

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 11 January 2017

### Performance Information

1. As of 2 January 2017:-

Current Children Looked After (LAC) figures are: 434 (135.8 per 10,000)

Current Child Protection (CP) figures are: 280 (87.6 per 10,000)

Current Children in Need (CIN) figures are: 1305 (408.3 per 10,000)

The rate per 10,000 is now being calculated using the mid 2015 population estimate of 31,964.

### Assessment & Care Planning

2. In the few weeks before Christmas in addition to the busy workloads staff worked collaboratively to ensure Hampers put together by local schools were delivered to children in need and in crisis at Christmas across Middlesbrough. The generosity and work that goes into this was recognised when the coordinator Pat McBride received a Teesside Hero Award for her work over 29 years. The hampers are always well received by families in Middlesbrough and the generosity of local families in supporting shows the generous Middlesbrough spirit. Our colleagues in legal services also wanted to support families in need and donated presents for children touched by the circumstances that families find themselves in.

### Fostering & Adoption

3. On November 18th 2016 the LAC Team held the annual Achievement night for children Looked After. As usual the theme was "Glitz & Glamour" and was very well attended by children and foster carers.
4. Local singer Jamie Grey (who was previously in a band with James Arthur) presented the awards to all of the children. The Rose Wilson and Joshua Brudenell awards for Individual success and achievements were given to six Looked After Children who had accomplished outstanding achievements though out the year.

5. Hampers donated from local schools were delivered by social workers to children with Care Orders at home and their families.
6. The LAC Team for the 2nd year running secured a room for the Christmas period which social workers decorated and provided Christmas music and refreshments for Christmas contacts between Looked After Children and their families. The families enjoyed having somewhere festive to exchange gifts.
7. The LAC Team and Fostering and Adoption Team came joint first in the annual Christmas room decoration competition with one of the Safeguarding Teams.

### **South Tees Youth Offending Service**

8. The service was involved in “In Out of the Cold”, is an annual event held at Christmas time which aims to bring warmth and cheer to those who are homeless or suffering hardship and to raise awareness of the issues. This years’ event, on Tuesday 20th December 2016 at The Salvation Army on Southfield Road, is the seventh event, coordinated by Middlesbrough Council and made possible by kind donations and volunteers from a range of statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations and members of the public. As usual, there was hot food, live music, advice and assistance for those facing housing difficulties and poverty, raffle prizes and shoeboxes filled with essential items. New Walk (CIC) has coordinated this years’ shoe box appeal for wrapped boxes containing hats, scarves, gloves and toiletries.
9. South Tees Youth Offending Service works across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland with young people who are involved with the criminal justice system. All young people working with the Service undertake activities which encourage them to accept responsibility for their offending and repair harm, either directly to individuals affected or for the benefit of the wider community. This year as part of this restorative work, the young people are supporting the “In Out of the Cold Event”.
10. In the run up to the event, young people have been involved by distributing promotional posters, collecting shoe boxes from donors and packing and wrapping the boxes. On the day of the event, more young people assisted with collecting clothes rails and sorting donated clothing. They set up the room and helped distribute packages, refreshments and warm clothes to those attending.
11. The young people have been enthusiastic about bringing some festive cheer to vulnerable and homeless people with one young person asking if he could keep one of the empty boxes he had wrapped so he could fill it with items he would like to buy for a homeless person he has seen in his own community. A Youth Offending Service Support Worker who has worked alongside the “parcel-wrappers” believes the activity has humbled some of the young people, adding they have really appreciated the opportunity to “give something back” and one of the event organisers is quoted as saying “we really couldn’t have managed without them”.

### **Learning and Development**

12. We continue to see Newly Qualified Social Workers progress through their assessed year with 3 more passing in the period in between Christmas. The north east has secured a Social work Training partnership which has an overarching vision to standardise and improve workforce activities in the region with our regional teaching partners (universities) and to lead on quality and improvement. This will also support the development of implementation of the government reforms such as the assessment and accreditation of social workers.

Councillor Michael Carr  
Executive Member, Children's Social Care