

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Education, Children and Families Committee

Does this report require to be approved?  Yes  No

Ref AG/SL

Date 26/05/26

## Strategic Performance Framework - latest performance results for Children's Social Work and Protection

**From** Alison Gordon, Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice, and Integrated Practice)

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### Executive Summary

For strategic overview and scrutiny purposes, this report provides Members of Education, Children and Families Committee with an update on the latest results for a suite of specific performance indicators for the Chief Social Work Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice) that can be compared nationally and are within the remit of this Committee.

The information within this indicator set is only measured annually for benchmarking purposes through the Local Government Benchmarking Framework creating a significant lag in data, most notably for statistics relating to care experience (looked after children) however this data complements the information on social work performance and improvement activity provided annually to Committee through the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) and through reporting on relevant strands of the Council's Programme of Work.

Children's Social Work Services are delivered within a wider partnership context with oversight and strategic direction also provided through the Chief Officers Public Protection Group and the Children's Services Partnership for which the CSWO is lead officer. The Promise remains a key driver of improvement and transformation for both children experiencing care and for children and young people in need and their families, including those for whom there is a risk of harm, with increasing emphasis also on early family support a central strand of the *Resilient People* Programme of Work.

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### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

- (1) Review the high-level performance overview presented in Appendix 1 and identify where further information is required to understand or investigate performance further.

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### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority All priorities

Ambition statement All ambition statements

Programme of Work Statutory / corporate / service requirement

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 There are six inter-related strategic frameworks which are key to evaluating the success of The Plan for North Lanarkshire and assessing delivery towards achieving the overall vision by ensuring each stage is appropriately aligned, planned, guided, implemented, monitored, and governed.
- 1.2 The six frameworks focus on ensuring a corporate one council approach in respect of Policy, Governance, Performance, Self-Evaluation, Project Management, and Demonstrating Improved Outcomes for Communities.
- 1.3 The Strategic Performance Framework comprises performance measurement at three levels. This aims to collectively provide an overview of performance to help understand the impact of council activities on improving services and outcomes for the people and communities of North Lanarkshire. The measures in this Framework allow for day-to-day activities, and progress towards achieving the long-term vision set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire, to be regularly monitored, reported, assessed, and scrutinised.
- 1.4 The Strategic Performance Framework is aligned to the Accounts Commission's *Statutory Direction* which places a requirement on councils to ensure clear, balanced, and effective reporting on how well services are performing that includes (i) comparisons of performance over time and between councils, and (ii) shows how well local outcomes are being improved. For information, the council's comparative performance in Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) indicators can be viewed through the Improvement Service's online dashboard:  
<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/explore-the-data>
- 1.5 A Performance Reporting Schedule supports the timely submission of a range of performance information to ensure fully informed review, reporting, scrutiny, and decision-making processes by Elected Members and senior management. This Schedule, endorsed by the Audit and Scrutiny Panel each year, includes Chief Officer's individual Performance Reviews at Service Committees in line with the Strategic Performance Framework.
- 1.6 This report therefore presents the Education, Children and Families Committee with the latest performance results for the Children's Social Work and Protection areas within the Children, Families, Justice, and Integrated Practice service for Members' further review and scrutiny.

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## 2. Strategic Performance Framework

### Education, Children and Families Committee responsibilities

- 2.1 In line with the terms of reference outlined in the Scheme of Administration, the Education, Children and Families Committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing performance information for the following Ambition Statements from The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

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|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Enhance collaborative working to maximise support and ensure all our children and young people are included, supported, and safe.</li><li>9. Invest in early interventions, positive transitions, and preventative approaches to improve outcomes for children and young people.</li><li>14. Ensure the highest standards of public protection.</li></ol> |
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2.2 The high-level performance overview in Appendix 1 presents Members with a summary of the latest results for performance indicators relating to the services that sit within the remit of the Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice, and Integrated Practice) in relation to Children’s Social Work and Protection.

2.3 The information in Appendix 1 comprises the undernoted. Appendix 2 provides additional context in respect of the council’s approach to the measurement of indicators and setting of targets.

2.3.1 An *ideal direction* arrow - this indicates whether a higher or lower figure is the preferred direction of travel.

↑	A higher figure is better
↓	A lower figure is better

2.3.2 *Measurement unit* - for example whether the result is a %, a number, a unit cost (in £), or a ratio.

2.3.3 *Performance results* for the most recent financial years (depending on availability of data) along with the latest year’s target and corresponding RAG status (for indicators where it is appropriate to set targets).

<b>Key to RAG status</b>	
<b>Green</b>	Performance is on target and/or within acceptable thresholds
<b>Red</b>	Performance does not meet target and is outwith acceptable thresholds
<b>Blue</b>	Performance surpasses the target and exceeds expectations

2.3.4 The most *recent quarterly results*, along with the corresponding target and RAG status. Note the inclusion of this information is dependent on the measurement frequency of the indicator and availability of data as at the time of reporting.

2.3.5 A *trend graph* - this captures the direction of travel achieved over the years and includes the most recent monthly or quarterly results where available.

2.3.6 *Comments* - narrative summarising the current position and providing an explanation for any significant variations in performance. Where applicable, this narrative also highlights any internal or external factors impacting on service delivery as well as any residual effects of the pandemic, e.g., any increase or decrease in the volume of transactions or enquiries processed.

**Current context**

2.4 The performance information presented in Appendix 1 should be considered within the context of the following:

2.4.1 Whilst social work carries specific statutory responsibilities for children and young people at risk of harm, children and young people in need and children and young people experiencing care, or who have experienced care, these duties are exercised within a partnership context. The Chief Social Work Officer however carries key responsibilities for social work performance and standards, and this underpins annual reporting to Committee through the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer. Regulated care services such as adoption and fostering services and children’s houses are also subject to external scrutiny though the Care Inspectorate with other areas of children and families social work also subject to scrutiny through periodic strategic partnership and thematic inspections. A Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People at Risk of Harm published in October 2023 evaluated the impact of services on children and young people as *Very Good*. Currently the partnership is

participating in additional scrutiny in this area as part of Phase 1 of the National Review of Group based Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation reflecting an increased focus on extra-familial harm, an area where national data is less developed.

- 2.4.2 More than half of the indicators reported within Appendix 1 relate to children and young people who experience care, an area within which the key national driver for transformation and improvement remains the *Promise* a 10-year transformation programme. Both the previous, and current, multi-agency Children's Services Plan for North Lanarkshire are built around the foundations of the *Promise* and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), with oversight by the Children's Services Partnership Board which includes Elected Member representation. Annual reports on the progress against our statutory Children's Services Plan are provided both to the Board and externally to Scottish Government.
- 2.4.3 National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland published in 2021 and updated in 2023 also frames multi agency practice and the delivery of statutory children and families social work services. This guidance reflects the wider context of child protection services as part of a continuum encompassing whole family support and actions to tackle child poverty and extra familial harm. Children's Social Work in working across all of these areas is uniquely placed to drive and connect the key strands of work required to support the ambitions of the *Promise* and the required transformation of systems, outcomes and experience for children and families. This is however taking place within an increasingly complex legislative framework with range of new duties on local authorities and social work services introduced since 2020 including through the Children (Scotland) Act 2020, Children (Care and Justice)(Scotland) Act 2024 and recently passed Children (Care, Care Experience and Service Planning) (Scotland) Bill.
- 2.4.4 Taken together the indicators reported within Appendix 1 reflect some reduction in the numbers of children and young people supported through key statutory measures, most notably with respect to children and young people subject to child protection registration. It is important however to understand that this provides only a partial picture of demand on children's social work services with other areas of activity growing and reflecting new patterns of need as reported within the Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer 2024/25. Overall new referrals to children and families social work remained 20% above pre-pandemic levels in 2024/25, though falling marginally against 2023/24 figures. This alongside a sustained positive balance of care may reflect the impact of increased investment and focus on early family support and relational practice over this period. Given the challenges experienced by families within our communities it is too early to be confident that this trend will continue going forward.
- 2.4.5 Whilst the direct impact of our integrated, holistic and tiered approach to family support is not yet reflected in nationally benchmarked indicators it will continue to be reported to Education, Children and Families Committee through reports associated with the *Resilient People* programme of work.

### **Recent performance highlights**

- 2.5 Despite upwards inflationary pressures on placement costs, notably with respect to independent and external residential and fostering provision, costs in both areas compare very favourably to national and family group averages, a situation which is supported by a strong focus on community placement and in particular the high proportion of children and young people placed within kinship care arrangements. Despite this very positive picture there remain however challenges in foster care recruitment and whilst the recent introduction of the Scottish Recommended Allowance supporting kinship and fostering placements has been supportive continued attention

to wider supports for kinship and foster carers and to fostering fees will remain critical to sustaining the current position and positive outcomes for children and young people going forward. Similarly, an early and integrated response to children and young people with the most complex needs will be vital in managing the upward pressure for specialist external supports.

- 2.6 Linked to the above the Council ranked 1st in Scotland on the 'balance of care' measure supporting a significantly higher proportion of young people in community settings that both the national and family group average, with an increase from 94.5% the previous year to 94.9% against a slight fall in national performance in this area, Whilst it remains important that placement decisions are made with respect to the needs of individual children and young people, this reflects a strong commitment to supporting children and young people in family settings whenever possible and to maintaining local community connections through integrated and relational support. This has significant advantages in supporting positive outcomes for children and young people and in their transition into adulthood. It is also noteworthy that the majority of children and young people who require to be supported within residential settings are supported within in-house children's house provision, a position we have been able to sustain despite demand pressures, including an increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum requiring support and the impact of our commitment to continuing care, the latter seeing an increasing number of young people remaining in placement beyond 18.
- 2.7 The need for a safe, stable place to live and ongoing secure relationships are central to a child's plan. Figures for 2023/24 show that 11.2 % of our children had more than one placement move in the last year compared to a national average of 17.5% and family group average of 17.5 %. The council has consistently performed in the top quartile on this indicator and has been ranked 1<sup>st</sup> on this measure for 8 of the last 10 years. The proportion of children and young people (0-17) looked after by the local authority, at 1% of this population also sits below the national average of 1.2% a sustained position over a period of years despite wider population challenges with respect to poverty and inequalities and reinforcing the importance of our relentless focus on improving wider family supports.

### **Areas of performance requiring improvement**

- 2.8 2024/25 saw a significant decrease in the percentage of children (0-15) per thousand population placed on the Child Protection Register to 0.9 from 1.7 the previous year, against a national shift from 2.8 to 2.3. Whilst this reduction in registration numbers does not in itself mean poor performance and North Lanarkshire has for some time trended below national registration rates, the level of decrease in a single year merits close monitoring to ensure robust decision-making remains for individual children and families. Falling rates may reflect early and effective support in line with previous inspection findings however it will be important to continue to test this through ongoing audit arrangements, It is important to note also that this measure does not provide a full picture of public protection activity in particular excluding older young people who are benefiting from contextual safeguarding approaches to extra-familial harm.
- 2.9 A significant rise in the proportion of children and young people reregistered on the Child Protection Register to 22.4% over the period 2024/35, a rate substantially above the national average, is however an area for concern. Whilst the smaller overall registration cohort does increase vulnerability to rate fluctuations arising from changes in circumstances with respect to a relatively small number of large families, this is nonetheless disappointing, meaning that almost 1 in 4 children who ceased to be subject to child protection registration experienced concerns leading to re-registration within a period of 18 months. Whilst this may reflect complex circumstances it also

suggests that some children may be removed from the CPR too early and before positive change is sufficiently embedded. In view of this the position will continue to be closely monitored and explored through targeted audit activity to ensure any learning or improvement actions are identified.

### Next steps

2.10 As noted in paragraph 1.5, the Strategic Performance Framework is supported by a Performance Reporting Schedule. This sets out the arrangements for service, statutory, and Strategic Performance Framework reporting to committee. In this respect the relevant Committee can expect to receive the following reports relating to Children's Social Work and Protection areas of work in 2026 to 2027.

Report	Description	Committee	Committee cycle for next report
Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer	The Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) of each local authority is required to provide an annual report and a standard template for this purpose is issued by the office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government. The North Lanarkshire CSWO report provides information on the delivery of statutory functions, and performance and improvement activity across the range of social work services over the last year. Latest report in October 2025: <a href="#">link</a> (Adult Care and Social Work Committee + November 2025: <a href="#">link</a> (Education, Children and Families Committee)	Education, Children and Families Committee / Adult Care and Social Work Committee	Cycle 4 each year

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### 3. Measures of success

3.1 Measures of success include:

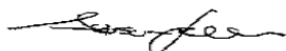
- Regular oversight and monitoring of performance across the organisation to gain assurances in terms of governance and accountability.
- Regular review and challenge processes to scrutinise the performance of the council to ensure effective use of resources and that resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities, while ensuring sound decision making and clear accountability for the use of resources in achieving improved outcomes for service users and the local community.
- Performance monitoring, management, and reporting arrangements that support the demonstration of improved performance in local services and outcomes, and the delivery of Best Value.

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### 4. Supporting documentation

4.1 Appendix 1 - High-level performance overview.

4.2 Appendix 2 - Note for information in respect of performance indicators and targets.



**Alison Gordon**  
Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice, and Integrated Practice)

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## 5. Impacts

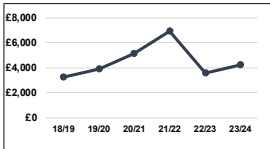
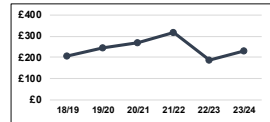
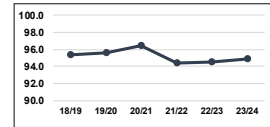
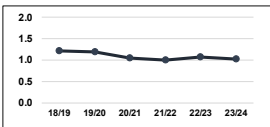
<b>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty</b> Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? <a href="https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments">https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments</a> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5.2 Financial impact</b> Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
<b>5.3 HR policy impact</b> Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
<b>5.4 Legal impact</b> Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
<b>5.5 Data protection impact</b> Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk">dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</a> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5.6 Technology / Digital impact</b> Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

5.7	<p><b>Environmental / Carbon impact</b></p> <p>Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
5.8	<p><b>Communications impact</b></p> <p>Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
5.9	<p><b>Risk impact</b></p> <p>Is there a risk impact?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p> <p>Monitoring and managing service performance supports the ongoing oversight of the service's risk register.</p>
5.10	<p><b>Armed Forces Covenant Duty</b></p> <p>Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.</p>
5.11	<p><b>Children's rights and wellbeing impact</b></p> <p>Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

# Children's Social Work and Protection

## High-level performance overview - as at April 2026

For the majority of the benchmarking indicators, the most up to date data available nationally relates to 2023/24 <https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/explore-the-data>

Indicator	id	ideal direction	unit of measurement	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25 target	trend	comments
Looked after children - gross cost of children looked after in residential based services per child per week	CHN8a	lower figure is better	£	£3,214	£3,907	£5,134	£6,910	£3,609	£4,193		n/a	 <p>Latest cost figures for NLC (£4,193) are higher than the previous year but lower than the two years before that. The latest costs show NL to be lower than the Scottish average (£5,282) and the family group of similar councils (£5,822). Previous analysis of these costs over recent years identified some data quality issues in terms of consistency in budget lines allocated and the routine count of placements; however the increase on the previous year appears is in line with both a slight increase in unit costs of internal residential provision as placement numbers have been more routinely been maintained in line with registration levels following a period of excess demand, and increases in the cost of external provision.</p>	
Looked after children - gross cost of children looked after in a community setting per child per week	CHN8b	lower figure is better	£	£208.50	£243.56	£267.22	£319.15	£186.90	£230.30		n/a	 <p>Latest cost figures for NL (£230.30) are slightly higher than the previous year, but lower than the years before that. The latest costs for NL are lower than the Scottish average (£474.68) and the family group of similar councils (£390.94). The council has consistently performed in the top quartile in Scotland in this indicator, and the latest costs are the second lowest across all 32 local authorities in Scotland. Whilst allowances paid are in respect to children in family placements are in line with the Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) and foster care fees were uplifted during this period, the council's position on costs is supported by the proportion of children supported in kinship and in-house provision.</p>	
Balance of care for looked after children - % of children being looked after who are cared for in the community	CHN9	higher figure is better	%	95.4	95.6	96.5	94.4	94.5	94.9		n/a	 <p>Latest figures show that the council continues to remain a consistently high performer in this indicator with 94.9% of children who are looked after being looked after in the community. This compares to 88.8% nationally and a family group average of 88.9%. The council has consistently performed in the top quartile in Scotland in this indicator, and the latest results are the highest across all 32 local authorities in Scotland. This demonstrates the extent of the council's commitment that looked after children are looked after in their local communities (as opposed to residential care), despite some upwards pressure for specialist external residential placement for some children with additional support needs.</p>	
Looked after children - number of looked after children as a % of Pi136 the populated (aged 0 to 17)		lower figure is better	%	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0		n/a	 <p>1% of the NLs population (aged 0 to 17) are currently looked after by the local authority, latest figures as at July 2024 show 690 young people to be looked after, a reduced number from previous years. This indicator uses the current legal definition of Looked After Children as per the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 - broadly defined as those in the care of their local authority. National average figures over the same period show 1.2% of children (aged 0 to 17) are looked after.</p>	

Indicator	id	ideal direction	unit of measurement	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25 target	trend	comments																
Looked after children - % with more than one placement in the last year	CHN23	lower figure is better	%	8.1	7.0	4.4	6.9	7.8	11.2		n/a	<table border="1"> <caption>Looked after children - % with more than one placement in the last year</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>18/19</td><td>8.1</td></tr> <tr><td>19/20</td><td>7.0</td></tr> <tr><td>20/21</td><td>4.4</td></tr> <tr><td>21/22</td><td>6.9</td></tr> <tr><td>22/23</td><td>7.8</td></tr> <tr><td>23/24</td><td>11.2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Value	18/19	8.1	19/20	7.0	20/21	4.4	21/22	6.9	22/23	7.8	23/24	11.2	<p>The need for a safe, stable place to live and ongoing secure relationships is central to a child's plan. Latest figures show there are 11.2% of children in NL with more than one placement in the last year, compared to 17.5% nationally and a family group average of 17.7%.</p> <p>The council has consistently performed in the top quartile in Scotland in this indicator and is currently ranked at number 1. This demonstrates the extent of the council's commitment to maintaining the need to secure and maintain attachments in care planning, while recognising that no two cases will be the same, and each child must be placed in a situation that is appropriate to them.</p>		
Year	Value																												
18/19	8.1																												
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Child protection - number of children on the child protection register per 1,000 population (aged 0 to 15)	PI081	lower figure is better	number	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.7	0.9	n/a	<table border="1"> <caption>Child protection - number of children on the child protection register per 1,000 population (aged 0 to 15)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>18/19</td><td>2.6</td></tr> <tr><td>19/20</td><td>1.9</td></tr> <tr><td>20/21</td><td>1.9</td></tr> <tr><td>21/22</td><td>1.4</td></tr> <tr><td>22/23</td><td>1.5</td></tr> <tr><td>23/24</td><td>1.7</td></tr> <tr><td>24/25</td><td>0.9</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Value	18/19	2.6	19/20	1.9	20/21	1.9	21/22	1.4	22/23	1.5	23/24	1.7	24/25	0.9	<p>The number of children placed on the child protection register in NL has decreased from 2.6 per 1,000 population (age 0 to 15) in 2018/19 to 0.9 in 2024/25. The latest figures of 0.9 per 1,000 population (age 0 to 15) is a decrease from 1.7 in the previous year.</p> <p>This decreasing trend in NL has followed the national position, albeit to a greater extent - with the Scotland overall figure showing a decrease from 2.8 to 2.3 over the same period. Whilst North Lanarkshire's rate of registration has trended beneath the national average for a number of years, the level of decrease over this period is unusual and continued audit and monitoring will take place to better understand this and to ensure individual decision-making remains robust.</p>
Year	Value																												
18/19	2.6																												
19/20	1.9																												
20/21	1.9																												
21/22	1.4																												
22/23	1.5																												
23/24	1.7																												
24/25	0.9																												
Child protection - average number of areas of concern recorded for each child on the child protection register	PI082	lower figure is better	number	2.0	2.7	3.1	2.6	3.0	3.0	2.6	n/a	<table border="1"> <caption>Child protection - average number of areas of concern recorded for each child on the child protection register</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>18/19</td><td>2.0</td></tr> <tr><td>19/20</td><td>2.7</td></tr> <tr><td>20/21</td><td>3.1</td></tr> <tr><td>21/22</td><td>2.6</td></tr> <tr><td>22/23</td><td>3.0</td></tr> <tr><td>23/24</td><td>3.0</td></tr> <tr><td>24/25</td><td>2.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Value	18/19	2.0	19/20	2.7	20/21	3.1	21/22	2.6	22/23	3.0	23/24	3.0	24/25	2.6	<p>Latest figures show an average number of 2.6 concerns identified for each child at the planning meetings of children who are on the child protection register, a decrease from 3.0 in the previous year.</p> <p>This is slightly lower than the national average of 2.8.</p>
Year	Value																												
18/19	2.0																												
19/20	2.7																												
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Child protection - % of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	CHN22	lower figure is better	%	10.6	7.8	11.6	11.2	5.8	6.3	22.4	n/a	<table border="1"> <caption>Child protection - % of child protection re-registrations within 18 months</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>18/19</td><td>10.6</td></tr> <tr><td>19/20</td><td>7.8</td></tr> <tr><td>20/21</td><td>11.6</td></tr> <tr><td>21/22</td><td>11.2</td></tr> <tr><td>22/23</td><td>5.8</td></tr> <tr><td>23/24</td><td>6.3</td></tr> <tr><td>24/25</td><td>22.4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Value	18/19	10.6	19/20	7.8	20/21	11.6	21/22	11.2	22/23	5.8	23/24	6.3	24/25	22.4	<p>Latest figures show that 22.4% of children in NL on child protection registers (CPRs) come back onto a register within 18 months. Re-registration rates could suggest that the decision to initially remove them from the CPR was premature and that they are not actually safer; however no two cases will be the same, and against a smaller overall cohort on the CPR trends can be impacted by a small number of larger families and increased complexity of need within this cohort.</p> <p>National comparisons show that there are on average 6.8% of re-registrations within 18 months across Scotland and 6.9% in the family group. Given therefore that North Lanarkshire appears an outlier in this area further work is being undertaken to analyse the circumstances of re-registrations and to consider any areas for improvement.</p>
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### **Note for information in respect of performance indicators and targets**

It should be noted that the nature of particular areas of service being measured in order to assess and manage performance do not always lend themselves to a traditional approach to either measuring performance or setting targets, for example:

- Some indicators (and targets) are required to monitor performance against a commitment or minimum standard the council has made in advance to achieve a stated level of performance when delivering a service.
- Some indicators (and targets) are required to assess compliance with legislative requirements.
- Some targets represent the level of performance that the council aims to achieve from a particular activity in either the short, medium, or long-term.
- Some indicators are needed to help present a complete picture of performance in the round, as a single performance indicator used in isolation rarely tells the whole performance story and a range of indicators are required to reflect the economic, efficient, and effective aspects of demonstrating best value.
- Some indicators and targets can help to support accountability to the public in terms of demonstrating best value and an efficient and effective approach to the delivery of services.
- Some indicators are monitored to ensure the council complies with specific requirements, such as information governance or health and safety.
- Some indicators are monitored to provide added context in order to help interpret performance results or supplement other existing measures. Information such as this can be critical to enhance knowledge and decision making in terms of demand to help determine priorities and allocate resources.
- For some indicators it is not appropriate to set targets as it is the trend in the data (i.e. the direction of travel) that provides more meaningful information to allow for an assessment in relation to whether performance has improved.
- Some indicators are national benchmarking indicators where their purpose is to allow for comparisons with other councils and the national average. These benchmarks are, in essence, can openers designed to focus questions on why variations in cost and performance are occurring between similar councils.
- Some indicators are proxy measures, particularly in the case of measuring outcomes, as without directly measurable data for a desired outcome the only alternative is to use a proxy that is an indirect measure of the desired outcome, but which is itself strongly correlated to that outcome.