Safeguarding Children in North Tyneside

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Council and safeguarding

- **The value and importance of Council ownership:**

    – Importance and scale of the issue

    – Transparency and oversight

    – Opportunity for Council to have a collective and combined approach to the issue

    – Increased understanding of safeguarding

    – Safeguarding is **everybody's business**

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Local Authority duties

- **Overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people:**
  - Children's Act 1989 and 2004
  - Children in need, likely to suffer, likely harm

- **Statutory functions:**
  - Director of Children's Services
  - Lead Member for Children's Services

- **However:**
  - Safeguarding is 'legally' everyone's business
  - All who come into contact have a role to play
  - Local Authorities MUST facilitate this...

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Governance and assurance (1)

Local Safeguarding Children's Board

(legal duty)

- Promote welfare
- Cooperate to protect children
- Agree inter-agency polices and practice
- Monitor overall effectiveness
- Child death overview
- Workforce development

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Governance and assurance (2)

7 Pillars of Business Assurance

Effective Practice	Resource Management	Risk Management	Strategy	Quality Assurance	Communication / Culture	Child's Voice
• **IRO Review of Practice**	• Workforce Development Plan and Monitoring	• IRO Safe Management of Risk	• Our North Tyneside Plan	• IRO Annual Report	• Leadership Forum	• Life Story Work
• Procedure Manual – Trix	• SMT Scorecard	• CYPL Risk Register	• CYP Plan	• IRO Escalation Process	• Learning Forums	• Regional Children in care Council
• Signs of Safety	• DCS / LMCS	• Case Supervision	• **LSCB Plan**	• Case File Audits	• Teamwork	• **NT Children in Care Council**
• Management Clinics	• Individual Performance Review (IPR)	• DCS / LMCS	• CYPL Service Plan	• Learning Forums	• Staff Conferences	• IRO Participation in Planning
• Team Scorecard		• **Corporate Assurance Board**	• Individual Performance Review (IPR)	• Case management		• Participation
• Reflective Practice			• Annual Participation and Involvement Report	• **Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee**		• Advocacy
• Case Supervision			• LAC Sufficiency Strategy			• Engagement
• Trans-formation Board			• **Corporate Parenting Board**	• Regulation 44 Visit		• **Individual Care Plan**
						• Signs of Safety

UNDERSTANDING   IMPROVEMENT   ASSURANCE

How we respond

Prevention
- Universal
- Locality working
- Work with schools
- Whole family support

Front Door
- Support to partners
- MASH
- Advice and information
- Threshold tool
- Early help

Social Work
- Assessment
- Protection plans
- Legal powers and duties
- Edge of care
- Looked After Children

Activity / demand

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 (to End August)
Contacts about safeguarding	7,855	7,832	7,200	2,982
Child in Need (s17)	2,257	1,841	1,665	707
Child Protection (S47)	354	411	393	206
Child Protection Plans at Point in Time	157	169	179	189

Reason for child protection (in order of prevalence):
- Neglect
- Emotional abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual abuse

Challenges

Pressures

Increasing Demand

- Embedding early help
- Partners understanding their role
- NHS funding for shared care
- Lack of internal foster carers
- Local and regional market – supply and demand
- Recruitment and retention

- Rising numbers of LAC – 12.2% since 2011
- SEND high threshold / parent expectations
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children
- Child protection - 9% increase from previous year
- Sexual exploitation
- Domestic violence
- Substance misuse
- Court proceedings

Areas of development

- Confused pathways for early intervention for partners, resulting in demand inappropriately being routed through a social care assessment process

- 55% of assessments did not result in a Child in Need, Child Protection, or Looked After plan. This is the highest proportion in England, and more than double the England average (23%).

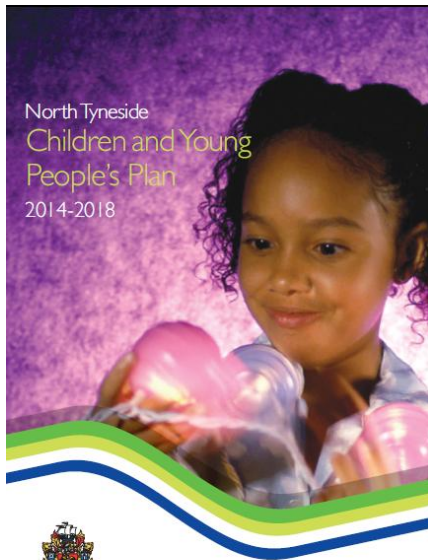- Early intervention being seen as a Council activity / social care activity

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Areas of development

- A total of 478 children and young people became looked after (BLA) in North Tyneside between17th April 2012 and 19ᵗʰ June 2015. Current number of LAC 322 (5.10.15)

- In the financial year 2012-13 there was a total LAC population of 295 at a rate of 73 per 10000. This increased to 305 at a rate of 75 per 10000 for 2013-14.
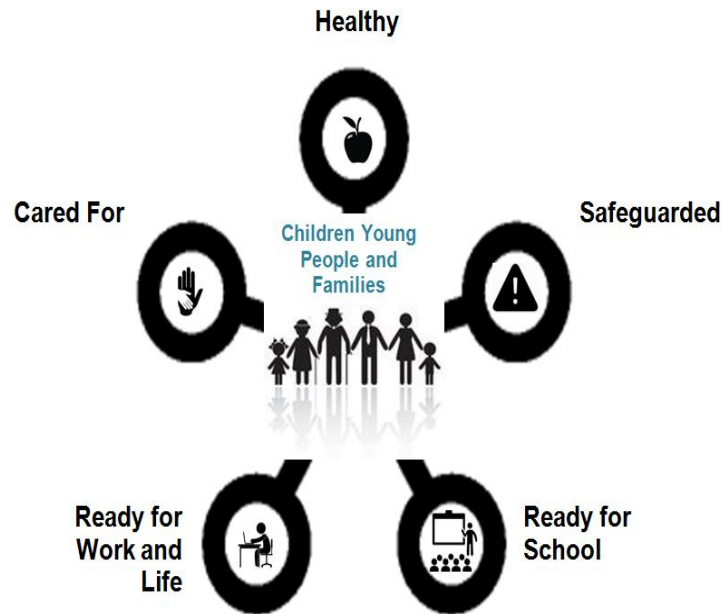
Rate per 10,000 population of children looked after as at 31 March

Year	North Tyneside	Stat Neighbour	England
2009-10	68	69	57
2010-11	69	74	58
2011-12	74	79	59
2012-13	73	83	60
2013-14	75	81	60
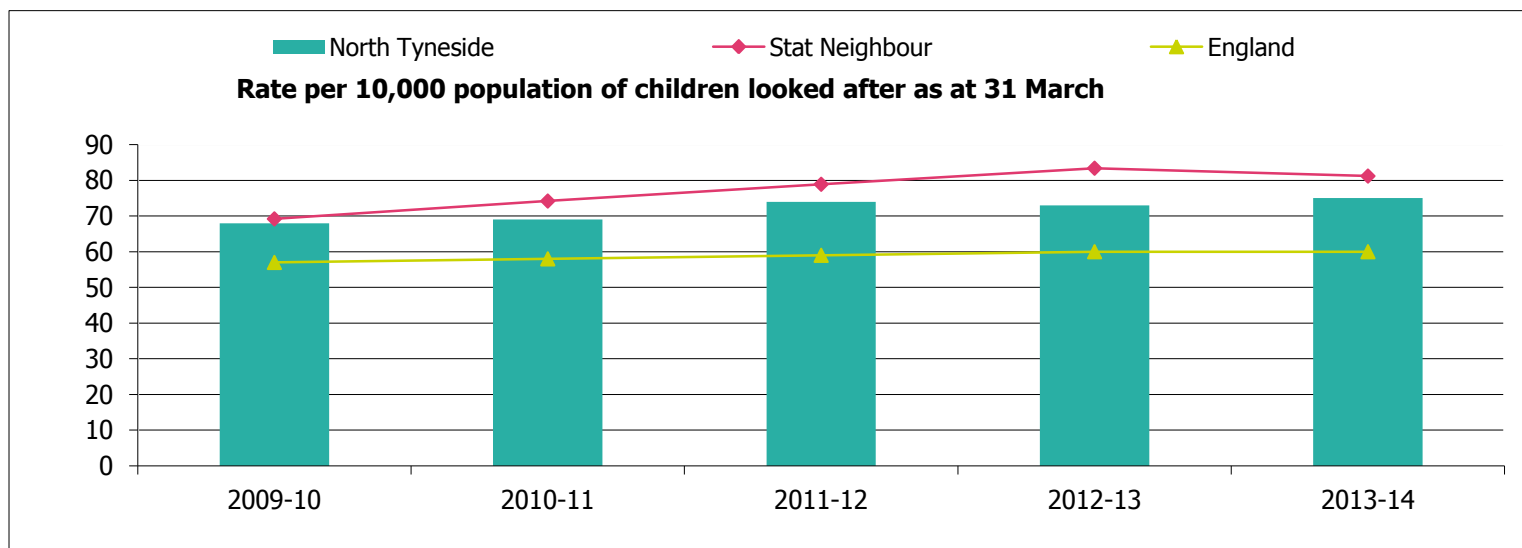
North Tyneside *LAC population is significantly higher than the England average* and whilst it is lower than statistical neighbours they have seen rises in LAC numbers over the past three years with an increased rate of LAC entry in the first half of 2015

Work to date

Creating a Brighter Future, Children and Young People's Plan, Ready for/Cared for Entitlements, Prevention and Early Help Strategy
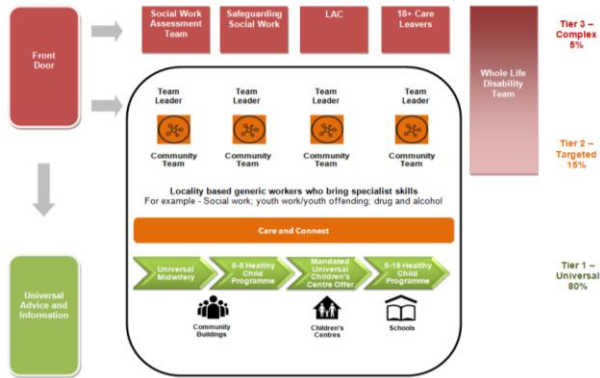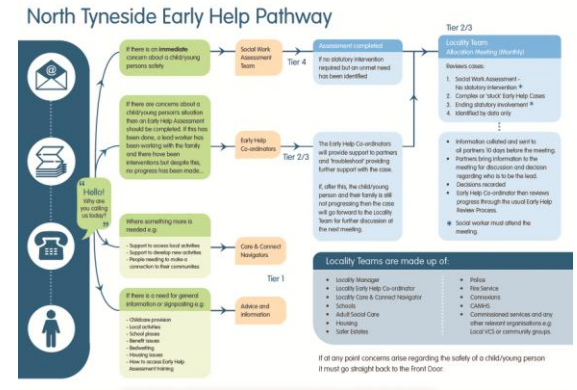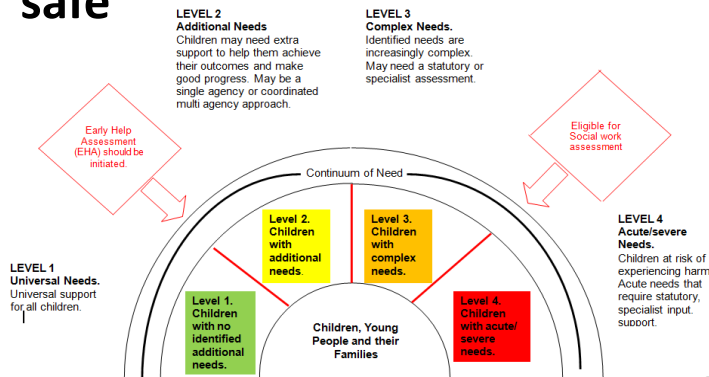
What have we changed?
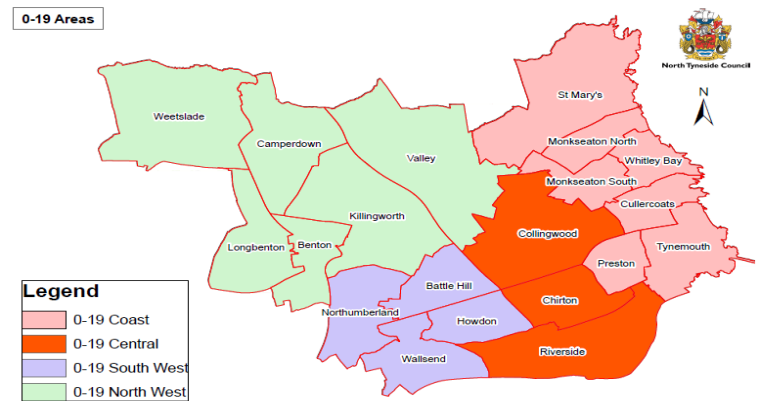
1. Designed a new Early Help system

2. Established Early Help pathways

3. Ensured we can keep children safe

4. Established Locality Teams

Finally:
Keeping it simple –3 key pledges

Pledge 1: we intervene early with evidence based, family focussed services.

Pledge 2: we work in partnership to keep children in school

Pledge 3: we keep them safe at home and connected to their local communities

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