

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
15th MARCH 2019

Children's Care

Performance Information

As of 8th February 2019:-

Current Children Looked After (LAC):	505	(155.9 per 10,000)
Current Child Protection (CP):	227	(70.1 per 10,000)
Current Children in Need (CIN):	1135	(350.4 per 10,000)

The rate per 10,000 is now being calculated using the mid 2017 population estimate of 32,396. It is to be noted that the number of looked after children has stabilised and is reducing.

Referral and Assessment

First Contact

Plans for the creation of the South Tees Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH) involving Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Council Children's Services teams along with multi agency partners continue to move forward at pace. We anticipate that the full service will be operational by the 1st June 2019.

Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting

In February, the service benefited from a two day on site visit by Mark Riddell, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers. This productive visit will lead to further recommendations to Corporate Parenting Board and further improvements to the service.

Strategic Services

The new Director for Business, Performance and Change has now commenced in role.

The Quality Assurance Manager came into post on the 4th February. The post holder will drive the Quality Assurance Framework. Much of the focus of this month's activity has been to review previous audits to ensure actions identified have been completed and have positively improved the quality of casework. The schedule for forthcoming thematic audits has been collated in line with the Directorate Improvement plan and self-assessment. The manager is also working in partnership with the Principal Social Worker to strengthen the overall learning from audits in practice.

The planning for the Voice and Influence conference on the 6th March is being undertaken with the Children in Care Council (CICC). The event is aimed at:

- Understanding what life is like as a looked after child or a care leaver in Middlesbrough.
- To increase confidence in the workforce around Voice and Influence work
- To gain knowledge around the tools that are available to support voice and influence work
- To have the opportunity to become a Voice and Influence champion.

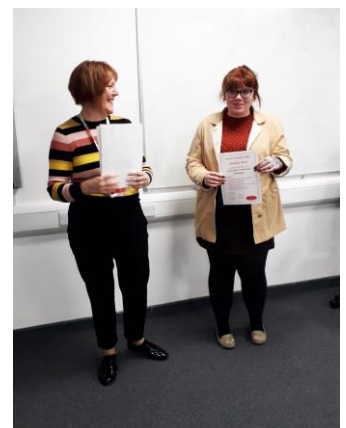
South Tees Youth Offending Service

STYOS have secured funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner from the successful Early Intervention Bid. This funding will enable the service to develop our Trauma Informed Case Management Model until April 2020 initially. An arrangement has been established with Stockton and Middlesbrough MIND for them to provide an Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner who will support young people offering counselling, bereavement support and access into other services to support the young person.

STYOS has successfully recruited and trained nine volunteers during January 2019. The volunteers undertook an intensive training course, which was held over six sessions (three full days and three evenings) and included the required 20 hours restorative conference facilitation training.

The nine volunteers who will go on to serve as Panel members were presented with a certificate, of which they are justifiably proud. A celebratory event will be held later in the year to acknowledge their success in the training, alongside our existing volunteers in recognition of the significant contribution they make to Youth Justice.

THE CLASS OF 2019





Risk and Resilience

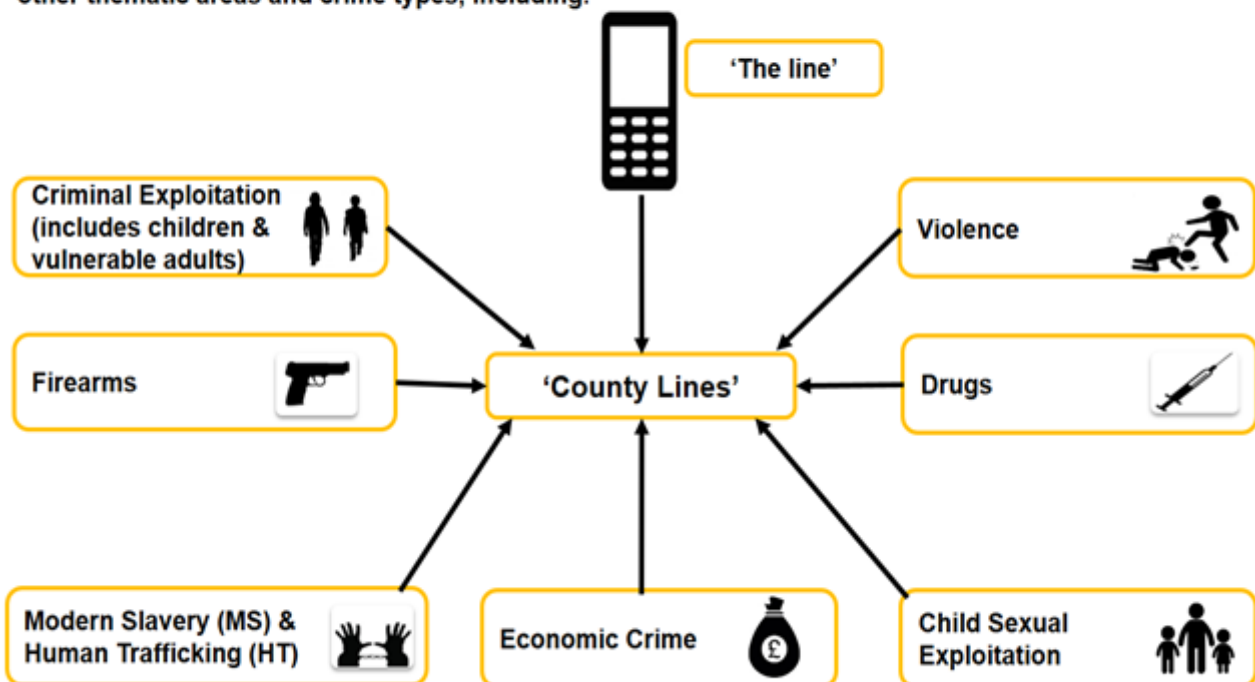
Work is on-going to increase the awareness amongst front line staff in relation to 'County Lines'. Briefings will be delivered by the Risk and Resilience team to frontline staff and managers, in addition to information being circulated via the Children's Services briefing.

The UK Government defines county lines as:

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

Features of 'County Lines'

'County Lines' is not solely a drugs issue as it cross cuts a number of other thematic areas and crime types, including:



SPACE (Stop and Prevent Adolescent Criminal Exploitation) have devised a set of indicators to assist professionals in spotting signs that a child or young person may be involved in County lines activity, and this has been circulated to all staff in children's services.

Children's Trust Board

One of the responsibilities of the Children's Trust is to develop, monitor and review the Children and Young People's Plan. The plan currently has two 'imperatives';

1. Increase the number of families we work with at an Early Intervention threshold, for which Adverse Childhood Experiences features in the household.
2. Strengthen families to reduce the number of Children who are Looked After.

With regards to imperative one, the Children's Trust Board have commissioned a three year small scale study (SSS) to work with a targeted cohort of families for which multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) feature in the household. A significant amount of partnership working has taken place over a number of months, and the team is due to start work in early March.

The multi-disciplinary team will be called the 'Family Roots' team, a name that was co-produced with Headstarters and children in Ayresome school. The team will work with year 2 children in two schools (Ayresome and Thorntree). Each family will have their own plan, the ethos being 'one family, one plan'. The aspiration is for the team to develop trusting and sustained relationships with families, taking advantage of existing community facilities to deliver services in the localities in which families live.

A number of Key Performance Indicators have been identified to measure the impact and outcomes of the SSS, and performance will be reported regularly to the Children's Trust Board. Teesside University are also completing an evaluation of the SSS in addition to the Children's Trust. This is a longitudinal piece of work, the impact of which may not be seen immediately or indeed for a number of years. The scalability of this work will be a key consideration for the trust moving forward if shown to be impactful in this initial SSS.

Councillor Michael Carr

Executive Member for Children's Services