

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

1 SEPTEMBER 2016

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs McCoy

EARLY HELP PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

1. Summary

The report provides Members with the framework for measuring the effectiveness of early help. It follows on from the new approach to early help which was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 July 2016.

2. Recommendations

1. Members are requested to note the framework and current performance

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To set out a new performance framework for early help as a way of measuring progress.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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**REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT
TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

EARLY HELP PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

SUMMARY

The report provides Members with the framework for measuring the effectiveness of early help. It follows on from the new approach to early help which was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 July 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are requested to note the framework and current performance.

DETAIL

1. Members agreed the revised approach to early help in July 2016.
2. That report included the outline of a performance framework for early help, which goes further than previous approaches and seeks to develop information with a clearer outcomes focus.
3. The framework for early help is based on the following elements:
 - a. Qualitative
 - i. Feedback / customer insight: what those in receipt of early help services are saying about the help and support they have received.
 - b. Assurance and audit: oversight of quality in case files, focusing on:
 - i. Assessment
 - ii. Interventions
 - iii. Outcomes
 - c. Quantitative
 - i. Performance against an agreed set of indicators which can be measured over time. The indicators are set out below:

Indicator	Commentary
Increased use of Family Information Service (queries, web site hits plus feedback) plus increase in referrals direct to early help via website, phone line or email	This indicator provides a proxy measure for the effectiveness of online information and support. It does not measure quality or feedback at this stage but this will be developed further in 2016/17.
Early help assessments	We will continue to track the numbers of early help assessments, the reasons for initiation and initiating agency. There will however be less of a focus on simply increasing numbers
Reducing number of Children's Hub contacts not meeting threshold	This indicator measures the understanding of thresholds – agencies should understand thresholds, and we should see a reduced number of contacts which do not meet the threshold for social care intervention and are referred to early help services, as these should be coming to early help direct.
Increased early years take up (2 year old disadvantaged numbers)	The provision of free childcare for disadvantaged children, and the uptake of this is a measure in the Council Plan. It measures our effectiveness in targeting the right families for services.
Quality of early years provision	Council Plan indicator. This indicator provides an overview of the quality of early years provision.
Reduction in children not school ready	School readiness is not a precise outcome to measure – the current proxy measure is therefore early Years Foundation Stage scores, which give an indication of the effectiveness of early years provision. We will add data on the integrated 2.5 year old check when this is available.
Reduced levels of mental health problems in children and young people	This indicator is a measure of behavioural issues which are often both a cause and effect of issues in families.
Reduction in CYP in workless households	This indicator is based on OND data and is therefore not as time sensitive as other indicators. However, it provides a measure of poverty and acts as an indicator of potential stress and potential conflict.
Reduction in CYP experiencing / witnessing domestic abuse (Encompass)	This indicator tracks the information from Operation Encompass and provides a guide to the prevalence of domestic abuse.
Reduction in CYP experiencing parental mental ill health issues	This indicator is drawn from the factors identified at single assessment. Effective early help pathways should reduce this over time
Reduction in CYP experiencing parental substance misuse issues.	This indicator is drawn from the factors identified at CIN assessment. Effective early help pathways should reduce this over time.
Numbers of children in need CIN numbers and rates	Numbers of children assessed as being in need through the single assessment process is an indicator of the effectiveness of early help provision, as children should in theory not need to be assessed for social care services. This is a relatively crude indicator of basic numbers.
Numbers of children on child protection plans	This indicator is a relatively crude measure of whether early help services and interventions are reducing social care pressures.
Numbers of children Looked After	This indicator is a relatively crude measure of whether early help services and interventions are reducing social care pressures.

4. As this is a new performance framework, data has not yet been compiled against all elements in order to set a baseline, and to report on progress.
5. Current performance against these indicators where data is available is set out in Annex A.
6. The Ofsted Single Inspection Framework, reported elsewhere on this agenda noted that:

While children and families have access to effective early help services, this is not yet leading to a reduction in the numbers referred for social care support.

The local authority has effectively prioritised and invested in early help support. This is having a positive impact, improving outcomes for many children. A wide range of early help support is available for families. This is coordinated and delivered via the early help team. This multi-agency team is social work-led and benefits from access to a wide range of in-house and commissioned services and a dedicated early help family support service. Supported by a partnership-wide strategic approach, the local authority has appropriate plans to enhance and develop services further.

7. The proposals in this report are therefore based on building on the work to date, and the views of Ofsted, and are aimed at developing a robust performance framework which does lead ultimately to a reduction in the numbers referred for social care support.

Progress in the development of a framework to date

8. Qualitative – there is not currently a live system for measuring and recording feedback from those who have received early help services, other than anecdotal feedback. This will be developed in 2016/17.
9. Assurance and audit - early help files are included in the LSCB's multi-agency audit process, and the Integrated Quality Assurance Group process regularly undertakes an audit of early help cases. Results will be fed into future reports.
10. Quantitative - overall there is a mixed picture of progress. Although performance against a number of early help indicators is good, the numbers of children who are classed as children in need has risen recently, and Stockton remains above the regional and statistical neighbour average. The following points summarise the current position further, and more detailed comments are included in Annex A:
 - a. The Stockton information Directory for families has been developed as an information resource for families and hosts an increasing level of support, advice and information. Officers are exploring the opportunity for the site to host increasing amounts of materials such as online parenting courses, to test the extent to which this type of information would be accessed by families as part of a developing outreach and 'self-serve' offer.
 - b. Early help assessment numbers increased significantly in 2015/16, following a sustained focus from the Local Safeguarding Children Board and senior officers. Whilst high numbers of EHAs are a sign of early help activity, the focus will shift in 2016/17 towards a focus on quality. Therefore, whilst it is proposed to continue to increase numbers of EHAs undertaken, the number is not projected to increase at the same rate.
 - c. There will continue to be a focus on the free childcare offer of 15 hours per week for disadvantaged 2 year olds, and rates of take up have increased significantly in the second half of 2015/16 and again in the first quarter of 2016/17. This is an indicator of ensuring that quality childcare is provided to those families who need it most, and therefore it is a measure of effective targeting of services.
 - d. The outcomes from Ofsted inspections of early years provision continue to be significantly above national rates.

- e. A significant feature of the new early help approach is a focus on the toxic trio – domestic abuse, parental mental health and drugs and alcohol as these are major factors impacting on the safety and wellbeing of children. The framework therefore proposes to measure these as indicators of the effectiveness of early help overall.
- f. The rates of Child in Need, numbers of children subject to Child Protection Plans and Looked After Children will also continue to be measured as part of this framework, as they are indicators of whether early help services are helping to stem the numbers requiring more specialist social care interventions. At present, child in need rates are increasing, and there have been some increases in the rates of child protection and looked after rates. The effectiveness of early help should help to reduce these rates, though there is likely to be a time lag.

11. Further progress reports and interrogation via the Early Help Partnership Group will start to measure progress in 2016/17.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

12. None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no new financial implications from this Report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no new legal implications from this Report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. This issue is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk. Individual elements in the approach link to specific risk assessments.

COUNCIL PLAN THEMES

16. The approach has clear proposals for:

- a. Protecting the most vulnerable through the proposals for early help, assessment and targeting of services;
- b. Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention through the emphasis on early intervention, prevention, targeted and specialist services;
- c. Developing strong and healthy communities through the continued emphasis on the provision of universal and open access support.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

17. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because it does not relate to a new policy or strategy, and is more a refinement of an approach.

CORPORATE PARENTING

18. The strategy does not directly impact on Looked After Children, but does form part of a range of interventions to help prevent children from having to come into care.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

19. Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Early Help Partnership Group

Name of Contact Officer: Martin Gray
Post Title: Assistant Director, Early Help, Partnership and Planning
Telephone No: 01642 527043
Email Address: martin.gray@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

Not applicable.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not applicable

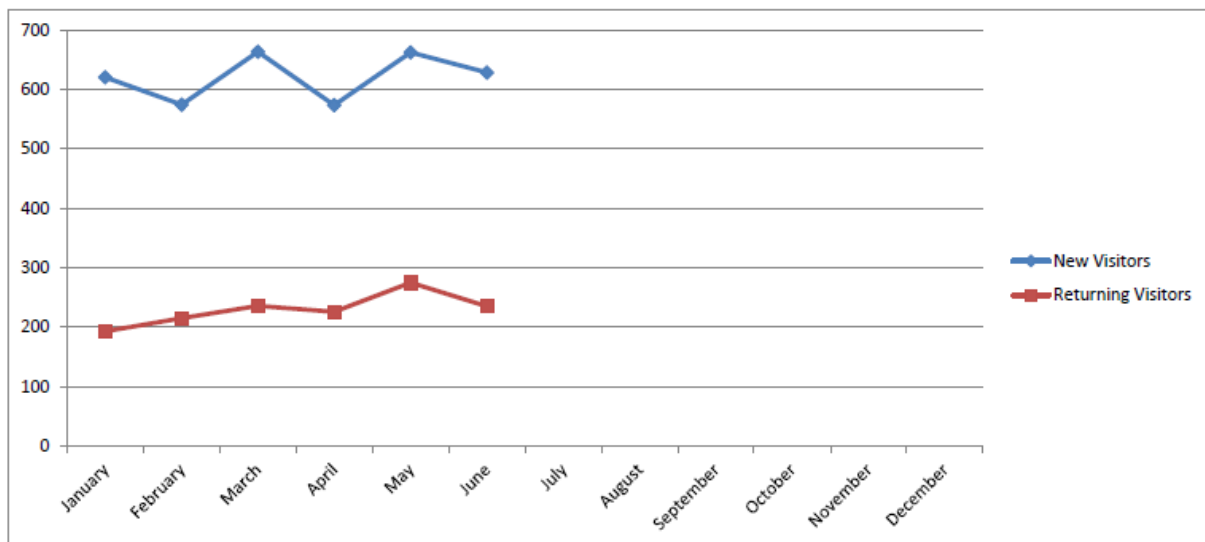
Property

There are no implications for Council property

Annex A – current performance
 Family Information Service website hits

FIS / Local Offer web Stat

2016	New Visitors	Returning Visitors
January	621	193
February	575	215
March	664	236
April	574	226
May	663	275
June	629	235
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Total	3726	1380

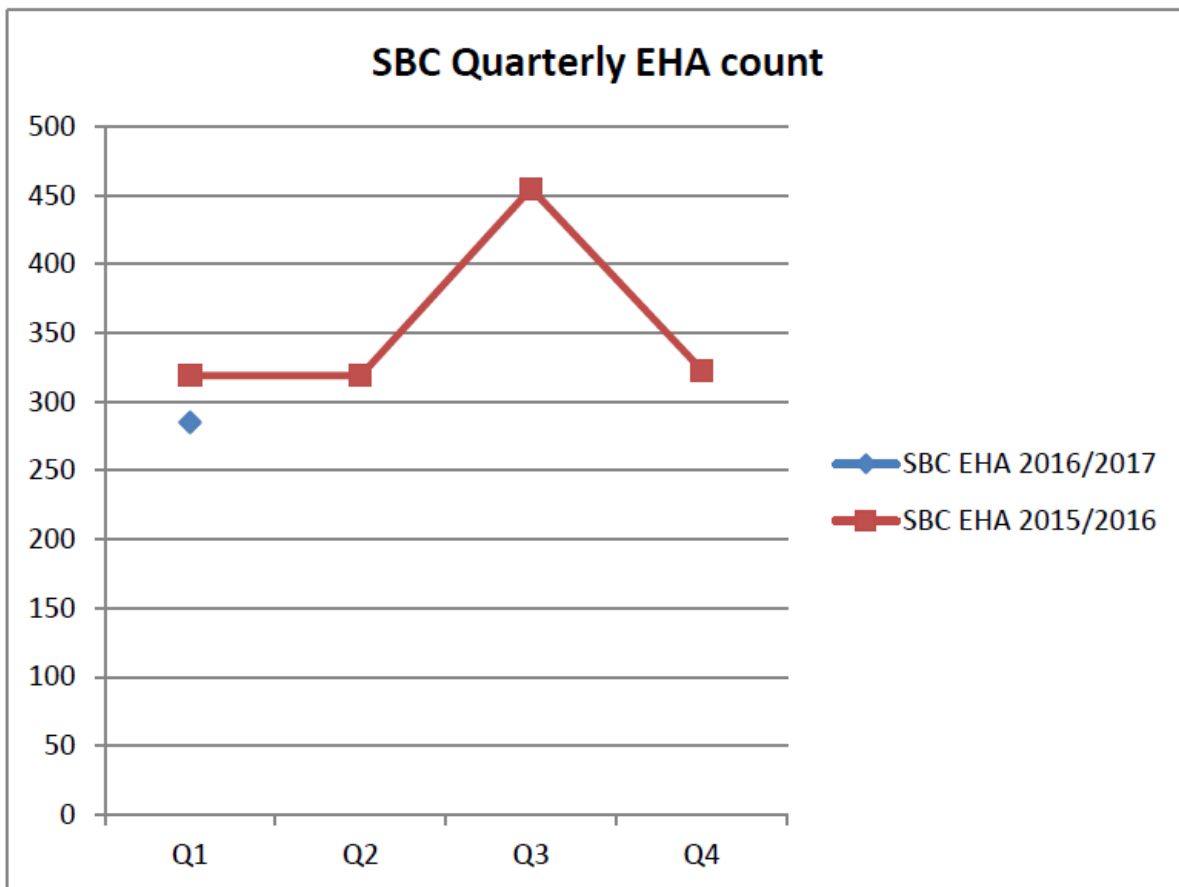


This indicator will be refined over time to become a more sophisticated guide to the extent to which families are accessing online support services. Additional resources will be added, including access to online parenting programmes, which will help to develop the use of the website.

The number of EHAs undertaken, and monitoring which agency commences the process will continue to be a focus. However, we will move away from the simple assessment of numbers, and focus more on the quality of plans and outcomes in 2016/17.

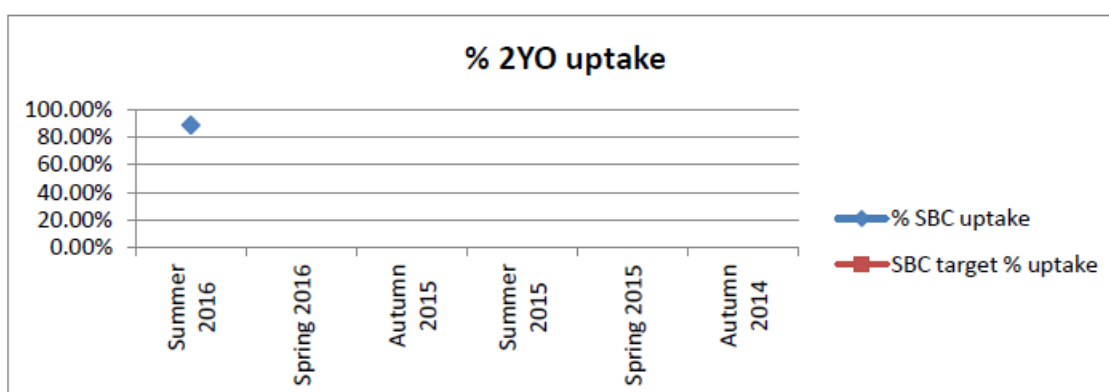
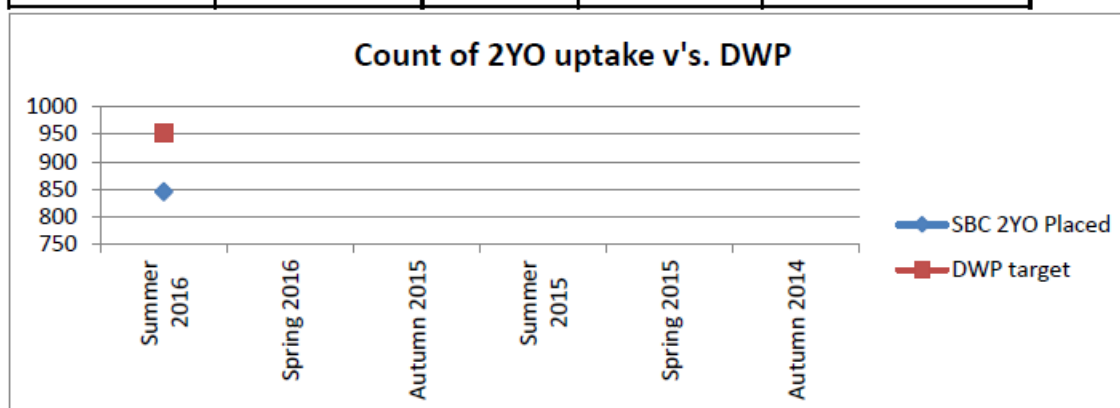
Early Help Assesments

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SBC EHA 2016/2017	285			
SBC EHA 2015/2016	319	319	455	323



Early Years take up (2 year old disadvantaged Children)

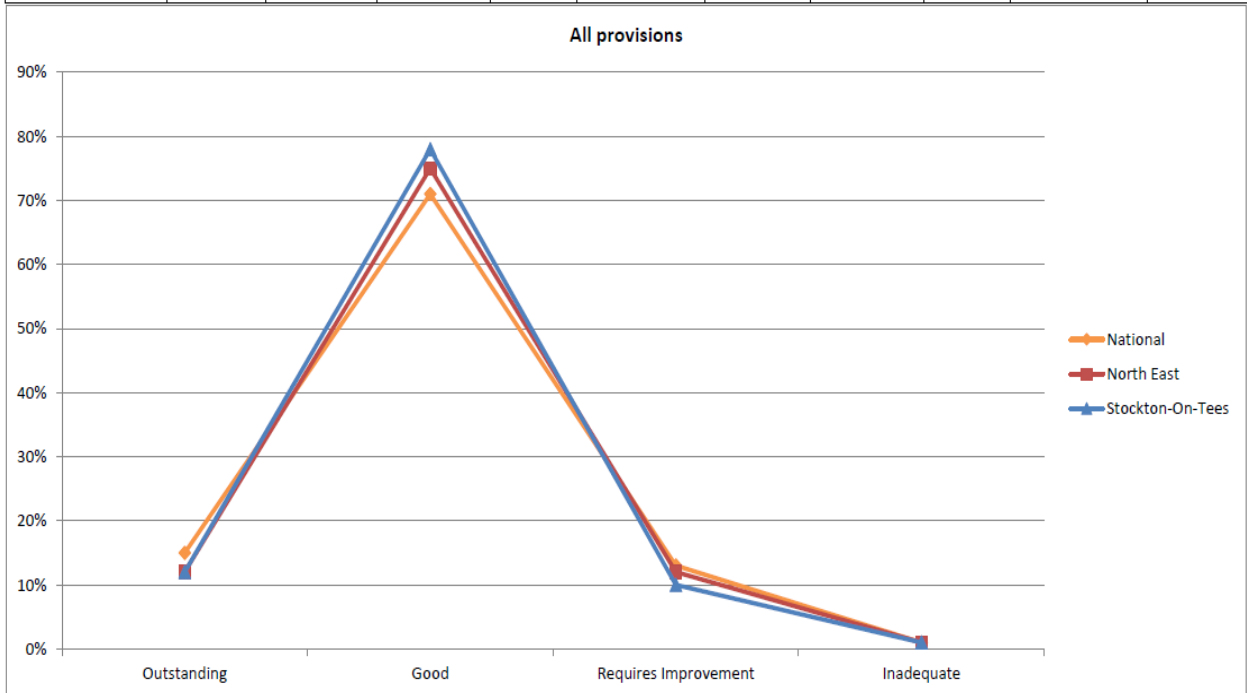
	SBC 2YO Placed	DWP target	% SBC uptake	SBC target % uptake
Summer 2016	845	953	88.67%	
Spring 2016				
Autumn 2015				
Summer 2015				
Spring 2015				
Autumn 2014				



Uptake of provision continues to increase, which is a result of specific and targeted work in communities to ensure that more families are aware of, and know how to access provision.

Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection, by region and local authority as at 31/03/2016 ^{1 2 3 4 5}

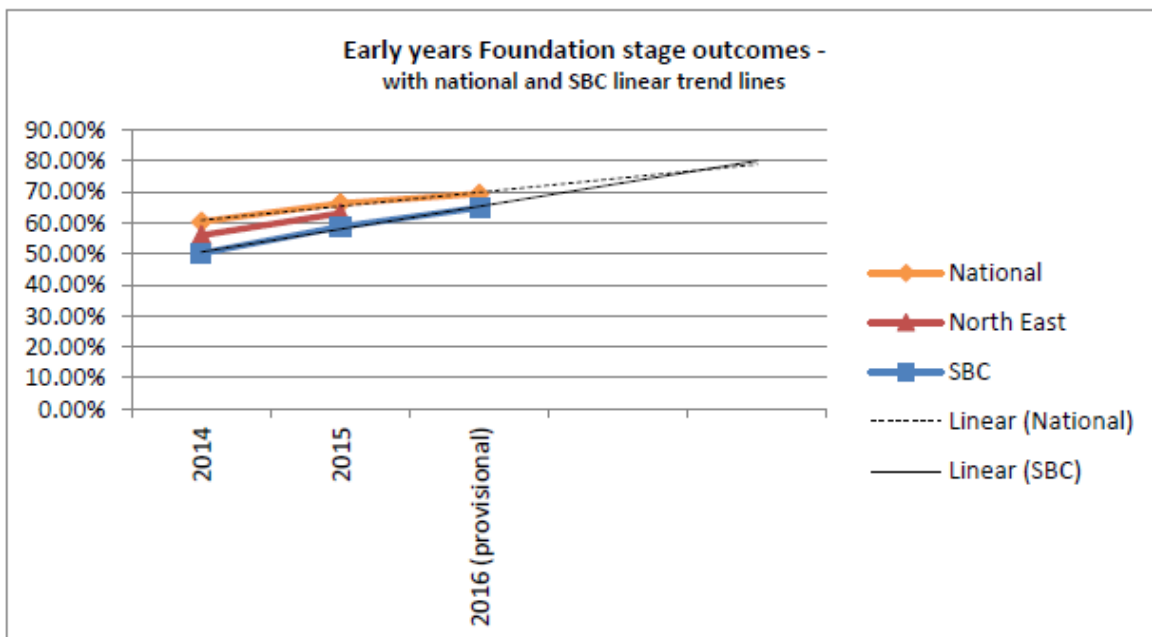
All provisions	Number of providers						Percentage of inspected providers			
	EYR providers	Total number inspected	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
National	69,116	56,461	8,233	40,265	7,353	610	15%	71%	13%	1%
North East	2,648	2,254	271	1,689	280	14	12%	75%	12%	1%
Stockton-On-Tees	258	198	23	155	19	1	12%	78%	10%	1%



Early years Foundation stage "Good level of Development" measures

	2014	2015	2016 (provisional)
National	60.40%	66.30%	69.40%
SBC	50.20%	58.80%	64.90%
North East	56%	63.10%	

*Please Note: The National figure is taken from the NCER site which is used to upload EYFS data. Only 150 other LA's have uploaded their data at this point (25/07/2016) therefore the figures is not fully representative. This will be updated once national figures are released by DfE.

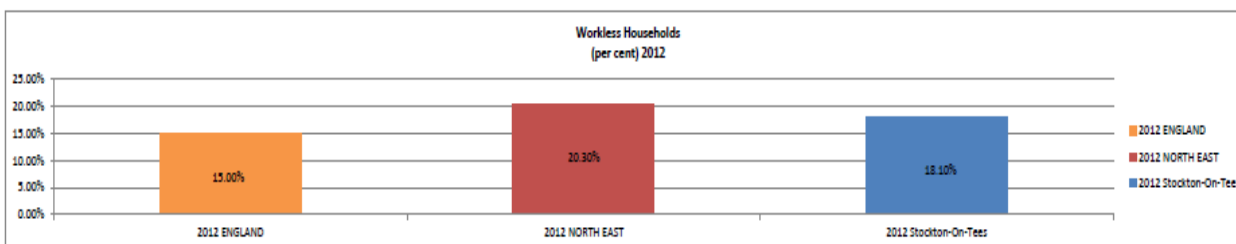
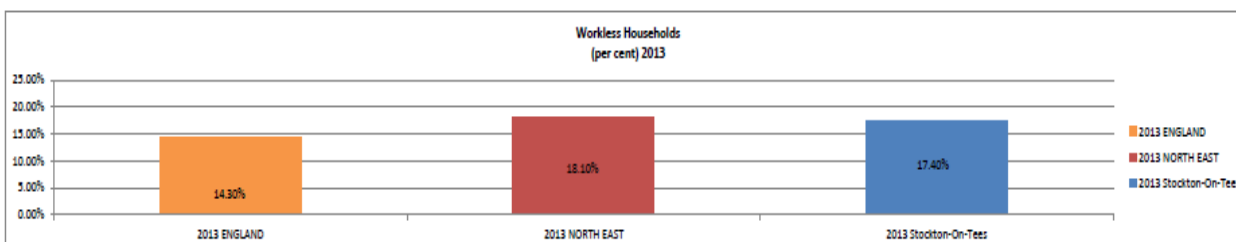
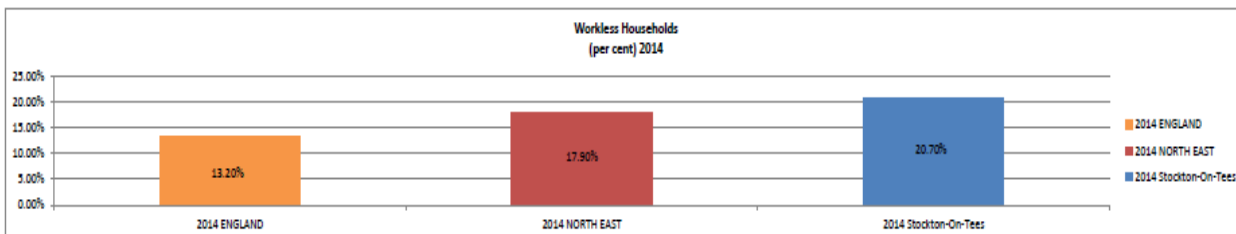


Children in workless households

Children¹ by combined economic activity status of household² members:

All data is January to December each year

	2014 ENGLAND	2014 NORTH EAST	2014 Stockton-On-Tees	2013 ENGLAND	2013 NORTH EAST	2013 Stockton-On-Tees	2012 ENGLAND	2012 NORTH EAST	2012 Stockton-On-Tees
Workless Households ³ (thousands)	1354	84	8	1460	86	7	1520	94	7
Workless Households (per cent)	13.20%	17.90%	20.70%	14.30%	18.10%	17.40%	15.00%	20.30%	18.10%



1. Children refers to all children under 16

2. Households in this table include at least one person aged 16 to 64

3. This table includes data for UK nations and regions and for unitary authorities, counties and districts within Great Britain

4. A working household is a household that contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where all individuals aged 16 and over are in employment.

5. A mixed household is a household that contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where at least one person aged 16 and over is in employment and at least one other is either unemployed or inactive.

6. A workless household is a household that contains at least one person aged 16 to 64, where no-one aged 16 or over is in employment.

7. "-" = Sample size too small to provide an estimate

8. Estimates shaded grey have a coefficient of variation >20 and are not considered reliable for practical purposes

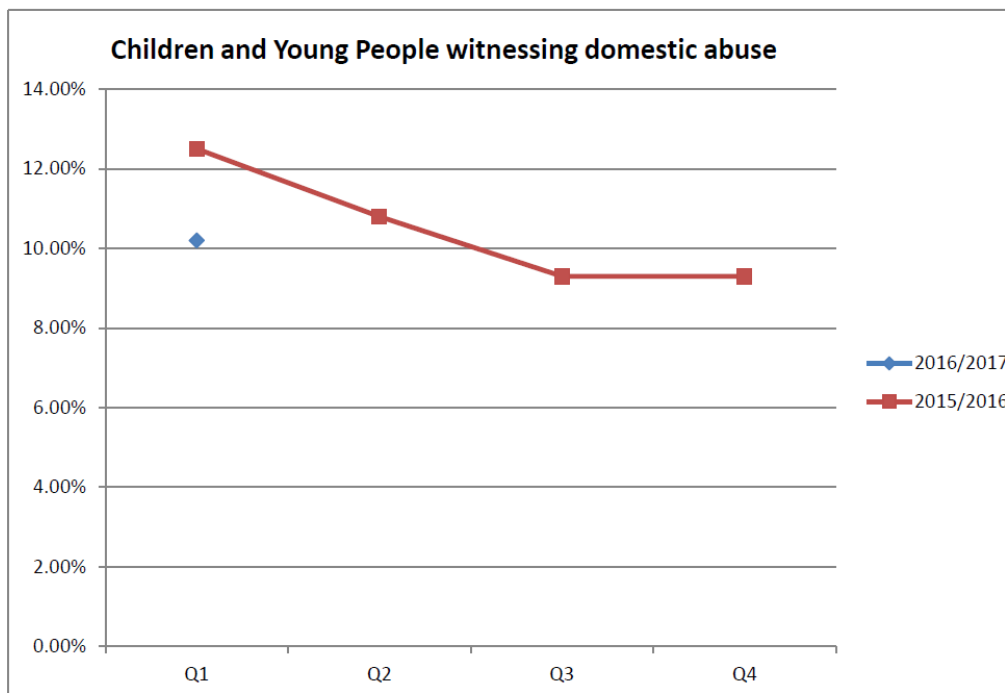
9. Coefficients of variation are included within hidden cells in this spreadsheet.

Children in workless households is a proxy measure for disadvantage, and for potential stress and conflict in families.

Children experiencing domestic abuse

CYP experiencing / witnessing domestic abuse

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016/2017	10.20%			
2015/2016	12.50%	10.80%	9.30%	9.30%



* please note these are the total number of referrals started during the period with a referral reason of D

Operation Encompass

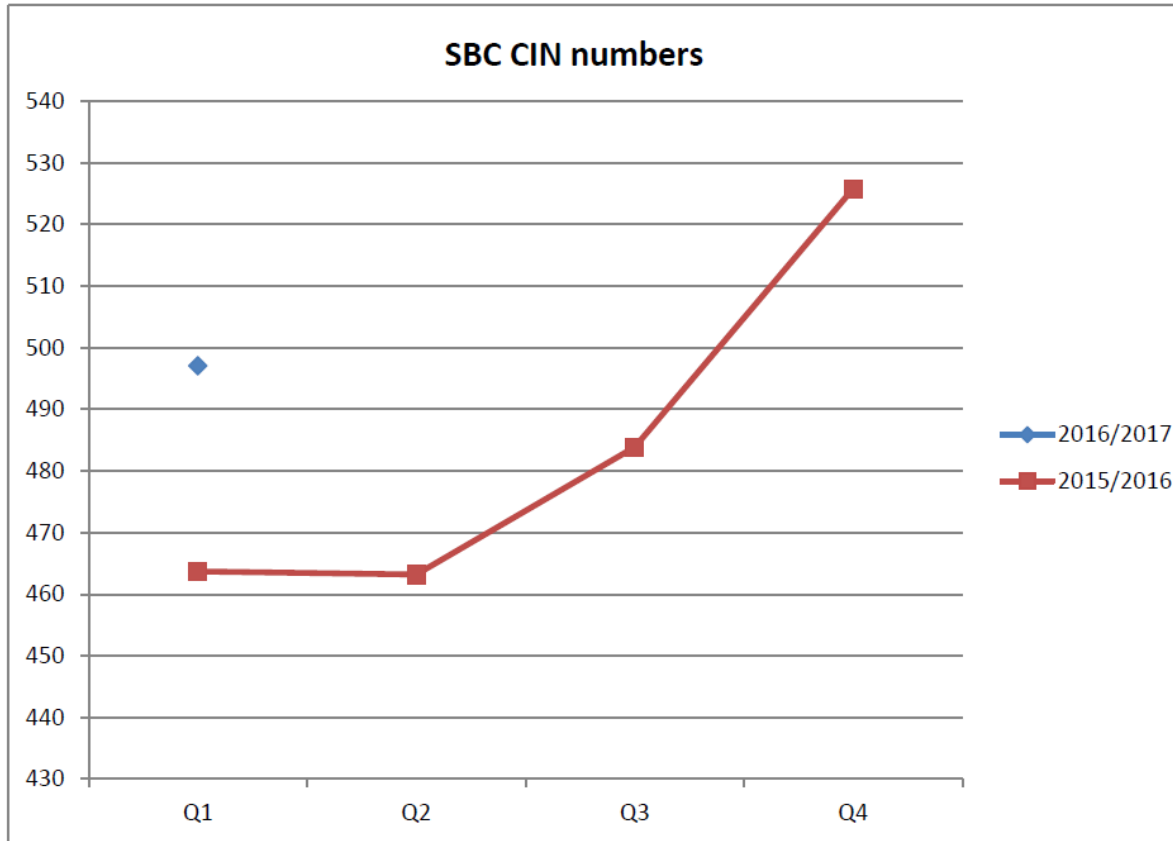
<u>Performance indicator</u>	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Number of QL23* Domestic Abuse incidents were recorded during the month	341	429	361	370
The number of QL23 Domestic Abuse incidents where children were present, witnessed , or were involved in the abuse	53	67	73	44
Number of disclosures made to Nurseries, schools, academies, sixth form colleges or colleges of further education	41	55	68	37
Number of children present, witnessed or involved in Domestic Abuse incidents	75	93	106	72

The term QL23 is a closure code for an incident having been reported to the police that is identified as domestic abuse.

Significant numbers of disclosures of domestic abuse incidents are being reported to nurseries, schools and further education providers. This data is being fed into the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

SBC CIN numbers

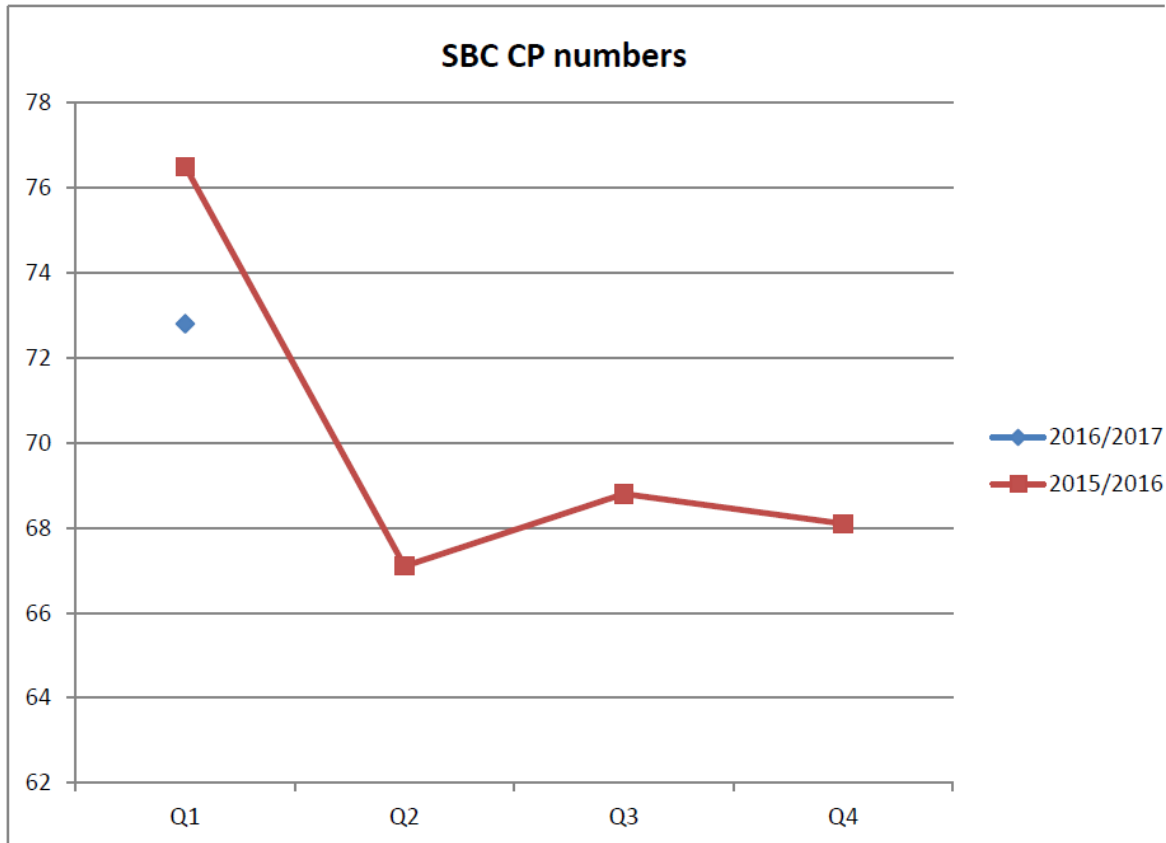
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016/2017	497.1			
2015/2016	463.7	463.2	483.9	525.8



* please note CIN numebrs for Q1 includ CP & CIC numbers - these are 497.1 (2111) per 10,000 at er For 2015 /2016, 463.2 (1967) at end of Sept, 483.9 (2055) at end of Dec and 525.8 (2233) at end of

SBC CP numbers

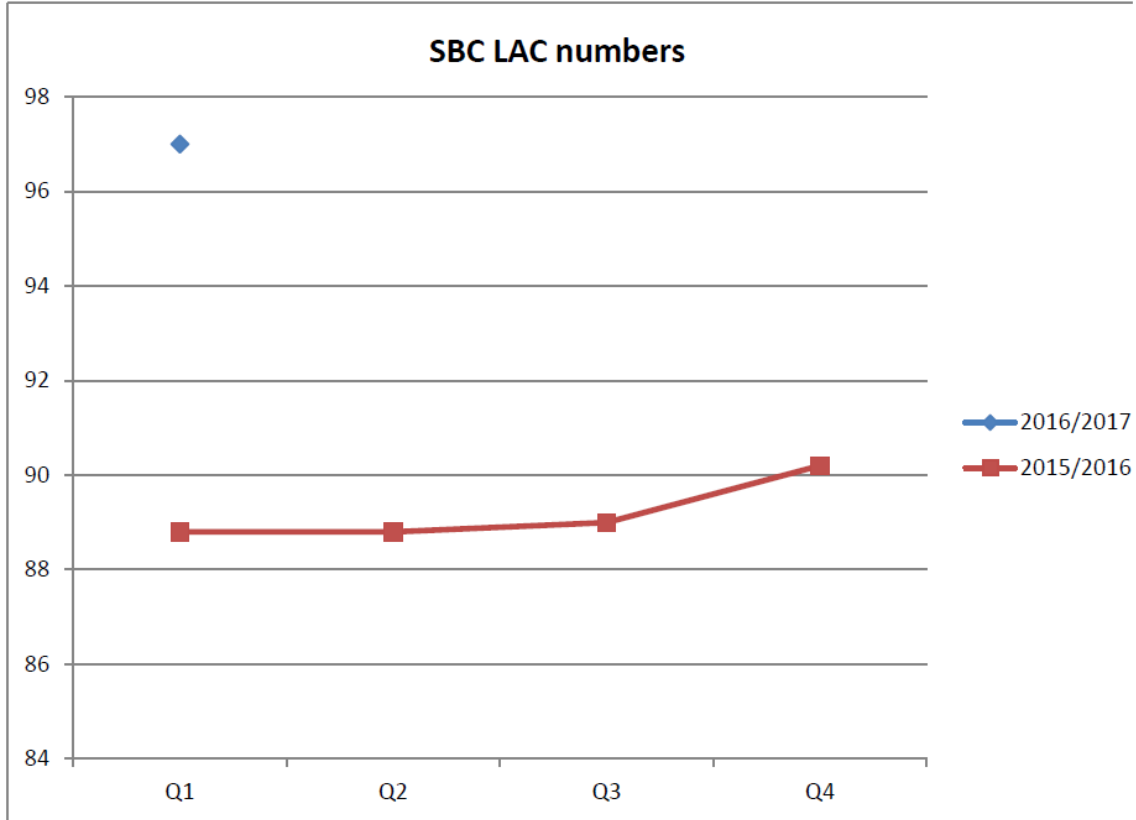
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016/2017	72.8			
2015/2016	76.5	67.1	68.8	68.1



*please note CP numbers for Q1 are 72.8 (309) per10,000 at end of June 2016/17 which compares For 2015/2016, 67.1 (285) at end Sept, 68.8 (292) at end of Dec and 68.1 (289) at end of March 20

SBC LAC numbers

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016/2017	97			
2015/2016	88.8	88.8	89	90.2



*please note LAC numbers are 97.0 (412) per 10,000 at end of June 2016/17 which compares to 88. For 2015/2016 , 88.8 (377) at end of Sept, 89.0 (378) at end of Dec and 90.2 (383) at end of march