	Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) immunisation rate – children aged 5 (2 <sup>nd</sup> dose)	Louise Wallace	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		
NI 55(iv)	The percentage of children in Reception who are obese	Louise Wallace	Monitor		Academic Year	Not Required		
NI 56(ix)	The percentage of children in Year 6 who are obese	Louise Wallace	Monitor		Academic Year	Not Required		
NI 112	The change in the rate of under 18 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17, as compared with the 1998 rate	Deborah Gibbin	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		

SECTION 4 RISKS		
Code	Risk	Assignee
CAD R006	Alcohol investment does not enable the provision of sufficient services to meet the increased level of need. (Current investment consists of (i) PCT funding for clinical and treatment interventions; (ii) Community Safety grant aid which contributes to specific crime reduction initiatives and offender programmes such as Alcohol Treatment Requirement Orders which are actively managed, and (iii) contributions from the Pooled Treatment Budget a Government substance misuse grant which is expected to be cut for 2012/13)	Chris Hart
CAD R007	Adverse publicity and community tension (e.g. in regard to reintegration of drug users, offenders back into community, drug related deaths, establishing community services/Pharmacist) (Actively Managed)	Chris Hart
CAD R014	Failure to make significant inroads in Health Impact	Louise Wallace
CAD R018	Government reduces grant allocations i.e. Pooled Treatment and DIP	Chris Hart
New	Failure to adequately manage the transition of Public Health from the Primary Care Trust to the Local Authority by 2013	Louise Wallace

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS					
<b>Theme</b>	Health and Wellbeing	<b>Outcome:</b>	11. Children and young people are safe	<b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b>	Yes

SECTION 2 ACTIONS			
Action	Corporate Plan	Due Date	Assignee
Implement the Youth Justice strategic plan	Yes	March 2013	Mark Smith
Implement the action plans arising from areas for development identified through inspections		March 2013	Sally Robinson
Implement the strategic priorities from the Looked After Children strategy	Yes	March 2013	Jane Young
Develop the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board via implementation of the strategy & business plan		March 2013	Jim Murdoch
Implement the Early Intervention strategy	Yes	March 2013	Sally Robinson
Ensure sufficiency of placements for LAC		March 2013	Jane Young

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
CSD P035	Children who became the subject of a Child Protection (CP) plan, or were registered per 10,000 population under 18	Sally Robinson	Targeted	Yes	Financial Year	36	40	40
NI 59	Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within ten working days of referral	Wendy Rudd	Targeted		Financial Year	80%	80%	80%
NI 60	Core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	Wendy Rudd	Targeted		Financial Year	80%	70%	70%
NI 61	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	Jane Young	Targeted		Financial Year	80%	80%	80%
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves	Jane Young	Targeted	Yes	Financial Year	10%	10%	10%

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	Jane Young	Targeted		Financial Year	70%	70%	70%
NI 64	Child protection plans lasting two years or more	Maureen McEnaney	Targeted		Financial Year	8%	8%	8%
NI 65	Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	Maureen McEnaney	Targeted		Financial Year	10%	10%	10%
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	Maureen McEnaney	Targeted		Financial Year	95%	95%	95%
NI 67	Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	Maureen McEnaney	Targeted		Financial Year	100%	100%	100%
NI 43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	Sally Robinson	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Sally Robinson	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		
NI 111	Number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 per 100,000 population (aged 10-17)	Sally Robinson	Monitor		Financial Year	Not Required		

SECTION 4 RISKS		
Code	Risk	Assignee
CAD R003	Failure to provide statutory services to safeguard children & vulnerable adults and protect their well-being. (Actively Managed)	Sally Robinson
CAD R005	Failure to meet the statutory duties and requirements vested within the Child and Adult Services department (Actively Managed)	Sally Robinson

SECTION 1 OUTCOME DETAILS						
<b>Theme</b>	Strengthening Communities	<b>Outcome:</b>	26. Make a positive contribution – people are involved with the community and society	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b></td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b>	Yes
<b>Hartlepool Partnership Outcome?</b>	Yes					

SECTION 2 ACTIONS			
Action	Corporate Plan	Due Date	Assignee
Support parents forum – 1 Hart (One Heart, One Mind, One Future)		March 2013	Tracy Liveras
Develop parents forums within Early Intervention Localities that inform service design and planning	Yes	March 2013	Tracy Liveras
Develop and commission positive activities for children and young people		March 2013	Mark Smith
Support children and young people(0-19) to participate in service design and democratic processes	Yes	March 2013	Mark Smith
Ensure a range of opportunities are available which encourage Community Participation		July 2013	Maggie Heaps

SECTION 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS								
Code	Indicator	Assignee	Targeted or Monitor	Corporate Plan	Collection Period	Previous Target (2011/12)	Future Targets	
							12/13	13/14
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	Beth Storey	Monitor				Not Required	
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	Sally Robinson	Monitor				Not Required	

SECTION 4 RISKS		
Code	Risk	Assignee
CAD R001	Services issues as a result of insufficient budget allocation or changes in national funding/grants	Jill Harrison



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 January 2012



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN / YOUNG PEOPLE – VIEWS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN / YOUNG PEOPLE - COVERING REPORT

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that looked after children / young people have been invited to attend this meeting to share their views about being looked after.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 18 October 2011, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry/Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation.

2.2 Subsequently, looked after children / young people would like to talk to the Forum about 'a week in the life of a looked after young person' and to deliver a presentation focusing on the following questions:-

- (a) What do you like about being looked after in care?
- (b) What don't you like about being looked after in care?
- (c) Is there anything which would have made coming into care easier for you? What would have made your time in care easier?
- (d) If you were able to change the care system, what things would you change?

2.3 Throughout this investigation, Members have requested additional information to examine as part of the investigation. This additional information is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 That Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-

(a) consider the views of the looked after young people and the additional information attached as Appendix 1; and

(b) suggest ways of how support and services could be provided in the future to most effectively / efficiently meet the needs of looked after children and young people and promote improved outcomes

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 523647  
Email: [laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

(a) Scrutiny Investigation into the 'Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children / Young People' - Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 18.10.11

Investigation into the Support and Services to Looked After Children and Young People – Information Requested

- (i) Reference was made to the low level of adoptions nationally and clarification was sought as to whether this was comparable in Hartlepool.

*In 2011, 11% of looked after children were adopted nationally. The percentage for Hartlepool for the same period was 19% which was also above the North East average of 15% (please note the small cohort sizes).*

*75% of the children adopted in Hartlepool were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision date. The average for the North East region was 74.7% and nationally 74.0%.*

**See Appendix A**

- (ii) The Forum requested that any data that had been collected in relation to post care outcomes be provided for consideration at a future evidence gathering meeting of this Forum.

**See Appendix B**

- (iii) Members discussed the average age in which children were adopted as well as the various types of adopters, the recruitment strategy for carers as well as the levels of adopters/fosters in Hartlepool. Members were keen to examine information in relation to the current recruitment strategy.

**See Appendix C**

Looked after children who were adopted during the years ending 31 March, by Local Authority<sup>1,2</sup>

Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011

Coverage: England

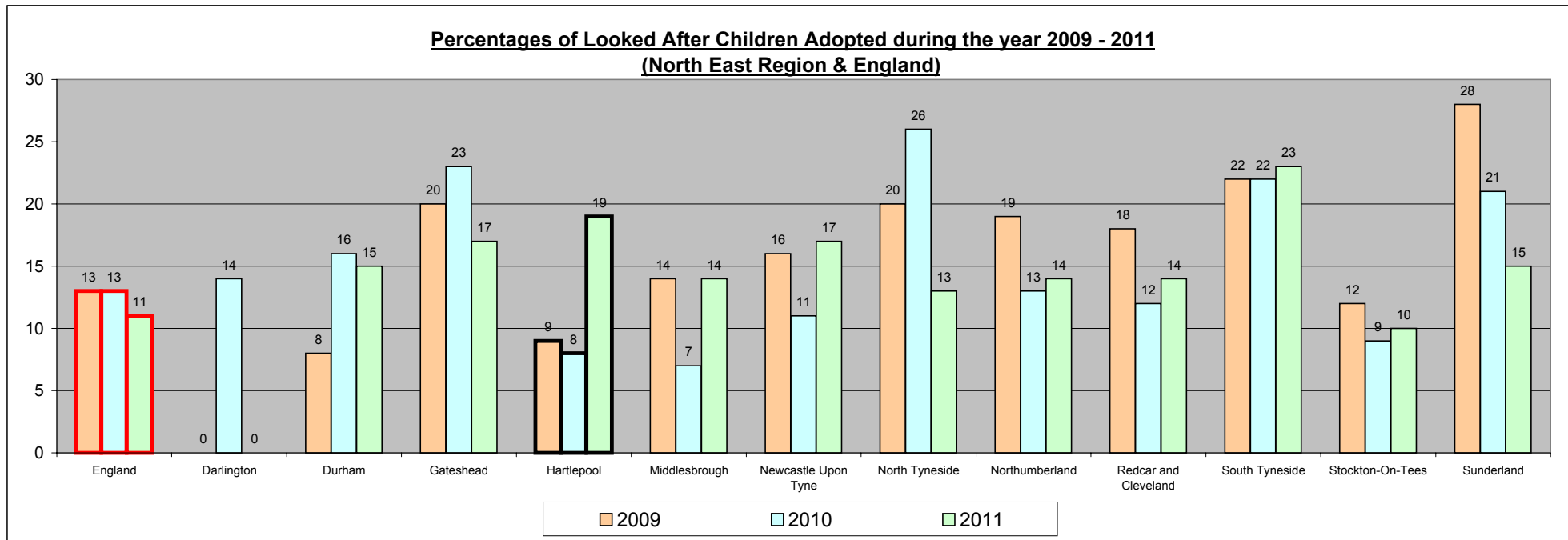
numbers and percentages

	<u>Number</u> of children who ceased to be looked after during the year <sup>3</sup>					<u>Number</u> of looked after children adopted during the year					<u>Percentage</u> of looked after children adopted during the year <sup>4</sup>				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>England</b>	<b>24,990</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>25,030</b>	<b>25,310</b>	<b>26,830</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,180</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
Darlington	65	70	80	75	70	20	10	x	10	x	28	13	x	14	x
Durham	240	215	190	190	225	40	35	15	30	35	16	17	8	16	15
Gateshead	115	110	100	145	125	20	20	20	35	20	16	20	20	23	17
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>
Middlesbrough	135	130	145	150	165	15	10	20	10	25	10	8	14	7	14
Newcastle Upon Tyne	155	205	205	200	210	25	35	30	20	35	16	17	16	11	17
North Tyneside	125	130	140	95	130	25	15	30	25	15	18	11	20	26	13
Northumberland	130	125	120	95	90	20	20	25	10	15	15	14	19	13	14
Redcar and Cleveland	55	70	55	80	95	10	10	10	10	15	16	12	18	12	14
South Tyneside	95	105	120	95	120	30	20	25	20	25	29	20	22	22	23
Stockton-On-Tees	120	80	120	130	145	15	5	15	10	15	12	7	12	9	10
Sunderland	130	120	135	130	155	25	20	35	30	25	19	18	28	21	15
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>															
Barnsley	115	85	110	105	95	20	20	15	15	20	16	24	14	16	19
Doncaster	175	170	165	190	210	35	15	25	30	25	19	10	14	16	11
Halton	45	60	45	50	75	15	10	10	15	10	30	13	22	27	15
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>
North East Lincolnshire	90	80	70	75	65	10	5	10	25	15	11	8	17	31	25
Redcar and Cleveland	55	70	55	80	95	10	10	10	10	15	16	12	18	12	14
Rotherham	130	150	100	150	185	20	20	10	25	35	14	13	10	17	20
South Tyneside	95	105	120	95	120	30	20	25	20	25	29	20	22	22	23
St Helens	70	100	105	80	115	10	10	30	15	15	14	11	31	20	14
Sunderland	130	120	135	130	155	25	20	35	30	25	19	18	28	21	15
Tameside	95	120	105	110	150	10	15	20	30	25	13	12	20	28	15

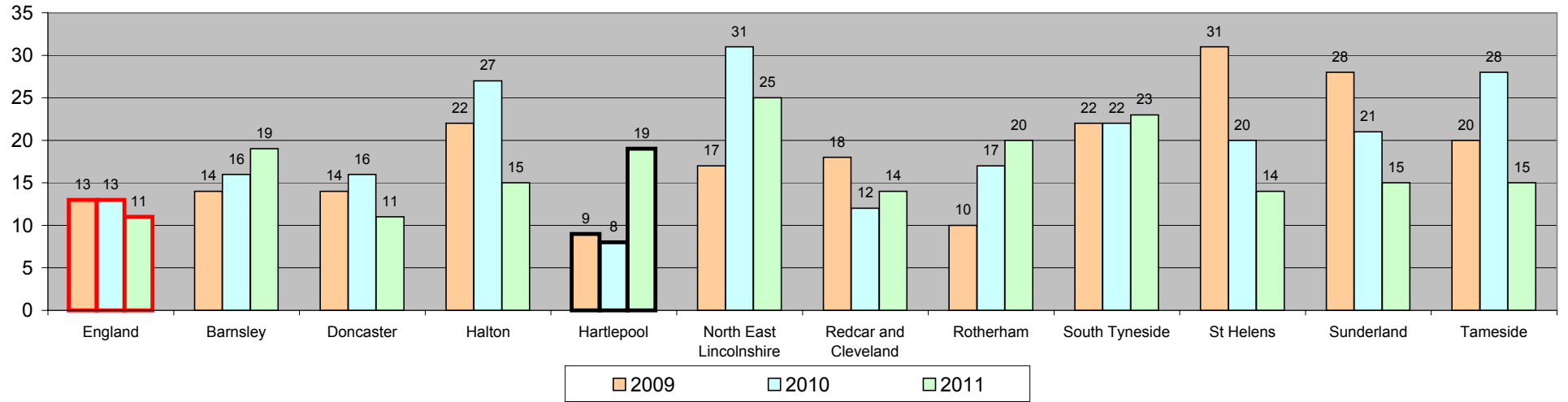
Source: SSDA 903

1. England and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. See Technical Notes for more information on rounding.
2. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
3. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
4. Percentages based on the number of children that ceased to be looked after during the year.

x Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality. See Technical Notes for information on data suppression.  
. Not applicable.



**Percentages of Looked After Children Adopted during the year 2009 - 2011**  
**(Statistical Neighbours & England)**



Children looked after adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption, by Local Auth<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>  
 Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2011  
 Coverage: England

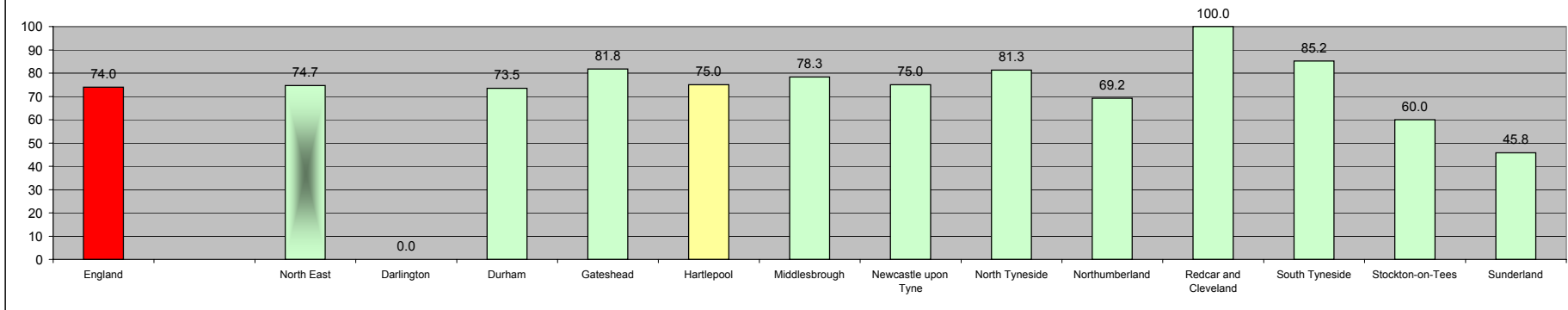
	numbers and percentages														
	2007			2008			2009			2010			2011		
	Number of children adopted	Number of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Percentage of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Number of children adopted	Number of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Percentage of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Number of children adopted	Number of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Percentage of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Number of children adopted	Number of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Percentage of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Number of children adopted	Number of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months	Percentage of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months
<b>England</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>3,180</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>74.0</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>74.7</b>
Darlington	20	15	83.3	10	5	x	x	x	x	10	10	72.7	x	x	x
Durham	40	30	82.1	35	35	91.7	15	15	86.7	30	25	83.9	35	25	73.5
Gateshead	20	15	73.7	20	20	86.4	20	15	80.0	35	20	66.7	20	20	81.8
Hartlepool	5	x	x	x	x	x	10	10	x	5	5	x	15	10	75.0
Middlesbrough	15	10	85.7	10	10	x	20	15	75.0	10	10	72.7	25	20	78.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	25	20	84.0	35	30	83.3	30	25	81.3	20	15	81.0	35	25	75.0
North Tyneside	25	20	87.0	15	10	85.7	30	20	78.6	25	20	88.0	15	15	81.3
Northumberland	20	15	78.9	20	20	100.0	25	15	73.9	10	10	91.7	15	10	69.2
Redcar and Cleveland	10	5	x	10	10	x	10	10	x	10	10	x	15	15	100.0
South Tyneside	30	25	89.3	20	20	90.5	25	25	96.3	20	20	100.0	25	25	85.2
Stockton-on-Tees	15	5	50.0	5	5	x	15	5	42.9	10	5	58.3	15	10	60.0
Sunderland	25	20	80.0	20	15	68.2	35	25	67.6	30	20	76.9	25	10	45.8
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>72.2</b>
Doncaster	35	25	73.5	15	15	76.5	25	15	65.2	30	20	71.0	25	10	41.7
Halton	15	10	92.3	10	x	x	10	x	x	15	10	76.9	10	5	54.5
Hartlepool	5	x	x	x	x	x	10	10	x	5	5	x	15	10	75.0
North East Lincolnshire	10	10	x	5	x	x	10	10	83.3	25	15	66.7	15	10	68.8
Redcar and Cleveland	10	5	x	10	10	x	10	10	x	10	10	x	15	15	100.0
Rotherham	20	10	56.3	20	15	77.8	10	5	x	25	20	72.0	35	25	67.6
South Tyneside	30	25	89.3	20	20	90.5	25	25	96.3	20	20	100.0	25	25	85.2
St. Helens	10	10	x	10	5	63.6	30	25	81.3	15	10	56.3	15	10	75.0
Sunderland	25	20	80.0	20	15	68.2	35	25	67.6	30	20	76.9	25	10	45.8
Tameside	10	10	83.3	15	10	80.0	20	15	76.2	30	20	63.3	25	15	69.6

Source: SSDA903

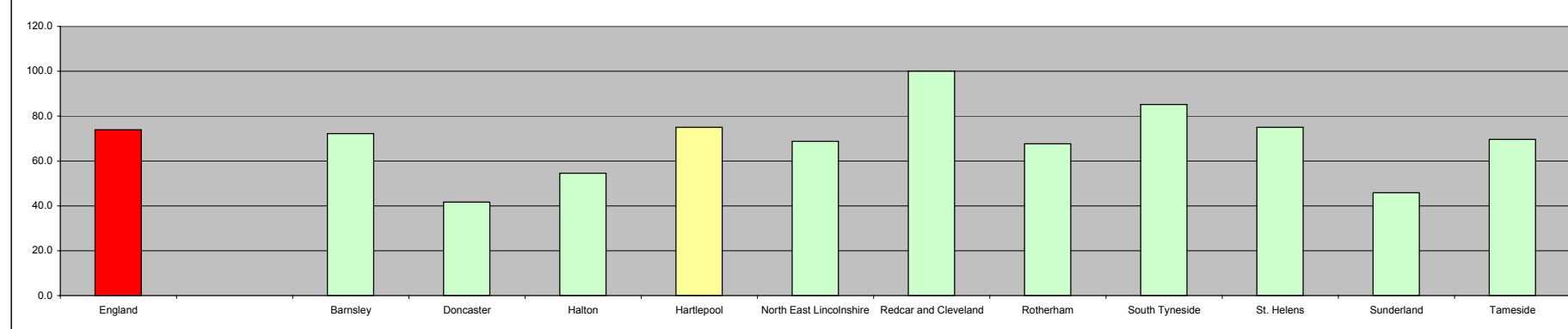
- England and Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place. See Technical Notes for more information on rounding.
- Data for all 5 years are based on the snapshot taken in August 2011.
- This represents part of the previous performance management framework for local authorities on the timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption: This is obtain X = The number of children included in the denominator who were placed for adoption (SSDA903 placement codes A3, A4, A5 and A6) within 12 months (i.e. less than 365 days, inclusive of date child was placed for adoption) of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, but whose placement for adoption broke down before being adopted. This figure excludes children who were placed within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, but whose placement for adoption broke down before being adopted. Y = The number of children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March as a result of the granting of an adoption order (SSDA903 reason episode ceased codes E11 and E12). Includes only those children who were adopted after having been immediately prior to adoption. Children placed for adoption or freed for adoption remain looked after until the adoption order is granted.
- For information only: Special guardianship orders came into force on 30th December 2005.
- Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
- Children that were adopted but were not placed for adoption are not included in the denominator of the indicator.

x Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality. See Technical Notes for information on data suppression.  
 . Not applicable.

**Percentage of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months (North East Region) 2011**

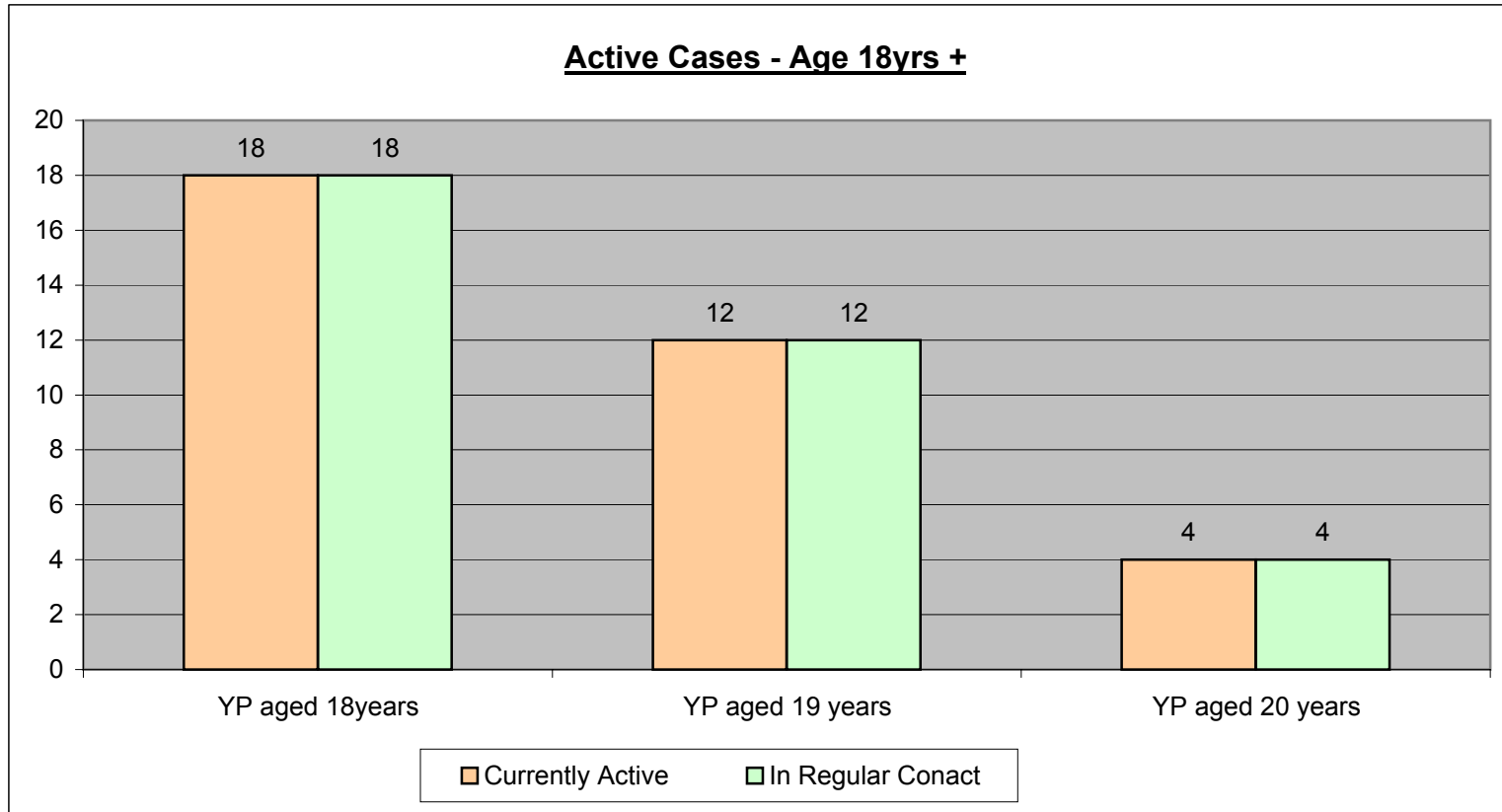


**Percentage of children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months (Statistical Neighbours) 2011**

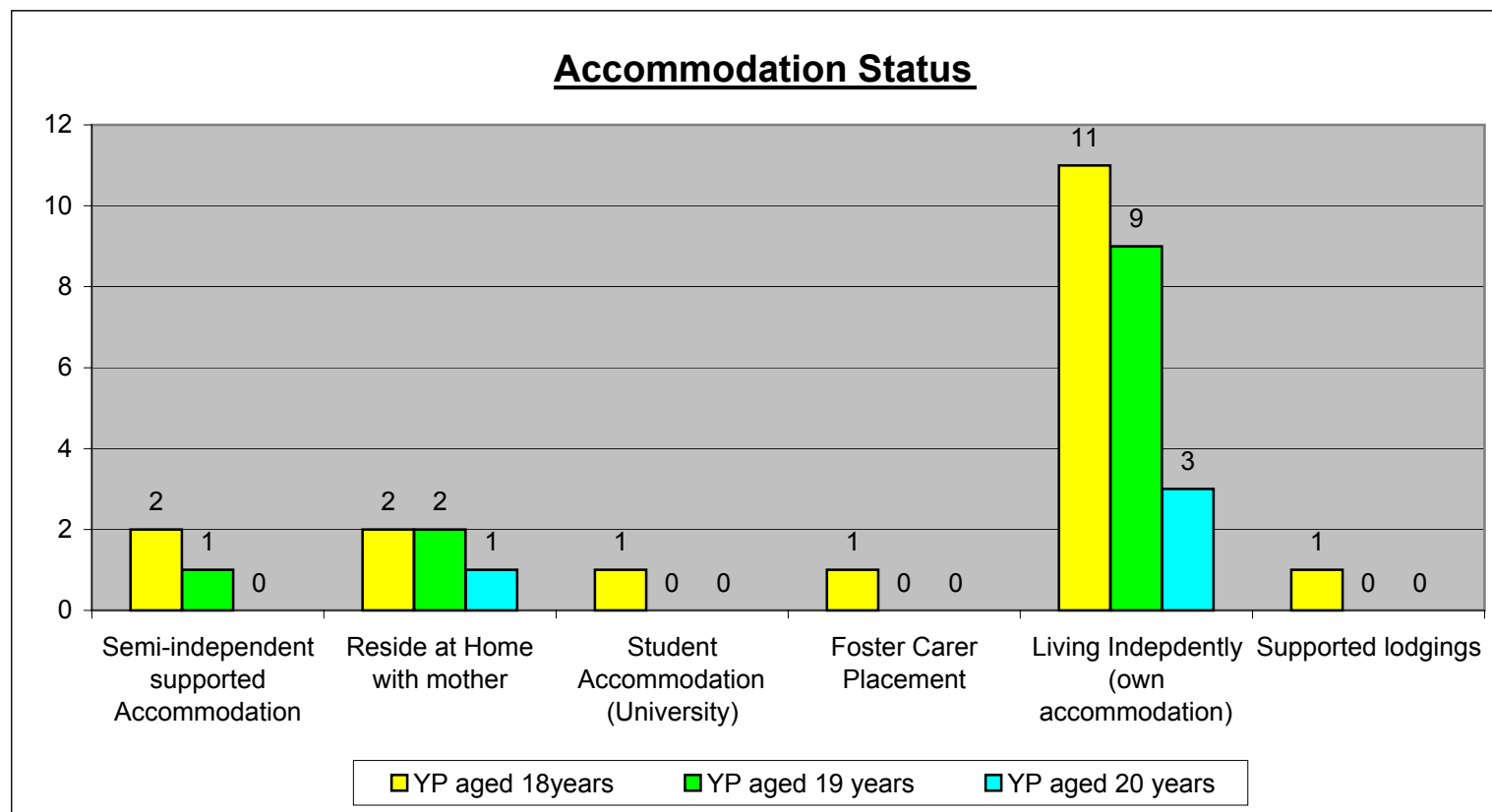




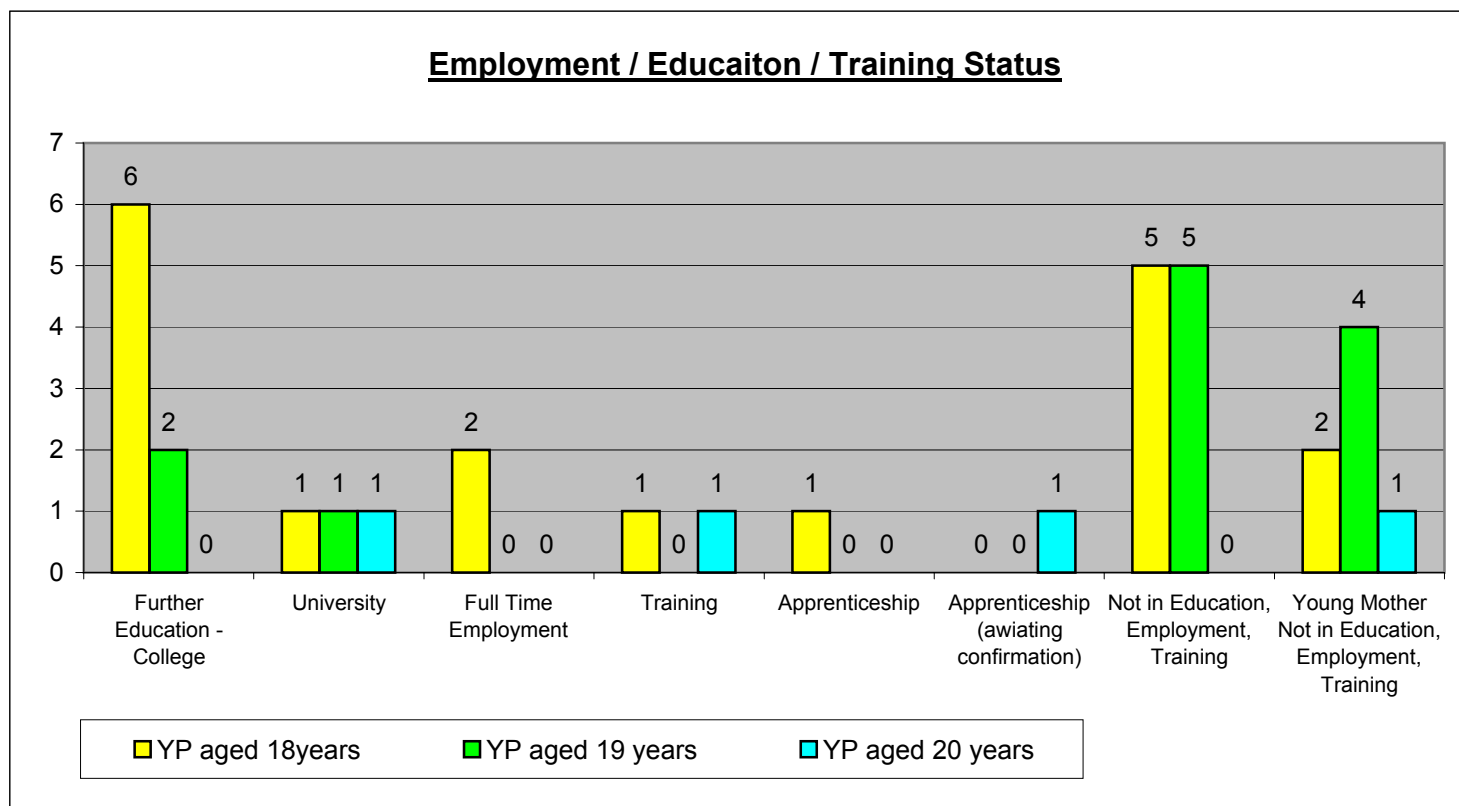
	YP aged 18years	YP aged 19 years	YP aged 20 years	TOTAL
Currently Active	18	12	4	34
In Regular Conact	18	12	4	34



	YP aged 18years	YP aged 19 years	YP aged 20 years	TOTAL
Semi-independent supported Accommodation	2	1	0	3
Reside at Home with mother	2	2	1	5
Student Accommodation (University)	1	0	0	1
Foster Carer Placement	1	0	0	1
Living Independently (own accommodation)	11	9	3	23
Supported lodgings	1	0	0	1



	YP aged 18years	YP aged 19 years	YP aged 20 years	TOTAL
Further Education - College	6	2	0	8
University	1	1	1	3
Full Time Employment	2	0	0	2
Training	1	0	1	2
Apprenticeship	1	0	0	1
Apprenticeship (awaiting confirmation)	0	0	1	1
Not in Education, Employment, Training	5	5	0	10
Young Mother Not in Education, Employment, Training	2	4	1	7



RECRUITMENT STRATEGY FOR ADOPTERS AND FOSTER CARERS  
2011 - 2012

Background information

Adoption

In January 2011 an Adoption sufficiency report highlighted that there had been a significant increase in children coming to Panel with plans for adoption; matched with a corresponding reduction in the number of people approaching the department to be adopters. The report indicated that there was a potential significant shortfall in adopters.

	Plans for adoption approved	Adopters approved	Adoption Order granted
April 2008 – 09	14	10	4
April 2009 – 10	15	9	5
April 2010 – 11	33	9	12

The implications for this were that if no action was taken then the team would need to seek a vastly increased number of adoptive placements outside of our own resources. This has a financial implication in that the current budget allows for a £54,000 spend on placements and an income of £20,000 from 'selling' our adopters to other agencies.

The cost of placements ranges from 13,390 from a local authority (with a 10% uplift for London boroughs) to 27,000 for an independent adoption agency placement. Two single placements from Independent Adoption Agencies would therefore consume the entire budget.

Further to this, is the situation whereby there are an increasing number of sibling groups requiring adoptive placements and a pattern of attracting potential adopters the majority of whom are in a position to only consider single placements.

Historically Hartlepool Family Placement Team had relied on word of mouth to achieve a steady stream of potential adopters going through the assessment process. Also the numbers of adopters successfully completing the assessment process and being approved at panel generally matched the numbers of children requiring adoptive placements. If anything there was usually one or two adopters a year who were surplus to requirements and could be sold to generate income for the service.

Fostering

The recruitment strategy 2009-10 highlighted that Hartlepool had an ageing profile of foster carers and an increasing number of looked after children. The report detailed particular concerns regarding the diminishing capacity to find placements for teenagers and sibling groups within our resources and indicated strategies which would be employed to attract not only more carers

per se but also more carers able to meet the complex needs of teenagers and sibling groups.

The trend has continued and there is still a steady increase in the number of children being accommodated by the local authority year on year. We are however in the fortunate position to be able to state that in Hartlepool the strenuous efforts to recruit and approve new foster carers has achieved a year on year increase in the numbers of foster carers.

	LAC	IFA Placements	Foster Carers
April 2009	144	32	80
April 2010	163	33	83
April 2011	168	22	89

As can be seen this increase has also meant that there has been a corresponding reduction in the percentage of children and young people placed in Independent Fostering Agency placements.

However although we are currently in the enviable position of being able to provide placements for children from other local authorities we cannot afford to be complacent and lessen our recruitment efforts for a number of reasons.

There is a government initiative for sufficiency whereby placements for children should be within their home geographical area ensuring that they maintain links with family members, friends and can continue, where possible, at the same school and pursuing the same social activities. Placements outside of our resources particularly for teenagers can potentially be at a distance from the Hartlepool area. The cost of placements with Independent Fostering Agencies is also significantly higher despite negotiations on a Tees-wide basis to achieve better value for money with a list of select providers.

Overall however, the focus is not just to provide more placements but to provide more placements for teenagers and for sibling groups. It is of note that while within the local authority we can struggle to find placements for older children or for sibling groups these placements are also more difficult to identify within the independent agencies.

### The measures taken to counteract the shortage of Adopters and Foster Carers

#### Adoption

In terms of potential adopters and attracting them to apply to be adopters with Hartlepool the decision was made that for the first time we would advertise for adopters.

The team created an advert to attract adopters which was eye catching, in bright colours, and highlighted the positive qualities we were seeking in our adopters.

The advert was placed initially in the Evening Gazette and the Northern Echo. This elicited very little documented response despite quite a substantial cost in comparison to adverts in the local press.

Shortly afterwards an advert was commissioned in the Primary Times in Stockton. This publication is sent home with every primary age child within the Stockton area and is a booklet which provides useful reference information for parents and as such may linger longer in households.

It does appear that the advertising activity that has taken place has had some positive outcome as the team have now been able to organise a preparation group for nine couples to take place in October 2011.

### Fostering

The fostering service has also taken steps to address shortfalls in the service provision with regards the advertising campaign for the current year. We have managed to update the adverts in the local press to include adverts specifically for teenagers and adverts specifically for sibling groups.

To date this strategy has had limited success but the success of advertising for foster carers comes from a 'drip drip' approach. It is therefore hoped that continuing exposure of the adverts for teenagers and sibling groups will have a positive outcome into the future.

### The recruitment strategy for 2011/2012

#### Adoption

The plan is to continue our advertising campaign within the Primary Times and to seek opportunities with other similar publications, such as the Primary Times in Middlesbrough. Dependent upon the continued success of this strategy the team will explore other publications in which to advertise.

#### Fostering

The advertising campaign has been agreed with local publications namely the Hartlepool Mail and Hartbeat on a yearly basis. The package agreed with the Hartlepool Mail currently provides a variety of paper adverts and also website banner impressions. The success of the adverts for teenagers and sibling groups will need to be reviewed.

Other avenues for advertising will be explored including those which are proposed at the Regional Marketing Forum. This provides a valuable source of ideas and an opportunity to explore and pursue joint funded publicity activities in recognition of the fact that neighbouring local authorities are in a similar position.

Further to this one of the Fostering Social workers has volunteered to join the fund raising trek organised by the Fostering Network and this has provided

valuable opportunities for fund raising and for publicity for the fostering service within Hartlepool.

### Adoption and Fostering

The Family Placement Team is due to be relocated at the end of November 2011 and at this point the intention is to update and extend our publicity materials with the new contact details. The team will create or revamp leaflets and posters and refocus our materials to portray the benefits of fostering or adopting with Hartlepool. It is hoped that we can also commission the production of publicity materials such as banners.

It is planned that the team will take advantage of the offer of the use for a week of the information point sited in the Arts Hartlepool Unit within the Middleton Grange Shopping centre.

It is becoming more and more apparent that the way forward must include internet based advertising and information. The Hartlepool Borough Council website now has a link to a Fostering and Adoption micro site which gives information about these two services and also provides a link to enable enquiries to be made and e-mailed to the fostering and adoption e-mail address.

Efforts will need to be made to ensure the micro site information is current but also that it is displayed in a manner which attracts readers and ultimately encourages people to foster or adopt with Hartlepool.

It is anticipated that additions to the micro site that may achieve positive outcomes are:

- personal accounts of the rewards of fostering/adoption
- anonymous profiles of children requiring foster care or adoptive placements
- more specific details of the support and training opportunities available to both foster carers and adopters.

### Conclusions

The Hartlepool Family Placement Team has made strenuous efforts to address the shortages of both adopters and foster carers particularly over the past year and their efforts have had some success.

However as stated this is not the time to be complacent and efforts need to continue and to be targeted towards our areas of highest need such as foster placements for teenagers and sibling groups and adopters for sibling groups.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

31 January 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services

**Subject:** PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE FOSTER CARE SERVICE (2008/09) AND APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE FOR WHATEVER REASON (2008/09)

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Members, at a previous meeting of the Forum, requested a progress report on the recommendations from the investigations into the Foster Care Service (2008/09) and Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason (2008/09) to assist the Forum with their current investigation into the Provision of Support and Services to Looked After Children and Young People.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### Investigation into Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service (2008/09)

2.1 Listed below are the recommendations from the investigation into the Foster Care Service, along with the progress made against each recommendation:-

- (a) **That the current review of Hartlepool Borough Council's Foster Care Service be completed as a matter of urgency in order to stabilise recruitment and retention difficulties;**

*Review completed and changes implemented. Longer term strategic priorities agreed and outlined in Looked After Strategy. Recruitment strategy in place for 2011/12 and this is refreshed annually.*

- (b) **That innovative approaches in the future marketing of the foster care service be further explored in the following areas:-**



- (i) **Lack of family group provision;** *All recruitment advertising includes specific reference to sibling groups, this has yielded some success to date but continues to be a priority.*
  - (ii) **Identification of suitable location(s) in the Town for a permanent advertisement for the recruitment of foster carers;** *One of the options explored was the proposed electronic billboard that was going to be located in the main shopping centre. Subsequently, such a provision was not created. An advertisement at the football club ground was in place for 3 seasons but was never mentioned by prospective foster carers as part of prompting them to apply and hence it was removed. No other suitable locations for a permanent advertisement was located and more targeted advertising was given a higher priority, with success*
  - (iii) **Through untapped mediums, such as Radio Hartlepool and leaflets in doctors surgeries, libraries and shopping centres.** *Through the Regional Marketing Forum we have committed to regional Radio advertising campaign which is ongoing, most recently specific campaign delivered during Foster Care Fortnight (national campaign). Between 7-10 Feb 2012 there will be a publicity campaign in the Arts Hartlepool Unit in Middleton Grange and are in process of preparing publicity materials for this activity. We are in process of revamping the leaflets etc. with assistance of Emily Lawty and developed a Foster Care Charter and new 'brand' for the fostering service. We also have the forthcoming Himalayan Trek with the Fostering Network by Glynis Howe and this has had radio and newspaper coverage*
- (c) **That the delivery of future training programmes for new Foster Carers:-**
- (i) **Be delivered in-house at set times of the year;** *Preparation groups are run as frequently as we can get a viable number of applicants to attend, we have agreements in place to use places on course run by other LA's and vice versa where this reduces the waiting time for prospective carers.*
  - (ii) **Ensures opportunities for extending such training to external foster carers be explored; and**  
  
*We run a full programme of foster carer training that can be accessed by local external foster carers if requested, Tees Valley local authorities has a preferred provider contract through a collaboration framework. All HBC foster carers are provided with the opportunity to attend external and internal training courses relevant to their role and developmental needs and a full programme of training to carers available. We have recently*

*provided carers with access to the divisional practice manual which covers all policies and procedures for social care and they have welcomed this development. All carers have a personal development plan and have completed the Children's Workforce Development Council Induction Standards for Foster Carers. As new carers are approved they are supported in the completion of this work.*

- (iii) Where in-house delivery capacity issues occur, that support is sought from other Local Authorities or independent foster care agencies.**

*As above (i)*

- (d) That the Foster Care Service Section on the Council's website be redesigned to make it a more accessible and comprehensive source of information; and**

*A Fostering and Adoption micro site has been developed which is accessible through the Council's web site with information regarding Fostering and Adoption. The Foster Carers Handbook is being uploaded onto the Practice Guidance web site which is to be accessed by all foster carers.*

- (e) That where a child is placed within his / her family, support services be made immediately accessible, including the provision of financial support, prior to the formalisation of a Kinship Care Arrangement.**

*In place revised Connected Person Policy and Procedures produced in line with revised statutory guidance.*

Investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason (2008/09)

2.2 Listed below are the recommendations from the investigation into Appropriate Accommodation for Homeless Young People for Whatever Reason, along with the progress made against each recommendation:-

- (a) That supported accommodation providers be encouraged to set up more facilities in the Town, although before this occurs:-**
- (i) Residents in an area where a scheme is planned be properly consulted and reassured that supported accommodation is not only beneficial, but is to be encouraged; New development under consideration and as part of process will include consultation with community. Not likely there is to be a change in use of an existing provision.**

- (ii) **Any scheme should include the provision of at least one if not two emergency beds or 'crash pads'.** *Continued support for young people to be delivered through St Paul's Rd. Proposed redevelopment of Blakelock Gardens hostel to provide 8 bed supported accommodation for young people will have a crash pad facility; consultation has taken place with young people who were all very positive about plans and location.*
  
- (b) **That support is given to assist young people in the transition into independent living;**  
*For care leavers, all young people have a needs assessment and pathway plan which clarifies areas of need and support and who and how we are going to provide support, advice and assistance. All young people have a named social worker up until they are 21 years and services provided in accordance with assessed needs are regularly reviewed. For 16/17 year olds who present as homeless, there is a dedicated social worker to assess and support these young people and this includes the provision of services either through child looked after or child in need arrangements.*
  
- (c) **That the Children's Services and the Regeneration and Planning Services Departments examine Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's 'Homelessness Strategy 2008-2011' and:-**
  - (i) **Adopt those examples of good practice which can assist the tackling of youth homelessness in Hartlepool; and** *HBC has produced draft Housing Care and Support Strategy which includes strategies to tackle youth homelessness*
  
  - (ii) **Where partnership funding is insufficient for the creation of supported accommodation in Hartlepool, that the Council allocates additional resources.** *Since this scrutiny investigation took place, work has been undertaken to develop a supported lodgings scheme in partnership with Barnardos, Looked After Children Strategy outlines strategic priorities for children in care including ensuring that young people are supported to remain in placement for as long as this is required beyond the age of 18 and arrangements are put in place to facilitate this, planned development of Blakelock Lodge to provide additional supported accommodation in the town developed in partnership with the Council.*
  
- (d) **That during the planning stages for new housing developments in Hartlepool:-**
  - (i) **Consideration be given to appropriate accommodation for young people; and**
  
  - (ii) **Young people are consulted about accommodation that would be appropriate for their needs.**

*In developing new initiatives (for example Blakelock Lodge), young people have been consulted on the proposals and will continue to be a key partner in the development of the provision. Head of Business Unit for looked after children is a member of the homeless strategy group and therefore is taking a lead role in engaging young people in the work of this group.*

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum note the contents of the report and seek clarification on any relevant issues.

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

Jane Young – Head of Business Unit (Specialist Services)  
Safeguarding and Specialist Services  
Child and Adult Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 287180  
Email: jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in preparation of this report.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">31 January 2012</p>
---



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider whether any item within the Executive's Forward Plan should be considered by this Forum.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 One of the main duties of Scrutiny is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Executive's Forward Plan) and to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process in advance of the decision being made.

2.2 This would not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.

2.3 As you are aware, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny, as it thinks fit, and if appropriate can exercise or delegate to individual Scrutiny Forums. Consequently, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee monitors the Executive's Forward Plan and delegates decisions to individual Forums where it feels appropriate.

2.4 In addition to this, the key decisions contained within the Executive's Forward Plan (February 2012 – May 2012) relating to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum are shown below for Members consideration:-

**DECISION REFERENCE CAS105/11 : HARTLEPOOL SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2013/14**

**Nature of the decision**

To approve Admission Arrangements for Hartlepool Schools 2013/14.

**Who will make the decision?**

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

**Timing of the decision**

The decision will be made in February 2012.

The decision is required by March 2012 to allow the arrangements to be finalised and set before the Secretary of State by 15 April 2012.

**Ward(s) affected**

All Wards

**Who will be consulted and how?**

All HBC schools will have been consulted via their governing body meetings, neighbouring local authorities, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has been sent copies of the proposed arrangements via e-mail and the public consultation documents have been published on the HBC website. Responses from consultation will be considered by the School Admissions Forum in February 2012 prior to seeking Portfolio Holder approval.

**Information to be considered by the decision-makers**

Statutory requirement to consult on and publish Admission Arrangements.

**How to make representations**

Representations should be made to Sue Beevers, Admissions, School Place Planning and Support Services Manager, Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone (01429) 523672, e-mail [sue.beevers@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:sue.beevers@hartlepool.gov.uk).

**Further information**

Further information on this matter can be sought from Sue Beevers as above or the Admissions Team on 01429 523765

**DECISION REFERENCE: CAS106/11 – PRIORITY SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME**

The Council has an opportunity to make an application for funding from the Government's recently announced Priority Schools Building Programme initiative. Whilst an expression of interest has been registered the Council will need to decide, in conjunction with key stakeholders and particularly school governing bodies, whether to progress an application if invited to.

**Who will make the decision?**

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

**Ward(s) affected**

Potential for several depending upon the schools involved should any submission be progressed.

**Timing of the decision**

The decision is expected to be made in February 2012.

**Who will be consulted and how?**

Schools Governing Bodies and Dioceses (as appropriate).  
Elected Members

**Information to be considered by the decision makers**

On 19 July 2011, Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Education) set out how the Government proposes to ensure that education funding is better targeted in the future. One key announcement was that a new school rebuilding programme will be launched, targeted at those schools in the worst condition. This will be a privately financed programme intended to address those schools in the worst condition. It is anticipated that the programme will cover the equivalent of building or rebuilding approximately 100 secondary schools. Whilst the full scale of the programme is still to be finalised, it is likely to include a mix of primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges and alternative provision, and therefore could cover between 100-300 schools in total. It is expected that 20% of the total programme will be delivered each year, with the first schools scheduled to open in the academic year of 2014-15. Those schools included in the initial group for procurement are expected to commence procurement during the second quarter of 2012. In order to be considered for the programme an expression of interest has been registered with Partnerships for Schools in line with the required procedure. An application for Manor College of Technology, Barnard Grove Primary, West View Primary and Holy Trinity Church of England Primary, Seaton in conjunction with the Diocese to be considered as part of the programme, was submitted by 14 October 2011 in line with the procedures and deadlines. Cabinet noted progress at its meeting with 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The decision on whether to progress an application, and for which schools, will be made by Cabinet in January 2012 depending on feedback from Partnership for Schools in December 2011.

**How to make representation**

Representations should be made to Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Child and Adult Services, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 284103. E-Mail: peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk and Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211. E-Mail: [Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Further information**

Further information can be obtained from Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Child and Adult Services, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 284103. E-Mail: peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk and Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211. E-Mail: [Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## **DECISION REFERENCE: CAS116/11 DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE PROVISION IN HARTLEPOOL**

### **Nature of the decision**

To seek approval for the Child and Adult Services Department to enter into a joint tender with Middlesbrough Borough Council for a provider to operate and manage residential care for children and young people within both Boroughs.

### **Who will make the decision?**

This decision will be made by Cabinet.

### **Timing of the decision**

It is expected that the decision will be made in March/April 2012.

### **Ward(s) affected**

All wards

### **Who will be consulted and how?**

Children and Young People; Parents and Carers; Portfolio Holder for Children's Services; Elected Members; local residents through meetings and focus groups, staff and other stakeholders.

### **Information to be considered by the decision-makers**

There is a need to develop and deliver residential care for Looked After Children in Hartlepool for those children and young people whose needs will best be met within the Borough. There is currently no provision delivered or commissioned by Hartlepool Borough Council in the town and the Council makes provision through spot purchase arrangements which most often is outside of the local authority boundaries. There is an opportunity to enter into a joint tender with Middlesbrough Borough Council during 2012 for a provider to operate and manage a residential home for up to three children and young people. Collaboration with Middlesbrough will enable the Council to achieve value for money.

### **How to make representations**

Representations should be made to Ian Merritt, Strategic Commissioner – Children's Services, Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523774, e-mail [ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk) or Jane Young, Business Unit Manager – Looked After Services, 85 Station Lane, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool TS25 1DX. Telephone 01429 287180, e-mail [jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk)

### **Further information**

Further information on this matter can be sought from:

Ian Merritt, Strategic Commissioner (Children's Services), Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre. Telephone 01429 523774. E-mail [ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Jane Young, Business Unit Manager, Child and Adult Services, Station Lane.



Telephone 01429 287180. E-mail jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk.  
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre. Telephone: 01429 523732. E-mail sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

## **DECISION REFERENCE: CAS118/12 DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR CARE LEAVERS AND HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **Nature of the decision**

To seek approval for the Child and Adult Services Department to tender for a provider to operate and manage supported accommodation for care leavers and homeless young people.

Key Decision. Grounds (i) and (ii) apply as expenditure will be over £100,000 and there may be a significant impact on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards.

### **Who will make the decision?**

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

### **Timing of the decision**

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

### **Ward(s) affected**

b) Specific ward: Burn Valley

### **Who will be consulted and how?**

Children and young people; parents and carers; Elected Members; local residents; staff and other stakeholders through meetings and focus groups.

### **Information to be considered by the decision-makers**

There is an identified need for supported accommodation for young people leaving the care of the local authority. Some care leavers will require further support before they are able to live independently. The Council currently uses supported accommodation in St Pauls Road provided by the Fabrick Group.

The building has limitations in that it has some shared facilities.

The Council owns property in Blakelock Gardens which until recently was leased to Endeavour Housing was used as a hostel for homeless adults. It is proposed that Child and Adult Services bring this property back into use for care leavers and homeless young people and issues a tender for a provider to support young people in developing independence skills in their own flats and to manage the property.

### **How to make representations**

Representations should be made to:

Ian Merritt, Strategic Commissioner (Children's Services), Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY.

Telephone 01429 523774, e-mail ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk

Or Jane Young, Business Unit Manager – Looked After Services, 85 Station Lane, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool TS25 1DX. Telephone 01429 287180, e-mail [jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk)

### **Further information**

Further information on this matter can be sought from:

Ian Merritt, Strategic Commissioner (Children's Services), Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY.

Telephone 01429 523774, e-mail [ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk).

Jane Young, Business Unit Manager (Looked After Services), 85 Station Lane, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool TS25 1DX. Telephone 01429 287180, e-mail

[jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre. Telephone: 01429 523732 e-mail [sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## **DECISION REFERENCE: RN89 / 11 FORMER BRIERTON SCHOOL SITE**

### **Nature of the decisions**

To consider a range of potential development and operational proposals for the site subsequent to Dyke House School vacating the site in December 2011.

There will be a number of decisions to be made over the forthcoming months.

### **Who will make the decision?**

The decisions will be made by Cabinet and Council as appropriate to the subject matter of each decision.

### **Ward(s) affected**

Rift House, Owton Manor and Rossmere Wards specifically.

### **Timing of the decision**

There will be a range of decisions required ranging from the future operation and management of the Sports Centre to subsequent decisions in connection with the overall site from February 2012.

### **Who will be consulted and how?**

A number of stakeholders will need to be consulted depending on the particular aspect of the proposals and decisions required:-

Local residents

Ward Members

Dyke House School (in relation to transfer of Sports Centre Management)

Sport England

Council Working Group

Cabinet

Council

### **Information to be considered by the decision makers**

Dyke House School departed the site on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and the management of the site has reverted back to the Council. Initially this was to take place in

Spring 2012, however the refurbishment of the existing Dyke House School was completed early via the BSF Contract. Initially the Council has considered the future management operation and funding of the Brierton Sports Centre which has been transferred back to the Council from Dyke House School. This is linked to the future use and development of the site for which options are being formulated for consultation and subsequent agreement.

Cabinet has given consideration to the early demolition of surplus buildings on the site is part of the current budget process which is being consulted upon. Options are being considered for the use and occupation of existing buildings and potential demolition of any that may become surplus. The future determination of the whole site will be considered including those areas to be retained for sport and those where a master plan for future use / development will be required.

### **How to make representation**

Representations should be made to Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523211. E Mail [graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk), or John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services), Child and Adults Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523417. E Mail: [john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk).

### **Further information**

Further information can be obtained from Graham Frankland or John Mennear, as above.

- 2.5 A summary of all key decisions is attached as **APPENDIX A** to this report.
- 2.6 Copies of the Executive's Forward Plan will be available at the meeting and are also available on request from the Scrutiny Team prior to the meeting.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-
  - (a) considers the Executive's Forward Plan; and
  - (b) decides whether there are any items where value can be added to the decision by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum in advance of the decision being made.

**CONTACT OFFICER:-** Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy  
Hartlepool Borough Council

Tel: 01429 523087  
Email: [laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:laura.stones@hartlepool.gov.uk)

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:

- (a) The Forward Plan – (February 2012 – May 2012)

## **TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS**

Decisions are shown on the timetable at the earliest date at which they may be expected to be made.

### **1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN FEBRUARY 2012**

CAS 105/11 (page 11) Hartlepool School admission Arrangements for 2013/14 Portfolio Holder  
CAS 106/11 (page 12) Priority Schools Building Programme Cabinet  
CAS 118/11 (page 20) Development of Supported Accommodation for Care Leavers and Homeless Young People Portfolio Holder  
RN 13/09 (page 26) Disposal of Surplus Assets Cabinet / Portfolio Holder  
RN 58/11 (page 29) Allotments Portfolio Holder  
RN 69/11 (page 36) Flexible Support Fund Cabinet  
RN 70/11 (page 37) Innovation Fund Cabinet  
RN 71/11 (page 38) Families With Multiple Problems Cabinet  
RN 74/11 (page 40) Former Leathers Chemical Site Cabinet  
RN 89/11 (page 44) Former Brierton School Site Cabinet  
RN 94/11 (page 48) Review of Concessionary Fare Payments to Bus Operators for 2012-2013 Cabinet  
RN 96/11 (page 50) Hartlepool Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy and Compact Cabinet  
RN 98/11 (page 52) Acquisition of Assets Cabinet / Portfolio Holder  
RN 99/11 (page 54) Community Infrastructure Levy Cabinet  
RN 101/11 (page 57) Sub Regional Strategic Tenancy Policy Cabinet  
RN 103/11 (page 61) Hartlepool Economic Regeneration Strategy Portfolio Holder  
RN 1/12 (page 63) Allocations Outside of Choice Based Lettings Portfolio Holder

### **2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MARCH 2012**

CE 44/11 (page 7) Workforce Arrangements Cabinet  
CAS 112/11 (page 14) Adult Substance Misuse Plans 2012/13 Cabinet  
CAS 116/11 (page 16) Development of Children's Residential Care Provision in Hartlepool Cabinet  
CAS 117/11 (page 18) Housing, Care and Support Strategy 2012 Cabinet  
RN 29/10 (page 28) Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy Cabinet  
RN 68/11 (page 34) Community Cohesion Framework Portfolio Holder  
RN 90/11 (page 46) Mill House Site Development and Victoria Park Cabinet  
RN 102/11 (page 59) Partnering Arrangement for CCTV Cabinet  
RN 2/12 (page 65) Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (HM Government) Cabinet  
RN 4/12 (page 68) Housing Market Renewal Transition Funding Plan Cabinet

### **3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN APRIL 2012**

RN 61/11 (page 32) Selection of Preferred Developer for Sites in Seaton Carew Cabinet  
RN 77/11 (page 42) Wynyard Master Plan Cabinet  
RN 100/11 (page 55) Raby Road Corridor Developer Agreement Cabinet  
RN 3/12 (page 67) Hartlepool CCTV Strategy 2012 - 2015 Cabinet  
RN 5/12 (page 70) Seaton Carew Development Sites – Results of Joint Working Arrangement with Preferred Developer Cabinet

### **4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MAY 2012**

CE 46/11 (page 8) Review of Community Involvement & Engagement (Including LSP Review): Update on decisions taken 'in principle'