

## Rotherham Children and Young People's Services

# Assessment of Performance Looked After Children

### 2008/09 Outturn Report

This report outlines performance at the end of 2008/09 against targets, with comparisons against previous performance and where possible statistical neighbour and national data.

It should be read in conjunction with the 'Looked After Children Performance Table – Outturn 2008/09' as it includes references throughout the text to the numbering structure within the table.

Please note the following data health warnings;

- Comparative data relates to the latest available data and therefore date periods for some indicators may vary. It has been sourced via the DCSF Local Area Interactive Tool (downloaded 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009).
- The majority of Social Care data is still subject to validation
- Education outcomes relate to the academic year 2007/08
- This is the first outturn report since the introduction of the new national indicator framework focusing on National Indicators (NI). As such arrangements and systems are still being developed at a National level and with partners for a number of the national indicators meaning some are still awaiting data. Any missing data will be reported in a future performance report.

[Data date: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009]

## Performance Summary – All themes

Number of Indicators: 12  
 Number of components deferred: 0

Number of Components: 12

### Performance against Targets

(Comparing this quarter's performance against set targets)

On Target	Interpretation	Being Healthy		Staying Safe		Enjoying & Achieving		Making a Positive Contribution		Achieving Economic Wellbeing		All Themes	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
✓	Has met target	0	0%	1	20%	3	75%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
✘	Has not met target	0	0%	4	80%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
- / n/a	No targets set (ie new and/or baseline yr)	1	100%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	2	17%
<b>Total Number of Components</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>12</b>	

### Direction of Travel (DOT)

(Comparing this quarter performance to previous)

Outturn DOT	Interpretation	Being Healthy		Staying Safe		Enjoying & Achieving		Making a Positive Contribution		Achieving Economic Wellbeing		All Themes	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
↑	Top performance or improvement	0	0%	3	60%	4	100%	0	0%	1	50%	8	67%
↓	Performance has declined	0	0%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	3	25%
→	Performance has maintained	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
- / n/a	Comparison can not be made (ie new)	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	8%
<b>Total Number of Components</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>12</b>	

### Year to Date Performance

(Judged by corporate monitoring system Performance Plus)

Outturn Perf.	Interpretation	Being Healthy		Staying Safe		Enjoying & Achieving		Making a Positive Contribution		Achieving Economic Wellbeing		All Themes	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
★	2% above target or Top Performance	0	0%	1	20%	3	75%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
●	On Target	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
▲	Below Target	0	0%	4	80%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
- / n/a	No targets set (ie new and/or baseline year)	1	100%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	2	17%
<b>Total Number of Components</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>12</b>	

## Notes on overall performance

This is also the first performance report specific for Looked After Children (LAC) and is based solely on measures within the National Indicator framework which was introduced in April 2009. As this is the initial baseline year for the National Indicators some have no targets and no comparative data to make an assessment of direction of travel. This will be addressed in 2009/10 to ensure performance management is more effective.

It should be noted that this is a relatively small basket of indicators therefore small numbers can effect any percentage assessment.

Where assessment can be made the direction of travel on last year's outturn is positive with 67% of all indicators showing improvement or achieving top performance. Particular success has been achieved in Enjoying and Achieving where all LAC outcomes have improved on the previous academic year.

However our performance against targets continues to be an area of concern with only 42% being on or above target, reducing to 20% for Staying Safe. This issue is a recurring theme within all CYPs performance reports and therefore all future targets are to be reviewed with managers, alongside statistical neighbour and national data, to ensure they are appropriate and realistic whilst still driving improvement.

As detailed in the Performance Table accompanying this report our comparative position against statistical neighbours and national averages for LAC outcomes is good with most indicators having better performance than the latest data, (this could be subject to change once new benchmarking data is released).

### ▪ Areas of Success

Placement stability of looked after children (No 4 – NI 62), although being off target, is consistent with last year's performance with 11.8% being subject to three or more moves. This is inline with the latest comparative data for both statistical neighbours and national (11.53% and 11.4%) and maintains our position in the top PAF performance banding. In addition the percentage of looked after children with placements of 2 years or more, (No. 4 – NI 63) has improved by 8.2% to 73% improving our comparative position from below statistical neighbour and national averages to well above (66.87% and 65.7%).

Targeted strategies have ensured that the education outcomes for looked after children continue to improve and where targets are in place these have been surpassed. At key stage two (Nos 7 & 8 – NI 99 & 100) - we have achieved 41.7% (12.7% increase) in English Level 4+ and 50% (16.7% increase) for Maths. This places the authority above national averages in both subjects (46% English, 44% Maths) and below statistical neighbours for English (50.6%) but above for Maths (46.67%). At GCSE 79% of our young people leaving care achieved at least 1 A\*-G, (No. 10 – BV50). This is a 14% improvement on last year and is significantly above the national and statistical neighbour averages (66.1% and 65.6%) placing the authority 12<sup>th</sup> in the country. The new harder measure of 5 or more A\*-C including English and Maths (No.9 – NI 101) has also improved from 5% to 6.1% however no national data is currently available to give a comparative position.

At year end 94.7% of our care leavers were in suitable accommodation, (No 11 – NI 147), significantly above the target of 88% and a 12.6% improvement on the previous year. This

improves our position from below to above the latest statistical neighbour and national averages of 87.88% and 88.40% respectively. Individual pathway plans are in place to address the needs of the 2 not in suitable accommodation. The integrated post 16 accommodation service commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 09 and the new build semi independent living accommodation will be available from February 2010.

#### ▪ **Areas of Under-performance**

LAC cases reviewed within timescales (No 5 – NI 66) has had a slight drop in performance from 89.1% to 88.4% and has significantly failed to meet its target of 97%. This has been impacted by increase LAC numbers therefore limiting Independent Reviewing Officers capacity. However when compared to the latest statistical neighbours and national data it shows we are still above average. Therefore targets need to be reviewed to be more realistic but retaining an element of continuous improvement.

Adoptions have also been subject to a performance clinic and is a key area for future improvement with the percentage of adoptions of LAC (No.6 – BV163) falling from 8.1% to 3.4% against a target of 9.5%. This drop moves our performance from the top PAF performance band (8<25%) to almost the bottom band (0<3%). The other adoptions indicator relating to timeliness of placements (No. 2 – NI 61) does show an improvement but it is worth noting that this good performance of 80% in real terms only relates to eight out of ten placements. The main factors impacting include harder to place children, (older and/or more complex needs), and delays in court practice. To help address the issue a second matching panel has been established and the service are now increasing 'inhouse' adopters (local people not via agency of other authorities) which will mean better control and ownership of the process. Adoptions are now monitored on a monthly basis via Cabinet Member performance briefings.

Care leavers in employment, education and training (No 12 – NI148) has seen a significant drop in performance from 64.3% to 55.3%, missing the target by 10%. The small number of care leavers in the cohort leads to a high degree of variability within this indicator a number of care leavers aged 19 have been hard to engage though continued attempts have been made. The average percentage of all care leavers in EET is 67%. A background of rising unemployment will inevitably continue to pose a challenge for this figure. When compared to the most recent national data we have maintained our performance position of better than statistical neighbour (53.7%) and below national average (64.9%).

## Performance Clinics

At every quarter all indicators which are both 'off target' and have a 'downward Direction of Travel' are considered for clinics. Performance Management Officers review the data, comments and any discussions with PI managers to make informed recommendations. These are then approved or otherwise by CYPs Cabinet Member & Advisers. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services can also call clinics on particular issues of interest which are not monitored by National Indicators ie Foster Carers. Adhoc Performance Clinics and Turning the Curve workshops have also been held on JLT request.

### Previous Clinics

During 2008/09 recommendations for clinics have been relatively lenient compared to previous years as systems and processes for calculating new NIs are embedding and definitions are clarified. However if sufficient improvement is not evidenced from one quarter to the next then the clinic will be recommended.

A clinic was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 09 to review three areas of performance these were;

- (a) Initial Assessments within timescales [NI 59]
- (b) Adoptions of Looked After Children [BVPI 163]
- (c) Recruitment of Foster Carers [APA recommendation]

Subsequent actions for improvement are agreed and performance for these indicators will be closely monitored with a formal update six months after the clinic.

### Future Clinics

All LAC indicators with a downward direction are also underperforming against targets. The following table summarises these and gives performance officer recommendations for future clinics with rationale. These recommendations have now been approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services.

No.	Ref.	Indicator	Clinic Recommended	Rationale
5	NI 66	LAC cases reviewed in timescales	No	A significant improvement was achieved during quarter 4 and the team is now fully staffed, although the continued increase in the number of LAC presents challenge. Performance in quarter 1 will be closely monitored.
6	BV163	% Adoptions of LAC	No	Clinic held recently (March 2009). Formal update on progress due after 6 months. Issue to be reviewed at this time to ensure progress. This is a best value indicator therefore will be deleted from the reporting basket but monthly monitoring arrangements for numbers of adoptions has been established through Cabinet Member briefing.
83	NI 148	Care Leavers – EET	Yes	Although there will be some impact from economic downturn, the activity related to this measure and cohort should be reviewed. All NI's feed the CAA, but particular attention will be given to those related to vulnerable groups.

## Future Performance Reports

The format of this report is based on the new style overall CYPS Performance Outturn Report which has been developed to support the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) arrangements and it is proposed that future quarterly reports will continue to develop alongside the publication and contents of the Ofsted's CAA Quarterly Performance Profile.

Best Value and any remaining Local Performance Indicators will be removed (unless still supporting outstanding LAA stretch targets).

Additional contextual indicators which support the NIs, identified in the CAA Arrangements, will be added in 2009/10. For Looked After Children these will be:

ECM	Indicator	NI Links
Being Healthy	Percentage of looked after children aged 0–4 whose child health surveillance or child health promotion checks were up-to-date.	NI 62, 66
	Percentage of looked after children who had their annual health assessment during the year.	NI 62, 66
Staying Safe	Social workers and managers working specifically for children's social care per 10,000 population under 18.	NI 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68
	Operational staff working specifically for children's services per 10,000 population under 18.	NI 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68
	Children looked after per 10,000 population aged under 18.	NI 62, 66
	Ratio of looked after children from minority ethnic groups to children in the local population from minority ethnic groups.	NI 62, 66
	Percentage of looked after children (10–15) in foster placements or placed for adoption.	NI 61, 62, 63, 66
	Percentage of children newly looked after in the year and still looked after at 31 March, placed more than 20 miles from their home.	NI 62, 66, 71
Enjoying & Achieving	Percentage of looked after children with a statement of special educational need.	NI 54, 58, 99, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105
	Percentage of looked after children permanently excluded from school.	NI 62, 66, 99, 100, 101
	Percentage of looked after children who missed at least 25 days of schooling for any reason.	NI 62, 66, 99, 100, 101
	Percentage of looked after children who were pupils in Year 11 who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations who sat at least one GCSE or equivalent examination.	NI 101
Making a Positive Contribution	Percentage of looked after children aged 10+ convicted or subject to a final warning/reprimand during the year.	NI 62, 66
Achieving Economic Wellbeing	Percentage of looked after children formerly in Year 11, now in education, employment or training.	NI 101

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERFORMANCE TABLE OUTTURN 2008/09**

Detailed below is explanation regarding the different items within the following outturn performance table

<b>No</b>	Number on indicator as shown in this table. Added to aid discussion and referencing.	
<b>Definition</b>	The name of the indicator.	
<b>Ref</b>	the official reference number. 'NI' = National Indicator, 'BV' = Best Value performance indicator, LAA and LPI = Local stretch indicators within the 2006-09 Local Area Agreement	
<b>Good Perf</b>	The direction the performance needs to travel to improve	
<b>Lead</b>	The partner who holds responsibility for the indicator.	
<b>07/08 Actual</b>	Previous year's performance	
<b>08/09 Target</b>	Level of achievement the service wished to reach within the reporting year	
<b>08/09 Actual</b>	This year's rate of performance	
<b>Outturn On Target</b>	Has the target been achieved? ✓ = Yes, ✗ = No, n/a/ - = no targets set so unable to assess	
<b>Outturn DOT</b>	Direction of travel of performance compared to previous year. ↑ = better than last year or top performance, ↓ = worse than last year, → = same as last year, - / n/a = comparison can't be made	
<b>Outturn Perf</b>	Year To Date. Performance assessment by corporate monitoring system Performance Plus as at December 2008 ★ Green Star - Above Target or top performance, ● Amber Circle - On Target, ▲ Red triangle - Below target	
<b>Comparative Data</b>	<b>Stat. Neigh.</b>	The latest average for our Statistical Neighbour group. Used by Ofsted to assess performance to be a good authority we need to have the majority inline or better than this average
	<b>National</b>	The latest National average. Used by Ofsted to assess performance to be a good authority we need to have the majority inline or better than this average
	<b>Data Date</b>	Not all data is released at outturn or relates to the same year. This tells you the date of the comparative data for Statistical Neighbour and National.
<b>Comments</b>	If necessary further explanation of performance is summarised here. Examples include details of external influences, seasonal trends or impact of action. This is supplied by indicator managers and approved by directors, additional notes from Performance and Data team may be added to the comments column to aid explanation.	
<b>09/10 Target</b>	The current 2 year targets set by indicator managers.	
<b>10/11 Target</b>		

**Glossary of terms**

NI	National Indicator	LPI	Local Performance Indicator
PI	Performance Indicator	LAC	Looked after Children
BV	Best Value Performance Indicator	SEN	Special Educational Needs
LAA	Local Area Agreement	PAF	Performance Assessment Framework

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERFORMANCE TABLE OUTTURN 2008/09**

No	Definition	Ref	Good Perf	Lead	07/08 Actual	08/09 Target	08/09 Actual	Outturn On Target	Outturn DOT	Outturn Perf	Comparative Data (Our position against data)			Comments	09/10 Target	10/11 Target
											Stat. Neigh.	National	Data Date			
<b>BEING HEALTHY</b>																
1	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	NI 58	LOW	RMBC	-	-	14.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June]  The 14.5 relates to the mean of the 'total difficulties' score for Looked After Children between the age of 4 – 16 years old whose Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires were returned. Within the general population, a score of 0-13 is average, 14-16 is borderline, 17 – 19 is high, 20 – 40 is very high in terms of a child's emotional difficulties. A lower score indicates healthier emotional wellbeing.	-	-
<b>STAYING SAFE</b>																
2	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	NI 61	HIGH	RMBC	70.0%	83.0%	80.0%	✘	↑	▲	77.88 (better)	76.3 (better)	2008	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June]	80%	83%
3	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	NI 62 BV 49	LOW	RMBC	11.85%	9.5%	11.8%	✘	↑	▲	11.53 (better)	11.4 (better)	2008	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June]  Performance against this indicator has remained stable, the target set is stretching and has not been achieved but placement moves are monitored closely and closer scrutiny on placement disruptions has commenced to assist in improvements in performance	11%	11%
4	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	NI 63	HIGH	RMBC	64.8%	70.0%	73.0%	✓	↑	★	66.87 (better)	65.7 (better)	2008	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June]  Performance has improved against this target, long term stability is promoted by robust care planning and review and quality of foster care placement. Actions are in place to ensure care planning and review is robust and that the quality of placements offered is improved through, recruitment, assessment and training.	72%	75%
5	Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	NI 66	HIGH	RMBC	89.1%	97.0%	88.4%	✘	↓	▲	87.33 (better)	85.3 (better)	2007	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June]  Ongoing issue of increased numbers in looked after children currently 405. During Feb-March 2009 37 children changed placements as part of their plan generating the need to schedule 37 additional 28 day reviews with limited IRO capacity.	98%	99%



No	Definition	Ref	Good Perf	Lead	07/08 Actual	08/09 Target	08/09 Actual	Outturn On Target	Outturn DOT	Outturn Perf	Comparative Data (Our position against data)			Comments	09/10 Target	10/11 Target
											Stat. Neigh.	National	Data Date			
6	% Adoptions of children looked after	BV163	HIGH	RMBC	8.1%	9.5%	3.4%	x	↓	▲	-	-	-	A performance clinic has been held to review this indicator. The children who are to be placed for adoption are older and have more complex needs, they are therefore harder to place and consequently less are adopted. In addition to this the number of looked after children is increasing which increases the denominator having a negative impact on this indicator. Delays in Court practice have also had an impact. A second matching panel has been established and the service intend to increase 'inhouse' adopters (local people not via agency of other authorities) which will mean better control and ownership of the process. Adoptions are now monitored on a monthly basis via Cabinet Member performance briefings.	-	-
<b>ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING</b>																
7	Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	NI 99	HIGH	RMBC	29%	38.50%	41.70%	✓	↑	★	50.6 (worse)	46 (worse)	2008	Strategies in place have led to targets being met.	33.30%	
8	Looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	NI 100	HIGH	RMBC	33.30%	38.50%	50%	✓	↑	★	46.67 (better)	44 (better)	2008	Strategies in place have led to targets being met.	33.30%	
9	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	NI 101	HIGH	RMBC	5%	-	6.10%	n/a	↑	n/a	(n/a)	(n/a)		Strategies in place have led to improvements in performance.	3.40%	
10	The percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least one GCSE at grade A*-G or equivalent GNVQ	BV 50	HIGH	RMBC	68.0%	65%	79%	✓	↑	★	66.1 (better)	65.6 (better)	2008	Performance continues to improve and we are within the top performing authorities in the country. But due to small numbers within the cohort group there can be a high variance on the outturn each year dependent on individual abilities of pupils.	-	-
<b>MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION</b>																
<b>NO NATIONAL INDICATORS SPECIFIC TO LAC</b>																
<b>ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELLBEING</b>																
11	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	NI 147	HIGH	RMBC	82.1%	88.0%	94.7%	✓	↑	★	87.88 (worse)	88.4 (worse)	2008	<i>Provisional Outturn</i> Numbers in suitable accommodation at 19 remain high, individual pathway plans in place to address the needs of the 2 not in suitable accommodation. The integrated post 16 accommodation service commenced on 1-04-09 and new build semi independent living accommodation available from Feb 2010	90%	92%

											Comparative Data (Our position against data)						
No	Definition	Ref	Good Perf	Lead	07/08 Actual	08/09 Target	08/09 Actual	Outturn On Target	Outturn DOT	Outturn Perf	Stat. Neigh.	National	Data Date	Comments	09/10 Target	10/11 Target	
12	Care leavers in employment, education or training	NI 148	HIGH	RMBC	64.3%	65.0%	55.3%	✘	↓	▲	53.7 (better)	64.9 (worse)	2008	<i>Provisional Outturn</i>  The small number of care leavers in the cohort leads to a high degree of variability within this indicator a number of care leavers aged 19 have been hard to engage though numerous attempts have been made. The average percentage of all care leavers in EET is 67%. A background of rising unemployment will inevitably continue to pose a challenge for this figure	67%	70%	