

## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

**Venue:** **Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham, S60 2TH**      **Date:** **Monday, 20th July, 2015**  
**Time:** **2.00 p.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th January, 2015. (Pages 1 - 10)
6. Matters arising from the previous minutes (which are not included elsewhere on this agenda).
7. Draft terms of reference. (Pages 11 - 16)
8. Performance Report - Looked After Children - May 2015. (Pages 17 - 31)
9. Update on Ofsted Inspections of Children's Homes. (Pages 32 - 37)
10. Corporate Parenting Group work plan.
  - Verbal discussion.
11. Membership and frequency of meetings.
  - Linked to item 7.
12. Date and time of the next meeting.
  - To be agreed following item 11.

Jacqueline Collins

**J. COLLINS,**  
Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**  
**Tuesday, 20th January, 2015**

Present:- Councillor Doyle (in the Chair); Councillors J. Hamilton and Sharman. Also in attendance were S. Wilson (Performance and Quality), P. Morris (RLSCB), M. Smith (GRT), P. Dempsey (CYPS), S. Scales (CYPS), L. Lichfield (CYPS), M. Barton (CYPS), R. Wall (CYPS), L. Grice-Saddington (CYPS), C. Hall (CCG), K. Holgate (Rotherham TFT), J. Parfment (CYPS), C. Brodhurst-Brown (CYPS).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havenhand and C. Vines.

**D57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No Declarations of Interest were made.

**D58. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21ST OCTOBER 2014.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2014, were considered.

The following areas were discussed under Matters Arising: -

- In relation to minute number D45 – Care Leavers' Week – it was noted that the report providing feedback on the activities of National Care Leavers' Week, 2014, including comments of the young people taking part, would be rolled over to a future meeting;
- In relation to minute number D46 – Headline figure of GCSE and A-Level results – it was noted that the report providing the complete analysis of the 2014 GCSE and A-Level results, would be rolled over to a future meeting;
- In relation to minute number D55 – Options report on the future role of Liberty House in the provision of short-break care for disabled children – it was noted that the further report detailing the progress in respect of the proposed changes at Liberty House and of the provision of short-break care for children with a disability would be rolled over to a future meeting.

Agreed: - That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2014, be agreed as an accurate record.

**D59. ROTHERHAM'S RIGHT 2 RIGHTS SERVICE - BRIEF UPDATE ON RIGHTS, ADVOCACY AND INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE: -**

Councillor J. Doyle, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, welcomed two young people, their Independent Visitors/Advocates and one of the young people's Foster Carers to the meeting.

Daniel (young person), Kerry (volunteer independent visitor) and Sue (supported lodgings provider) were welcomed and they spoke about how Daniel's involvement with Kerry as his volunteer independent visitor had been beneficial to both sides:-

- Use bus timetables – Daniel was nearly an independent traveller;
- Using mobile phones;
- Enjoying football, tennis and bowling;
- Had a day trip – Daniel had chosen London and they shared photographs of their trip together;
- Use money;
- Daniel wanted to take Kerry out for lunch and pay. He had taken Sue out for lunch and paid for her;
- Daniel had booked his own taxi;
- Made shopping lists and made his own choices when out shopping;
- Daniel had saved his own money for his London trip. He had always wanted to see Wembley Stadium;
- Daniel and Kerry had got lost in London and Daniel had found the right way again and had reassured Kerry;
- Kerry had helped Daniel in his transition to a new School;
- Daniel's attendance was an excellent 100%;
- Daniel had met inspectors as part of Rotherham's Children's Services inspection. He loved to watch 'On the Busses' and built up a good rapport with one inspector, calling him 'Blakey'!

Abbie (young person) and Nicola (volunteer independent visitor) were welcomed. Nicola explained Abbie had lived with her foster carers for almost two years and felt very safe there. She had been due to stay with them beyond 18, but this had changed at the last minute. Abbie had had to arrange a new place to live at the last minute – she and Nicola had viewed properties and met prospective flat mates. Abbie had eventually chosen her 'plush pad', she had hit it off with the girls there straight away. She was the only teenager in the house and she made sure they knew about it!! Abbie had had to learn that there was a pecking order with the twins that she lived with.

Unfortunately Abbie's transition from Children's to Adult's Services had been very difficult; there had been lots of new things for her to deal with. Abbie's benefits had been delayed – between May and December, 2014, she had not received her benefits and had to sort this out.

Abbie and Nicola did lots of things together – they had booked a spa day via Groupon and were due to have their nails done, massages and facials. They had been on picnics, walks, trips to Meadowhall and to see One Direction.

Abbie was an independent traveller and could travel between her home, college and the Eric Manns building. At College she was doing a bit of

everything: - Maths, English, cooking and employability skills. She used her phone to access Facebook, research and to price things up.

Councillor J. Hamilton asked whether the guests felt there was anything that the Local Authority could have done better, and what had been good?

Abbie would have preferred to have had a social worker who was more on top of things. S/he always took a while to respond and transition had been a slow process due to communication between Children's and Adult's Services.

Daniel had explained that he would have liked to have been able to live with his Grandma.

Councillor Doyle thanked the guests for attending. It was really useful to meet them and to hear what their thoughts were. It really helped the Corporate Parenting Panel to meet them.

Lynne Grice-Saddington had submitted a report that outlined the role undertaken by Rotherham's Right 2 Rights Service, including the Rights, Advocacy and Independent Visitor functions.

There had been 34 active Advocacy referrals since April, 2014. 4 were awaiting allocation, 8 were incomplete awaiting information from social workers and 13 were closed advocacy referrals.

There were 12 active volunteer independent visitors. One was classed as 'not matched, on hold', one was supporting one child, one was a volunteer independent reviewing officer and was currently on hold, one was undertaking approximately 4 hours per fortnight working in an administration capacity and 5 volunteers had ceased.

Currently there were 13 LAC who were awaiting the allocation of a volunteer independent visitor. Two referrals were currently on hold due to their personal circumstances.

Children and young people placed outside of the Borough were harder to match with a volunteer independent visiting officer.

The Service was under-resourced and in need of additional staffing to appropriately meet the needs of looked after children and young people. This had been reflected in the Ofsted report and had been identified as a key area to improve.

From the report and presentations from Abbie and Daniel, the Corporate Parenting concluded: -

- It was important and useful for children and young people to have an Independent Visitor if they wanted/needed one;
- Quality of relationships with social workers were important –

- children and young people needed to feel comfortable and be matched correctly;
- Young people needed to be involved in planning for independence and transitions: -
  - There could be additional challenges where they did not quite meet the criteria for services and interventions.
- Working with volunteers – from the examples today, it was clear how important it was that they were of a good quality and long-term. Volunteers were performing work that professionals were unable to due to capacity;
- Could invest to save programmes be brought in by Adult's Services between 16-18 years old?.

Agreed: - (1) That the information shared be noted.

(2) That Daniel, Kerry and Sue, and Abbie and Nicola be thanked for their attendance and useful and informative contributions to the meeting.

#### **D60. 2014/2015 QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE REPORT.**

Sue Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, spoke through the Quarter Two performance report for 2014/2015 relating to looked after children as at the end of September, 2014.

- 400 LAC (408 as at the date of the meeting);
- 70% were long-term LAC in stable placements;
- One child had had 3 or more placements;
- Since 1<sup>st</sup> April, 83 children had been admitted to care, and 79 had been discharged;
- 98.5% of LAC had been reviewed within required timescales;
- All LAC had been allocated a qualified team and social worker;
- 95% had a care plan recorded on Swift;
- 91% had participated in the LAC reviews;
- 59% had received visits within the last weeks;
- 43.5% of our LAC were placed in Rotherham fostering placements;
- 27% were placed in out of authority fostering placements;
- 7.5% were placed for adoption;
- 3.5% were placed in Rotherham's children's homes;
- 3.3% were out-of-authority;
- 6% were in other residential accommodation;
- 5.3% of LAC were placed with parents;
- 2.3% were in independent living;
- There were 109 commissioned fostering placements: -
  - 40 had been commissioned in this financial year, 33 placements had ceased;
  - The projected cost of fostering placements had increased between Quarter One and Quarter Two;
  - 32 children were commissioned to a residential placement, 21 were new to this financial year, whilst 20 placements

were ceased;

- The projected cost of residential placements had increased between Quarter One and Quarter Two.
- The number of LAC who had an up-to-date health assessment had increased from 85% in the previous Quarter, to 89% in the Quarter;
- There had been a drop in dental assessments from 60% last Quarter to 45% this Quarter on a rolling year;
- At the end of September, there were 152 active foster carers out of 176;
- There had been 13 new recruits during this financial year, and 14 de-registered;
- One carer had placements over-number due to accommodating a sibling group;
- 63 children had a SHOBPA status this Quarter. 19 children had a decision that was over 12 months old;
- There had been 30 children placed for adoption and 17 LAC placed for adoption within one year of their agency decision;
- 97% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation, a slight increase on the previous Quarter. Three care leavers were in custody and one was 'sofa surfing';
- 67% of care leavers were in employment, education or training, an increase, 17 young people were on sickness benefit and unable to work, 9 were young parents and 3 were in custody. 30 care leavers were claiming Job Seekers' Allowance;
- 35 children were reported as missing from care and 107 children were recorded as missing from home;
- 3% of children between the ages of 10-17 were involved with the Youth Offending Service;
- Rotherham's LAC could take part in MyCare from November, 2014, which asked questions on 'coming into care', 'being in care', 'choices', 'being heard', 'carers', 'health', 'future', 'safety', 'education' and 'training';
- A LAC Strategy Sub-Group meeting had been arranged to look at participation of 14-18 year olds and contact arrangements;
- A broader Participation Strategy was being worked on to look at how all children, young people and their families participated and gave feedback of their experiences working with various Council agencies.

Overall, more placements had been commissioned than been ceased.

Discussion ensued and the following points were raised: -

- What turnover rate was expected of Foster Carers? - 10% on the year. Since September, 2014, the Local Authority had been recruiting more than it was losing. Interest had dropped since the publication of the Jay Report and the media coverage of it. There was a target of 6 families for the Fostering Plus Programme, 4 had been recruited, and a further 4 families were going through the

process.

- There would be 32/33 adoptive placements this financial year. Work on buying and selling placements took place across boundaries and agencies. Placements cost £27k each;
- Why had there been a drop in the number of dental assessments?
  - There were some ongoing recording issues. Checks were done during statutory visits.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

**D61. VIRTUAL HEADTEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 2013/2014.**

Lorraine Lichfield, Virtual Headteacher and Strategic Lead for Educated Other Than At School, was welcomed to the meeting. Lorraine presented the Virtual Headteacher's annual report, 2013/2014.

The Department for Education had released new guidance from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2014.

Not all Schools in Rotherham were spending sufficient time on target setting for their LAC. Often expectations were too low and they needed to set their aspirations higher. Rotherham was substantially behind national LAC outcomes. The gap was widening, not narrowing. Outcomes for LAC placed in Rotherham were better than those for LAC placed outside of the Authority.

An Excellence Plan was being developed with nine objectives: -

1. Raise the attainment of LAC, closing the gap between LAC and all other pupils;
2. Improve the attendance of LAC and reduce the number of fixed term exclusions;
3. Improve the quality and impact of Personal Education Plans (and ensure that plans are in place for 0-18);
4. Ensure all pupil premium plus funding is allocated appropriately and in a timely manner with evidence of impact monitored by the virtual school;
5. Ensure that all education transitions are appropriately planned and supported;
6. Develop post-16 plan;
7. Increase pupil voice and participation;
8. Maximise resources to enable the LA to meet its statutory duty with regard to the educational attainment of LAC through a 'caseload' model;
9. To secure appropriate 'operational governance' arrangements for the Virtual School.

- Improve the quality of PEPs: -
  - Electronic system;

- Virtual School to take the lead but they needed to be done and owned by schools;
- Correct use of Pupil Premium;
- Need to plan for progress;
- The current cohort of Year 11s was large.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised: -

- There was support for the content of the Excellence Plan;
- Targets needed to be aspirational but appropriately achievable;
- New exclusions guidance;
- Meeting the needs of the Year 11 cohort – A Mental Health Worker had been recruited using Pupil Premium funding;
- The Get Real Team had broken down barriers, been positive and extremely supportive for young people and had been award winning.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

**D62. CHILDREN'S HOME INSPECTIONS.**

Paul Dempsey, Service Lead for Family Placements and Residential Services (Safeguarding and Disability Services, CYPS) provided an overview of the Ofsted inspection grade for each of the Local Authority's Residential Homes.

Two were classed as 'Adequate', which meant they were meeting minimum standards, and three were classed as 'Good', which meant they were exceeding minimum standards. Ofsted were required to inspect each Residential Home twice a year. One full inspection over two days, and one shorter one-day interim inspection.

Paul explained the outcomes of monitoring visit to Residential Homes.

The Corporate Parenting Panel endorsed the aspiration in Rotherham for all Residential Homes to be at least good, and supported the requirements to get Residential Homes to this level.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

**D63. FOSTERING TO ADOPT/EARLY PERMANENCE PLACEMENTS.**

Paul Dempsey, Family Placements and Residential Manager, provided an update on the work in Rotherham that was seeking to achieve early permanence for children and young people.

The submitted report outlined the risks and benefits of this approach. Overall, it was felt that the main risks lay with the potential adopters/adults as the child could return to their birth family if this became appropriate. During the placement, birth families still had rights to contact, and support

was provided to support this.

Rotherham was working with other local authorities in a consortium to develop an early permanence pathway. Ofsted expected all local authorities to be moving on early permanence.

As of 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2015, three Early Permanence Placements had been made in Rotherham. One was with a sibling who had already been adopted by the same family. Feedback had been positive from second time adopters who had experience of both systems. Two further Early Permanence Placements were being considered.

Councillor Doyle asked for an annual update on this work and updates as and when specific issues arose.

Resolved: - That the report be received and its content noted.

**D64. BARNARDO'S BEYOND CARE CAMPAIGN.**

Paul Dempsey, Service Manager for Residential and Family Placements, introduced the Barnardo's 'Beyond Care Campaign' that sought to improve the accommodation and support available to care leavers in England. The submitted document covered 'why this matters'. Research showed that having good housing on leaving care led to better outcomes for young people in other areas of their lives.

Rotherham had two leaving care units that provided semi-independent support at Nelson Street and Hollowgate. Young people could get floating support whilst being in their own tenancies. B&B accommodation was judged to be unsuitable. There were longer term developmental issues with a need to invest money in Nelson Street. The Council's Fostering Service had a 'Staying Put / Supported Lodgings' Co-ordinator with a remit to explore the possibility of young people staying with their foster carers beyond the age of 18. There were currently 13 young people staying with their foster carers under this initiative and the Service was looking to increase this further.

Barnardo's guide and key questions for Councillors on care leavers' accommodation was considered.

The Corporate Parenting Panel discussed the initiative and resolved that:

Resolved: - (1) The Corporate Parenting Panel noted and supported the aims of the 'Beyond Care Campaign'. It noted the questions raised and the information provided.

(2) The Corporate Parenting Panel asked that relevant reports be submitted to the responsible Cabinet Member/s in due course.

(3) Officers were asked to look at ways of incorporating the voice of looked after children within this work.

#### **D65. INITIAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT REPORT.**

Karen Holgate, Named Nurse – Looked After Children and Care Leavers, introduced her report that looked at Initial Health Assessments for Looked After Children. There had been ongoing concerns based on the timeliness and completion of Initial Health Assessments. The submitted report reviewed the changes implemented over the previous twelve-months and sought to identify further areas for improvement.

Any delay in the Initial Health Assessments being completed had an impact in that looked after children and young people's health needs were not met in a timely manner.

During the six-month review period, 36.7% of assessments were not completed within the target of 20 working days (28 days). This was down to a number of factors including clinic capacity where clinics were not available and social work staff not contacting Health Services within the requisite timescales to meet the deadline.

Additional clinics were introduced in July 2014. Social Workers were contacting the Health Teams within the first fourteen days of a child or young person being looked after. However, 22% of cases had been left for more than a month before contact was made to arrange the statutory assessment.

Five recommendations had been made based on the pilot: -

1. To review the appointment availability on a weekly basis requesting additional clinics as required.
2. Direct contact to continue being made with individual social workers if initial health assessments have not been booked within two weeks of the child/young person becoming looked after.
3. Escalation of concerns to be reported to social care managers if appointments remain un-booked.
4. To continue to inform social workers at appointment booking and letter confirmation of the correct documentation required for initial health assessments.
5. To report the incidence of completed initial health assessments within the 28 day timeframe to The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust as per Key Performance indicators (KPI's) Dashboard on a monthly basis.

The Director for Safeguarding and Disability Services stated that it was absolutely unacceptable that Initial Health Assessments were not completed within timescale. Business Support could take a role in booking and communicating these appointments.

Some barriers were raised, including the capacity for the named social worker to be present. It could be possible for carers to escort their looked after child/young person to the initial assessment and represented a potential way forward.

Children and young people who were placed out of the area could have their assessment in the area they were placed in. There was a variation in quality in external placements.

Resolved: - (1) That the report be received and its content noted.

(2) That further updates be provided in due course.

**D66. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING -**

Resolved: - (1) That the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, to start at 9.30 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.

(2) That future meetings take place on: -

- 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015;
- 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>20th July, 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Draft Terms Of Reference - Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

**5. Summary**

- 5.1 This report provides proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 5.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel plays an essential role in raising the quality of life of for the children Looked After, or in the care of the Council.
- 5.3 To aid its effectiveness, the proposed Terms of Reference provide clarity on the function of the Panel, the roles of individual members and reporting mechanisms.

**6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 **That the proposed Terms of Reference for the Panel be considered and approved.**
- 6.2 **Subject to agreement of the attached Terms of Reference that Panel appoint Members to key roles as identified.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

7.1 There is a statutory duty on all parts of a Local Authority to co-operate in promoting the welfare of children and young people who are Looked After by them and a duty on other agencies to co-operate with Councils to fulfil that duty.

The term, Corporate Parent, reflects the collective responsibility, including that of Elected Councillors, to provide the best care and safeguarding for children who are Looked After by the Council.

7.2 In recognising the importance of the Corporate Parenting role and the need to 'champion' issues relating to Looked After children, most Local Authorities have established a Corporate Parenting Panel to take overall responsibility.

7.3 Recent Ofsted inspections of service effectiveness relating to Looked After children identified as good practice those Authorities which:-

- Demonstrated a strong cross party commitment to Looked After children by 'championing' their rights, having high aspirations for their achievements, monitoring their progress and challenging outcomes.
- Had a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Local Authority towards Looked After children.
- Actively engaged with their people through Looked After Children or Children in Care Council.

7.4 A strong and effective Corporate Parenting Panel will assist in ensuring that Corporate Parenting is given both vigorous challenge alongside effective, co-ordinated leadership across the Council. It will also formalise reporting and governance arrangements for the Virtual School.

7.5 The proposed Terms of Reference aim to provide clarity on the purpose and function of the Panel and the role of individual members.

## 8. Finance

8.1 A significant proportion of the Council's budget is dedicated to services for Looked After children and Care Leavers, including social work and support services, placement costs and subsidies to young people who are care leaders. It is not envisaged that the formation of a Corporate Parenting Panel will lead to additional costs. The Panel will have an overview of services to Looked After children and Care Leavers across the Council and will assist in ensuring services are provided efficiently and effectively.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

- 9.1 Resources have been strengthened to ensure the development of improved services for children and young people who are Looked After in Rotherham.
- 9.2 A Quality Assurance Framework has been developed to ensure that the quality of services for children and young people is regularly audited and assured.
- 9.3 Lack of robust corporate parenting arrangements will negatively impact on outcomes for Looked After Children.
- 9.4 The effectiveness of corporate parenting arrangements are a key line of enquiry within Ofsted inspections of children's services.

## **10. Policy & Performance Agenda Implications**

- 10.1 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of the Local Authority towards 'Looked After' children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to Local Authorities by the Children Act, 1989, and the Children Act, 2004.

The improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children are a key corporate priority with an emerging vision to become a child-centred borough where young people are supported by the families and their community, and are protected from harm.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

- 11.1 Draft Terms of Reference - Version July 2015

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## ROTHERHAM CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Corporate Parenting Panel

#### 1. Our Commitment to Children and Young People in care:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is committed to raising the quality of life of everyone living within the borough. For children in particular, the council aims to provide high quality opportunities for learning and ensure children are healthy and safe. It is important that the Corporate Parenting Panel members ensure that the Council provides such care, education and opportunities that the Panel would be afforded to their own children.

#### 2. Purpose:

- i) To lead on behalf of the Council and partners of the Local Authority to ensure that all services directly provided for children and young people in care and care leavers are scrutinised to deliver to a high standard and to all statutory requirements.
- ii) To raise the aspiration, ambitions and life chances of children and young people in care, narrowing the gap of achievement between children in care and their peers.
- iii) To ensure that children in care are protected and supported to develop as healthy citizens, able to participate in their community.
- iv) To ensure that all elected members are aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities and that all Council services are mindful of the needs of children in care and respond accordingly within their particular remit.

#### 3. Functions of the Panel:

- i) To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children (LAC) services, children's homes, and the virtual school with a view to recommending any changes.
- ii) Ensure that the profile of the corporate parenting agenda is incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies through out the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements. Review reports relating to complaints from looked after children to ensure officers have dealt with these appropriately and made any recommendations for change.
- iii) Raise awareness in Rotherham Council and the wider community by promoting the role of members as corporate parents and the Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.
- iv) Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.
- v) Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.

- vi) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and young people are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Panel to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.
- vii) Undertake meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and foster carers to inform the panel of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.
- viii) Monitor the ongoing commitment to providing support, training and clarity of expectations to foster carers to achieve excellent and high quality care.
- ix) To appoint elected members to undertake visits to residential children's homes alongside the appointed regulation 44 visitor.
- x) To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care in respect of the following strands:
  - *Housing*
  - *Employment and training opportunities within council departments and with partner agencies*
  - *Health (including mental health)*
  - *Educational Attainment and access to Higher Education*
  - *Foster carer recruitment and retention*
  - *Response to those who go missing*

## 4. Children in Care Council

Representatives from the Children in Care Council will contribute to the Corporate Parenting Panel through methods agreed with them

## 5. Work Programme

The Corporate Parenting Panel will meet every two months, formally agreeing a skeleton work programme annually and reviewing at each meeting. In reviewing the work programme, the panel may agree to request reports on particular matters of their own preference or as advised by the lead officer.

## 6. Performance Monitoring

The Corporate Parenting Panel will scrutinise and monitor outcomes for children in care and care leavers. To this end, the panel will develop and agree a core data set which it wishes to receive at each panel meeting. Additional detailed monitoring reports will be presented in accordance with the agreed work programme on the following key aspects of care:

- Placement stability
- Independent child care reviews
- The performance of all care standards regulated services:
  - Adoption and adoption support;
  - Fostering; and

- Children's homes
- Service to care leavers, including accommodation, education, employment and training
- The health needs of children in care
- Educational attainment of children in care

## 7. Membership of the Panel

There will be standing membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel to provide continuity and consistency. Councillors outside the standing membership will be invited to discuss issues and raise questions within a standing agenda item.

The Councillor standing membership will consist of up to 10 members, which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Advisory Lead Member will be chair the panel.

A vice chair will be appointed by the elected members of panel.

Membership will also include a foster carer and representatives from the Children in Care Council.

Membership will include key partners to support the delivery of key priorities in particular a senior local police officer, a Head Teacher, and designated health lead.

## 8. Officer support

- The Director of Children's Services is responsible for ensuring that the panel has sufficient officer support to lead the council's corporate parenting strategy.
- The Assistant Director, Safeguarding Children and Families, will be the lead officer for the panel together with the Heads of Service/ Service Managers for Looked after Children, Leaving Care, Adoption and Fostering, the Head of the Virtual School and the Children's Rights lead.
- Democratic Services will provide the administrative arrangements and constitutional guidance to the panel.

## 9. Training

Appropriate training will be commissioned for corporate panel members as required.

## 10.. Frequency of meetings:

Meetings will be bi-monthly preceded by an agenda setting meeting.

## 11. Reporting Mechanisms:

The Corporate Parenting Panel will report to the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the appropriate Scrutiny Panel, Health and Well Being Board and the Children's Trust on a six monthly basis .

**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – Corporate Parenting Panel**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>20th July, 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Performance Report - Looked After Children - May 2015</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

**5. Summary**

- 5.1 This report provides an update on the performance of services for Looked After Children (LAC) as at 31st May, 2015. This report should be considered alongside the data report attached.
- 5.2 The current data within the attached report is a subset of the latest Safeguarding Children and Families Monthly Performance Report. This is currently being further developed and refined in consultation with Michelle Whiting and in conjunction with Performance Board requirements.

**6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 **That the Panel consider the detail provided in the Performance report and note that further work is taking place to develop a Corporate Parenting Dashboard which will be presented quarterly to the Corporate Parenting Panel.**
- 6.2 **That the Panel advise on any specific areas that they would like to be included in future Performance Reports.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

7.1 In January 2015, Commissioner Newsam established the weekly CYPS Performance Board. Although Looked After Children were included, the initial focus of this group was to review and improve key 'Safeguarding' services for children. This has had significant impact on previous areas of weakness including caseload management, timeliness of assessments, up-to-date plans and visits.

From July 2015, the Performance Board continues to meet on a weekly basis but alternates in focus between "CIN/CP/Safeguarding" and "LAC". Attendance has also been extended to include relevant Team Managers for the focus area, to further promote engagement and ownership of performance management, and improvement at all levels of the organisation.

"LAC" meetings will include Care Leavers, Fostering, Adoption, LAC Outcomes and Placements.

Future Corporate Parenting Performance Reports will reflect the key measures identified through the Performance Board, and data and reporting developments have already commenced. It is envisaged that LAC services and outcomes will see similar improvement patterns to those achieved in other areas of the service.

With any 'performance drive' there is a danger that the quality of work can be seen as secondary. To ensure that this is avoided we are implementing a programme of Quality Assurance to ensure casework is of a standard which is at least 'Good'.

### 7.2 Number of Looked After Children (LAC)

There were 406 LAC at the end of May 2015. There were 22 admissions and 15 children who ceased to be LAC during May.

Although the numbers of LAC are in line with our Statistical Neighbours, they are higher than the National Average and best performing Local Authorities. They are also rising. Early Help arrangements need to be strengthened over time to prevent the need for children to come into care. This is part of the departmental strategy. In the short term, attention will be focussed on those children in care who could be secured permanence outside of the care system, for example, through Special Guardianship Orders, Child Arrangement Orders and/or rehabilitation to family members. The number of children placed out of the Borough in independent placements is also high but the strategy to reduce usage is multi-faceted and some measures, for example, foster care recruitment, have long lead in times.

### 7.3 **Looked After Children (LAC) With An Up-To-Date Plan**

94.3% of LAC had an up-to-date plan at the end of May 2015. When a child reaches 16 years and 3 months, they become eligible for a Pathway Plan. 78% of eligible LAC had an up-to-date Pathway Plan.

Performance in relation to Plans for Looked After Children remains above 90%, the weekly Performance meeting identifies each child without an up-to-date plan and there is a requirement that this is followed up by the responsible manager. Absence of an up-to-date LAC Plan in almost all cases has been due to the presence of an alternative plan, for example, the child has had a Pathway Plan put in place as they have reached 16 years of age and 3 months, or because the correct process has not been followed on the IT system to link the document to the section where the data is extracted. The 22% without an up-to-date Pathway Plan relates to 9 individuals (at the time of writing), these are individuals who have recently triggered the need for a Plan.

### 7.4 **LAC Placements**

44 of our LAC (10.5%) have had 3 or more placements in the rolling 12 months. This is an improvement on the annual trends for the previous 2 years as 2013/14 was at 11.2% and 2014/15 was 12%.

Of the 149 LAC in long term placements, 106 (71.1%) have been stable for at least 2 years. This number has improved slightly over the course of the year, the lowest being 68.3% in May 2014.

Performance in relation to LAC stability will be examined closely as part of our strategy to reduce the number of children in Out of Authority placements. We need to ensure that stability does not mask case drift and results in children remaining Looked After longer than necessary. We are also aware that data quality related to recording missing episodes may impact on the 3 or more moves stability indicator. Once this is corrected this indicator may deteriorate. Additionally, we need to closely examine our balance of placements to ensure there is not over reliance on Residential care for those children who would be better placed in a family setting.

Every child in Residential care will be reviewed by a Senior Manager over the coming months to ensure their Care Plans take account of their needs and consider whether it is possible and appropriate to plan for a move into a more appropriate family based setting.

### 7.5 **LAC Review**

90% of LAC cases were reviewed within timescale in May 2015. This has dropped from 94.8% the previous month.

With regard to LAC Reviews the performance data indicates that there were 6 reviews out of timescale in May. Through validation and exploration of the files, it is confirmed that 2 LAC Reviews were held out of timescale during May. One was out of timescale by 1 day to support the young person attending the Review. The second was due

to poor time planning. A tracker of due dates is being completed to support Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure meetings are planned and held in timescale. Of the 4 remaining cases, 3 are data entry errors, the 4th was within timescale. The data on the records has been amended to reflect this.

#### **7.6 LAC Visits**

95.2% of LAC visits were up-to-date to National Minimum Standards, which again decreased from the previous month, which was 98.6%.

In relation to visits to LAC, these are monitored at the weekly Performance meeting. Performance in relation to visits within the National Minimum Standards is good and any visit exceeding statutory minimum timescales is examined on a child by child basis to ensure they have been subsequently visited and to ensure the reason for lateness is understood.

In addition to statutory minimum standard Rotherham has set a local standard that exceeds this performance in relation to this has increased but the progress is slower. More recently, given the increased focus, visits that are out of statutory minimum dates have been related to delayed recording of visits. Action has been taken where workers are regularly slow in recording on the system to address this as a performance or skills issue. 79% of LAC visits are up to date to the Rotherham local standards.

#### **7.7 LAC Health and Dental Assessments**

At the end of May 2015, 80.8% of children had an up-to-date Health Assessment. This is slightly below the annual figure for 2014/15 which was 81.4%.

For Dental Assessments, 59.9% of LAC were up-to-date. The annual figure for 2014/15 was 58.8%.

Performance in relation to Health and Dental Assessments is poor. In particular, Initial Health Assessments need to improve, and the frequency of Dental Assessments is not good enough.

A Task and Finish Group has been established to examine the causes of poor performance and to develop revised processes where required. One of the initial findings identified by the group is that the local dental practice of check-ups being less than 6 monthly is having an adverse impact on performance, this is to be addressed through dental leads.

#### **7.8 LAC Personal Education Plans (PEP)**

At the end of May 2015, 66.1% of LAC had an up-to-date PEP. This is a slight increase from the previous month, which was 64%, however, it is still lower than the annual number last year of 71.4%.

Previously, the education of Looked After Children was supported by The Get Real Team. This team ceased to exist from 1st April, 2015,

and this has been replaced by a new Virtual School in line with National Best Practice guidance. Performance in PEPs has declined over the past 3 months which is of concern. This is linked to the changes and adjustment to new systems. This will be addressed in Performance meetings with the Management Team.

The completion of the PEP is moving towards an E-PEP system to commence in September (start of Autumn term) which should lead to an improvement as PEPs' will be created directly on the system rather than relying on workers placing the PEP onto the ESCR system as a Word document.

#### **7.9 Adoptions**

50% of children adopted at the end of May 2015 had completed the process within 12 months of the SHOBPA (Should Be Placed for Adoption decision). This number fluctuates month on month due to the low numbers of Adoptions. The previous 2 months was at 100%.

The average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having an Adoption placement was 566 in May, which fails the A1 Measure, with a target of 487 days or less. Also, the average number of days between Placement Order and being matched with the adoptive family was 295 days in May, which again fails the A2 Measure, with a target of 121 days.

### **8. Finance**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications in regard to the performance report itself, however, supporting Looked After children is a key priority and a current and recurring budget pressure, particularly in relation to the cost of those children and young people who are placed out of authority.

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

9.1 Resources have been strengthened in relation to developing improved services for children and young people who are Looked After in Rotherham.

9.2 A Quality Assurance Framework has been developed to ensure that the quality of services for children and young people is regularly audited and assured.

### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

10.1 Strengthening performance management, particularly in relation to Looked After children has been a priority since the Jay Report and OFSTED inspection report were published in August and November respectively. Weekly reporting of information is in place and scrutinised at a child level to ensure that the quality of the services to our Looked After children improves.

### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

11.1 Monthly Performance - Corporate Parenting - May 2015

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# Safeguarding Children & Families Monthly Performance Report

As at Month End: May 2015

## Document Details

**Status:** Issue 1

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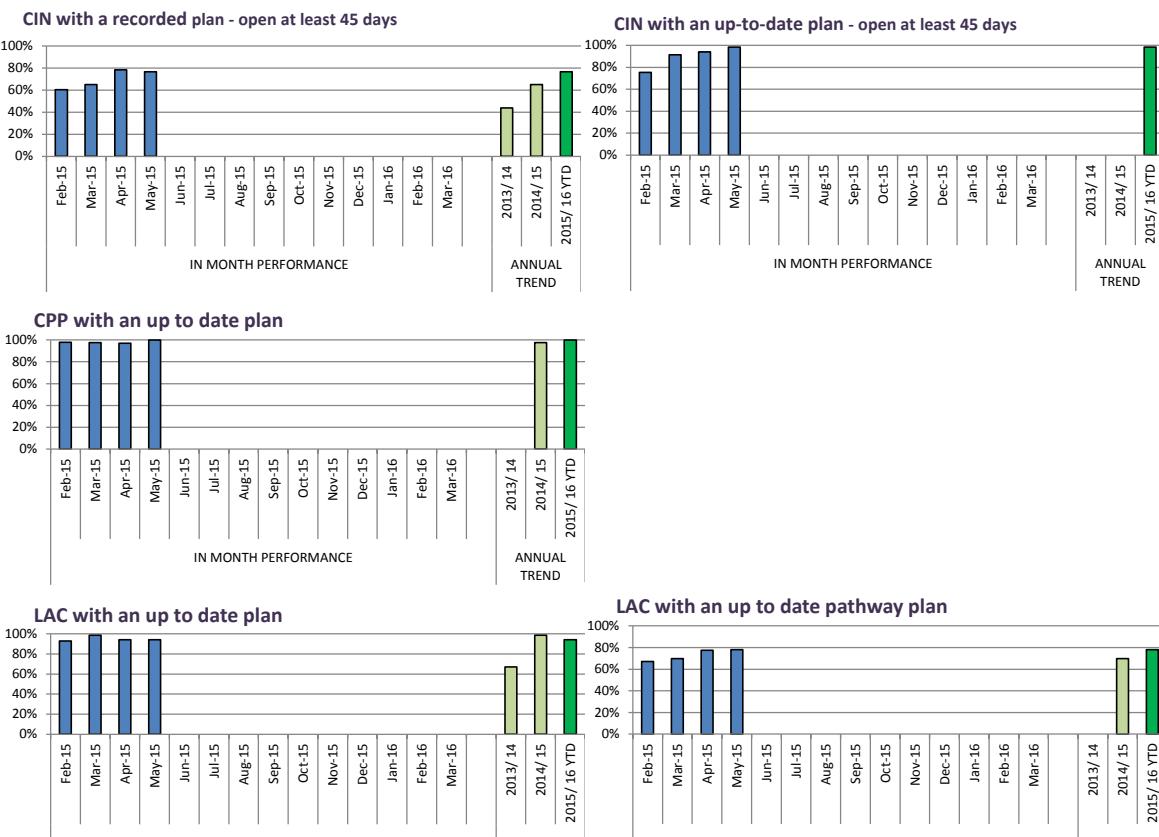
## Performance Summary

As at Month End: May 2015

NO.	INDICATOR	TARGET	GOOD PERFS	DATA NOTE (Monthly)	2014/15		2015/16		Year to Date 15/16		DOT (Month on Month)	RAG	YR ON YR TREND		LATEST BENCHMARKING - 2013/14				
					Mar-15	Apr-15	CURRENT May-15	YTD	DATA NOTE	2013/14			2014/15	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOLD		
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	7.1 Number of Looked After Children	n/a	Info	Count	407	409	406		As at	⬇️	n/a			407					
	7.2 Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18	n/a	Info	Rate per 10,000	72.5	72.9	72.4		As at	⬇️	n/a		70	70	73.5	46.0	60.0	-	
	7.3 Admissions of Looked After Children			Count	12	17	22	39	Financial Year	⬆️	n/a		147	175					
	7.4 Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children			Count	11	19	17	36	Financial Year	⬇️	n/a		136	160					
	7.5 Number & Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Adoption)		High	Percentage	4 36.36%	7 36.8%	6 35.3%	13 36.1%	Financial Year	⬇️	n/a		55 40.44%	60 37.50%					
	7.6 LAC cases reviewed within timescales	98%	High	Percentage	98.4%	94.8%	90.0%	92.5%	Financial Year	⬇️			98.6%	94.9%					
	7.7 Percentage of children adopted			Percentage	36.4%	42.9%	TBC (Unavailable)		As at	⬇️	n/a		26.5%	26.3%	22.7%	32.0%	17.0%	21.0%	
	7.8 Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments	88%	High	Percentage	81.4%	85.7%	80.8%		As at	⬇️			82.7%	81.4%					
	7.9 Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	84%	High	Percentage	58.8%	67.6%	59.9%		As at	⬇️			42.5%	58.8%					
	7.10 % of LAC with up to date PEPs	90%	High	Percentage	71.4%	66.1%	59.6%		As at	⬇️			72.9%	71.4%					
CARE LEAVERS	7.1 % of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	80%	High	Percentage	98.8%	94.1%	94.3%		As At	⬆️			67.0%	98.8%					
	7.1 % LAC visits up to date - National Minimum standard		High	Percentage	94.9%	98.6%	95.2%		As at	⬆️	n/a			94.9%					
	7.1 % LAC visits up to date - Rotherham standard		High	Percentage	64.0%	73.0%	79.0%		As at	⬆️	n/a			64.0%					
	8.1 Number of care leavers	n/a	Info	Count	183	189	200		As at	⬆️	n/a			183					
	8.2 % of eligible LAC with an up to date pathway plan	98%	High	Percentage	69.8%	77.6%	85.2%		As at	⬆️				69.8%					
ADOPTIONS	8.3 % of care leavers in suitable accommodation	95%	High	Percentage	97.8%	97.0%	98.5%		As at	⬆️			96.3%	97.8%	74.2%	100.0%	77.8%	90.0%	
	8.4 % of care leavers in employment, education or training	65%	High	Percentage	71.0%	72.5%	74.5%		As at	⬆️			52.3%	71.0%	40.8%	65.0%	45.0%	55.8%	
	9.1 % of long term LAC in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years	70%	High	Percentage	71.9%	71.7%	71.1%		As at	⬇️			68.8%	71.9%	67.6%	79.0%	67.0%	71.1%	
	9.2 % of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	10%	Low	Percentage	12.0%	10.5%	10.5%		As at	➡️			11.2%	12.0%	9.6%	7.0%	11.0%	9.0%	
	10 % of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA		High	Percentage	100.0%	100.0%	50.0%	75.0%	As at	➡️	n/a		55.6%	84.6%					
PLACEMENTS	10 Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A1)	487	Low	Average count	200.3	360.5	566.0	463.3	As at	⬇️			661	417.5	507.3	328.0	525.0	468.0	
	10 Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)	121	Low	Average count	71.0	74.2	295.0	184.8	As at	⬇️			315	177.3	217.1	45.0	217.0	163.0	

## PLANS - IN DATE

DEFINITION	<p>A child's plan is to be developed for an individual child if they have a "wellbeing need" that requires a targeted intervention. Each type of plan has a completion target. When a Looked After Child reaches 16 years and 3 months they become eligible for a 'Pathway Plan' - this plan focuses on preparing a young person for adulthood and their future (For example; future accommodation, post 16 Education/Training and Employment)</p>																																																																																														
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS	<p>Child Protection Plans are now where they would be expected to be at 100%. There is still work to do in terms of CIN plans although the issue here is mostly to do with failure to update plans i.e. most CIN have a plan in place. As can be seen performance has improved considerably in this regard with 98.3% of children who have been assessed as being in need now having a plan. Performance in relation to Plans for Looked After Children remains above 90%, the weekly performance meeting identifies each child without an up to date plan and there is a requirement that this is followed up by the responsible manager. Absence of an up to date LAC plan in almost all cases has been due to the presence of an alternative plan - for example the child has had a pathway plan put in place as they have reached age 16 years and 3 months or because the correct process has not been followed on the IT system to link the document to the section where data is extracted. The 22% without an up to date pathway plan relates to 9 individuals( at time of writing) these are individuals who have recently triggered the need for a plan.</p>																																																																																														
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>CIN with a recorded plan (open at least 45 days)</th><th>CIN with an up-to-date plan (open at least 45 days)</th><th>CPP with an up to date plan</th><th>LAC with an up to date plan</th><th>Eligible LAC with an up to date pathway plan</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Feb-15</td><td>75.4%</td><td>60.3%</td><td>97.8%</td><td>92.9%</td><td>67.2%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mar-15</td><td>91.4%</td><td>65.1%</td><td>97.6%</td><td>98.8%</td><td>69.8%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Apr-15</td><td>94.1%</td><td>78.3%</td><td>97.0%</td><td>94.1%</td><td>77.6%</td></tr> <tr> <td>May-15</td><td>98.3%</td><td>76.5%</td><td>100.0%</td><td>94.3%</td><td>78.0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jun-15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Jul-15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug-15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Sep-15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Oct-15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Nov-15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Dec-15</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Jan-16</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Feb-16</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Mar-16</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>						CIN with a recorded plan (open at least 45 days)	CIN with an up-to-date plan (open at least 45 days)	CPP with an up to date plan	LAC with an up to date plan	Eligible LAC with an up to date pathway plan	Feb-15	75.4%	60.3%	97.8%	92.9%	67.2%	Mar-15	91.4%	65.1%	97.6%	98.8%	69.8%	Apr-15	94.1%	78.3%	97.0%	94.1%	77.6%	May-15	98.3%	76.5%	100.0%	94.3%	78.0%	Jun-15						Jul-15						Aug-15						Sep-15						Oct-15						Nov-15						Dec-15						Jan-16						Feb-16						Mar-16					
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## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

### DEFINITION

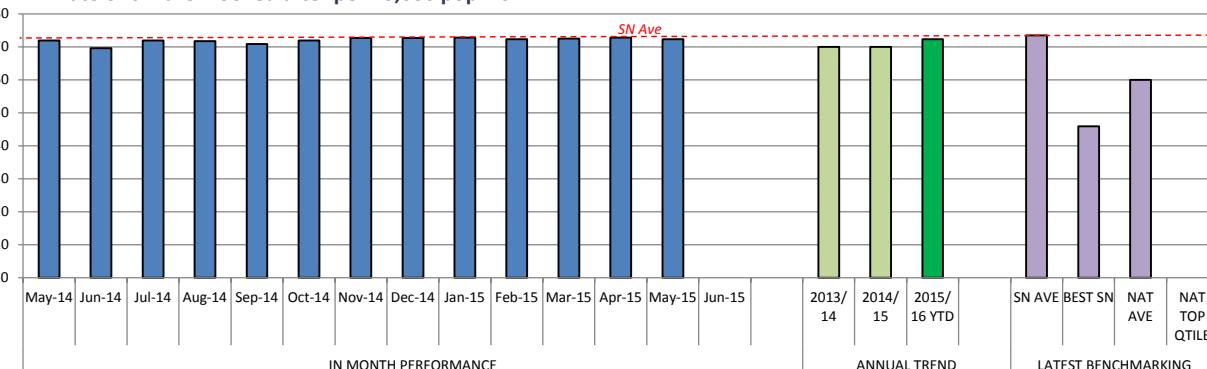
Children in care or looked after children are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority. This can happen voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

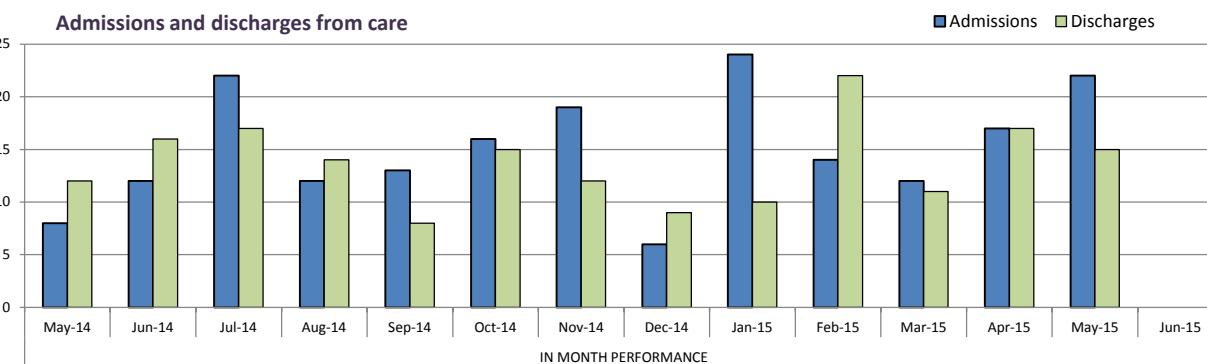
Although the numbers of LAC are in line with our statistical neighbours they are higher than the national average and best performing LAs. They are also rising. Early help arrangements need to be strengthened over time to prevent the need for children to come into care this is part of the departmental strategy. In the short term attention will be focussed on those children in care who could be secured permanence outside the care system for example through Special Guardianship Orders, Child Arrangement Orders and/or rehabilitation to family members. The number of children placed out of the Borough in independent placements is also high but the strategy to reduce usage is multi-faceted and some measures for example foster care recruitment have long lead in times.

	Rate of children looked after per 10K pop	Number of LAC	Admissions of children looked after	No. of children who have ceased to be LAC
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	May-14	72.0	404	8
	Jun-14	69.7	391	12
	Jul-14	72.0	404	22
	Aug-14	71.8	403	12
	Sep-14	70.9	398	13
	Oct-14	72.0	404	16
	Nov-14	72.7	408	19
	Dec-14	72.7	408	6
	Jan-15	72.9	409	24
	Feb-15	72.4	406	14
	Mar-15	72.5	407	12
	Apr-15	72.9	409	17
	May-15	72.4	406	22
	Jun-15			
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14	70.0	147	136
	2014/ 15	70.0	175	160
	2015/ 16 YTD	72.4	406	39
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	73.5		
	BEST SN	46.0		
	NAT AVE	60.0		
	NAT TOP QTILE	-		

Rate of children looked after per 10,000 pop . 0-17



Admissions and discharges from care



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PLACEMENTS

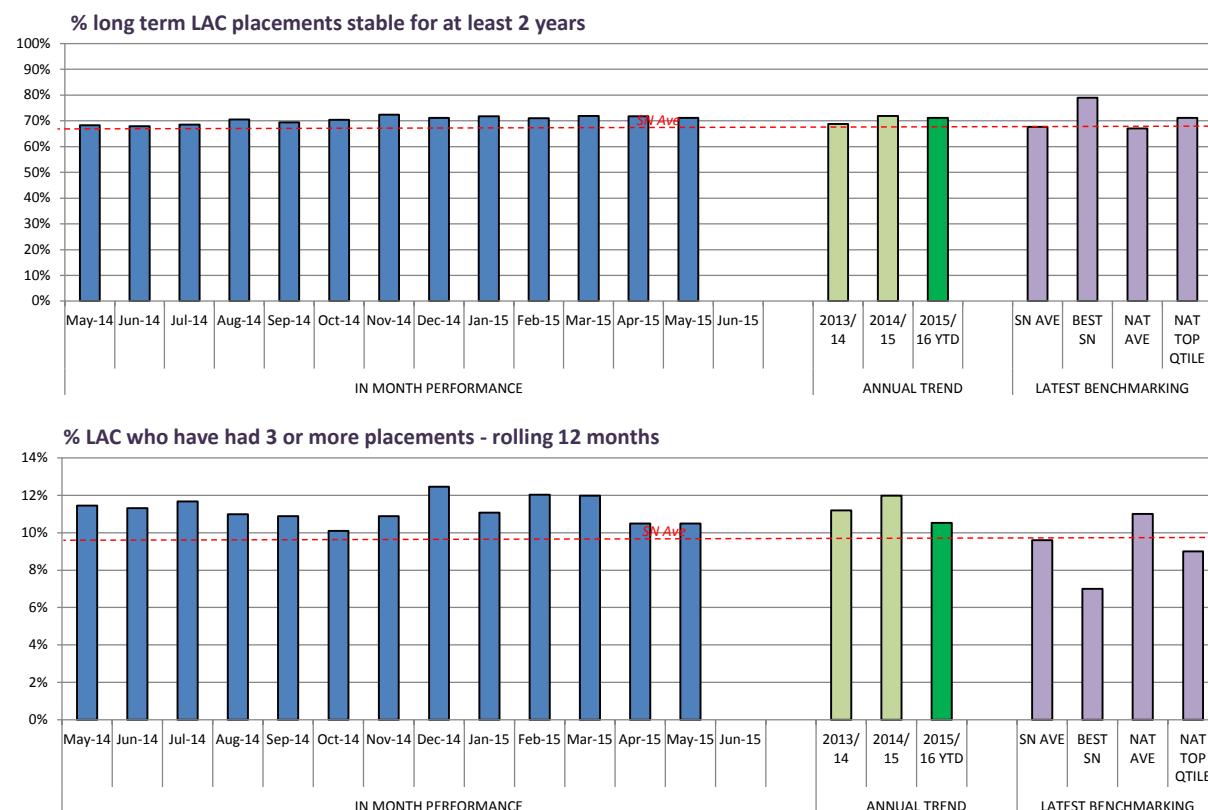
### DEFINITION

A LAC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (LAC) and is placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance in relation to LAC stability will be examined closely as part of our strategy to reduce the number of children in out of authority placements. We need to ensure that stability does not mask case drift and result in children remaining looked after longer than necessary. We are also aware that data quality related to recording missing episodes may impact on our the 3 or more moves stability indicator. Once this is corrected this indicator may deteriorate. Additionally we need to closely examine our balance of placements to ensure there is not over reliance on residential care for those children who would be better placed in a family setting. Every child in residential care will be reviewed by a senior manager over the coming months to ensure their care plans take account of their needs and consider whether it is possible and appropriate to plan for a move into a more appropriate family based setting.

	No. of long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years	% long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years	No. of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	% LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	May-14 110 of 161	68.3%	45 of 393	11.5%
	Jun-14 110 of 162	67.9%	44 of 389	11.3%
	Jul-14 113 of 165	68.5%	46 of 394	11.7%
	Aug-14 115 of 163	70.6%	43 of 391	11.0%
	Sep-14 113 of 163	69.3%	43 of 395	10.9%
	Oct-14 114 of 162	70.4%	40 of 396	10.1%
	Nov-14 115 of 159	72.3%	44 of 404	10.9%
	Dec-14 111 of 156	71.2%	50 of 401	12.5%
	Jan-15 109 of 152	71.7%	46 of 415	11.1%
	Feb-15 105 of 148	71.0%	49 of 407	12.0%
	Mar-15 110 of 153	71.9%	49 of 409	12.0%
	Apr-15 109 of 152	71.7%	43 of 410	10.5%
	May-15 106 of 149	71.1%	44 of 418	10.5%
	Jun-15			
ANNUAL TREND	2013/14 108 of 157	68.8%	44 of 393	11.2%
	2014/15 110 of 153	71.9%	49 of 409	12.0%
	2015/16 YTD 106 of 149	71.1%	44 of 418	10.5%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	67.6%		9.6%
	BEST SN	79.0%		7.0%
	NAT AVE	67.0%		11.0%
	NAT TOP QTILE	71.1%		9.0%



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - REVIEWS & VISITS

### DEFINITION

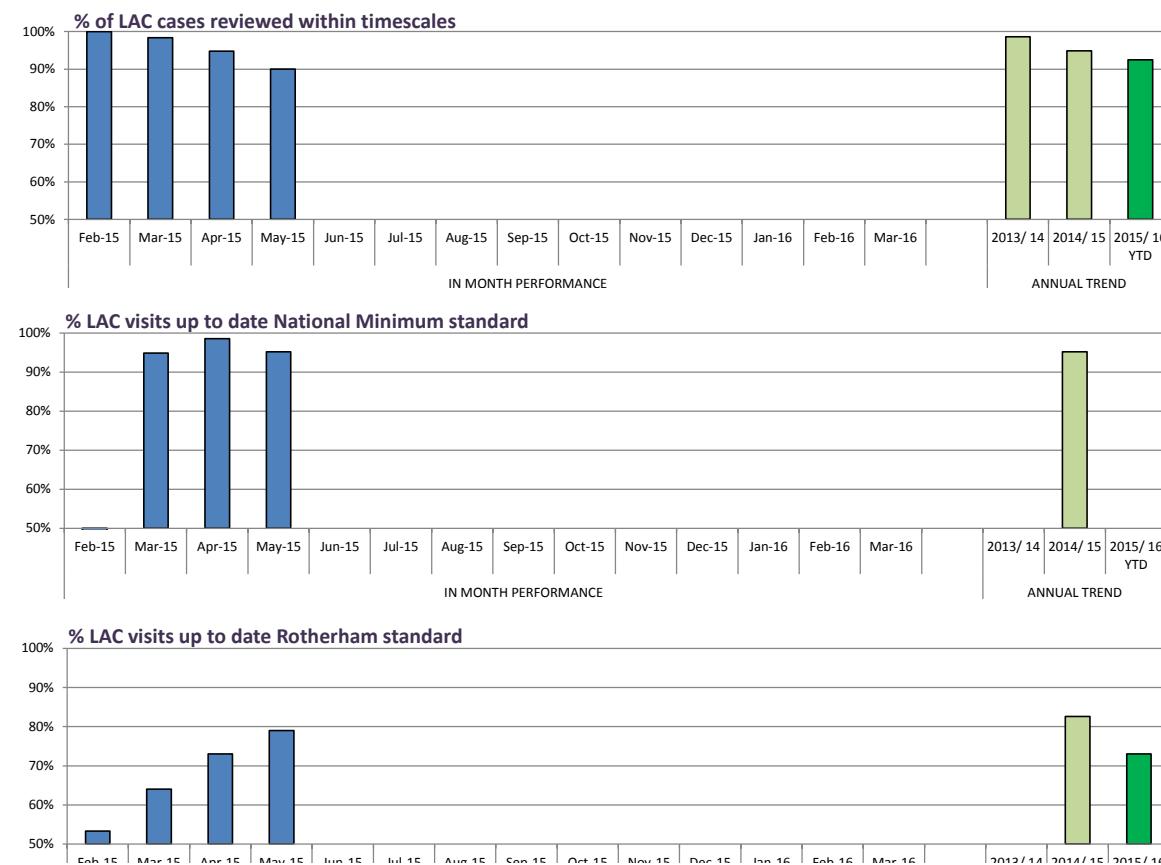
The purpose of LAC review meeting is to consider the plan for the welfare of the looked after child and achieve Permanence for them within a timescale that meets their needs. The review is chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer(IRO)

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

With regard to LAC reviews the performance data indicates that there were 6 reviews out of timescale in May. Through validation and exploration of the files it is confirmed that 2 LAC reviews were held out of timescale during May. One was out of timescale by 1 day to support the Young Person attending the review. The second was due to poor time planning. A tracker of due dates is being completed to support Independent Reviewing Officer's to ensure meetings are planned and held in timescale. Of the 4 remaining cases 3 are data entry errors, the 4th was within timescale. The data on the records has been amended to reflect this.

In relation to visits to LAC these are monitored at the weekly performance meeting. Performance in relation to visits within the National minimum standards is good and any visit exceeding statutory minimum timescales is examined on a child by child basis to ensure they have been subsequently visited and to ensure the reason for lateness is understood. In addition to statutory minimum standard Rotherham has set a local standard that exceeds this performance in relation to this has increased but the progress is slower. More recently, given the increased focus, visits that are out of statutory minimum dates have been related to delayed recording of visits. Action has been taken where workers are regularly slow in recording on the system to address this as a performance or skills issue.

	No. LAC cases not reviewed in timescales	% of LAC cases reviewed within timescales	% LAC visits up to date National Minimum standard	% LAC visits up to date Rotherham standard
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Feb-15	0 of 68	100.0%	not reported
	Mar-15	2 of 126	98.4%	94.9%
	Apr-15	3 of 71	94.8%	98.6%
	May-15	6 of 60	90.0%	95.2%
	Jun-15			
	Jul-15			
	Aug-15			
	Sep-15			
	Oct-15			
	Nov-15			
	Dec-15			
	Jan-16			
	Feb-16			
	Mar-16			
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14	98.6%		
	2014/ 15	19 of 371	94.9%	95.2%
	2015/ 16 YTD	10 of 134	92.5%	82.6%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE			
	BEST SN			
	NAT AVE			
	NAT TOP QTILE			



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - HEALTH

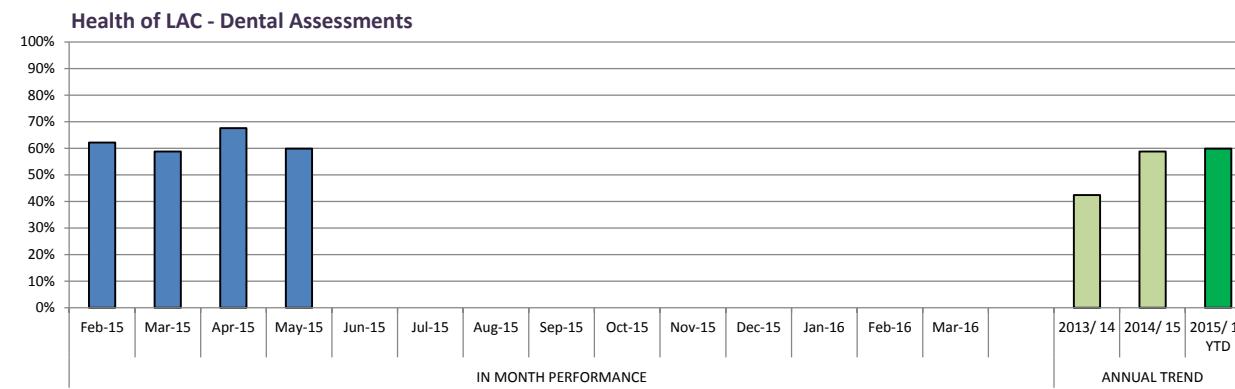
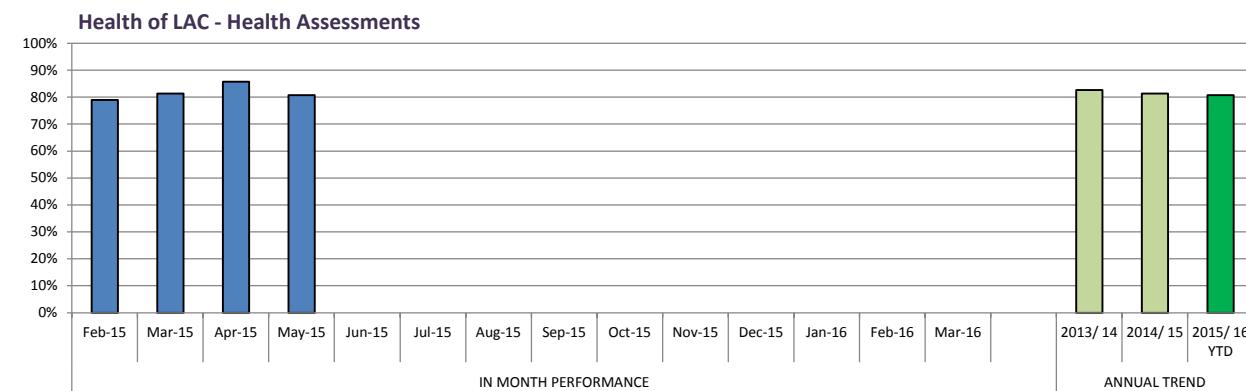
### DEFINITION

Local authorities have a duty to safeguard and to promote the welfare of the children they look after, therefore the local authority should make arrangements to ensure that every child who is looked after has his/her health needs fully assessed and a health plan clearly set out.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance in relation to health and dental assessments is poor, in particular Initial Health Assessments need to improve, and the frequency of dental assessments is not good enough. A task and finish group has been established to examine the causes of poor performance and to develop revised processes where required. One of the initial findings identified by the group is that the local dental practice of check ups being less than 6 monthly is having an adverse impact on performance, this is to be addressed through dental leads.

	Health of LAC - Health Assessments	Health of LAC - Dental Assessments
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Feb-15	79.0%
	Mar-15	81.4%
	Apr-15	85.7%
	May-15	80.8%
	Jun-15	
	Jul-15	
	Aug-15	
	Sep-15	
	Oct-15	
	Nov-15	
	Dec-15	
	Jan-16	
	Feb-16	
	Mar-16	
ANNUAL TREND	2013/14	82.7%
	2014/15	81.4%
	2015/16 YTD	80.8%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	
	BEST SN	
	NAT AVE	
	NAT TOP QTILE	



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS

### DEFINITION

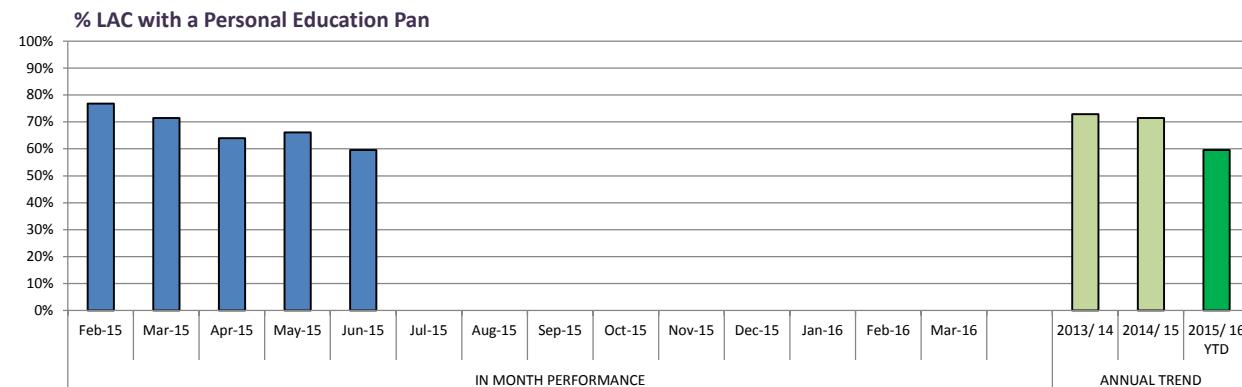
A personal education plan (PEP) is a school based meeting to plan for the education of a child in care. The government have made PEPs a statutory requirement for children in care to help track and promote their achievements.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Previously education of Looked After Children was supported by The Get Real team this team ceased to exist from the 1st April 2015 and this has been replaced by a new Virtual School in line with National best practice guidance. Performance in PEP's has declined over the past 3 months which is of concern this is linked to the changes and adjustment to new systems. This will be addressed in performance meetings with the management team.

The completion of the PEP is moving towards an E-PEP system to commence in September (start of Autumn term) which should lead to an improvement as PEPs' will be created directly on the system rather than relying on workers placing the PEP onto the ESCR system as a word document.

% LAC with a Personal Education Pan	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Feb-15 76.8%
	Mar-15 71.4%
	Apr-15 64.0%
	May-15 66.1%
	Jun-15 59.6%
	Jul-15
	Aug-15
	Sep-15
	Oct-15
	Nov-15
	Dec-15
	Jan-16
	Feb-16
	Mar-16
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14 72.9%
	2014/ 15 71.4%
	2015/ 16 YTD 59.6%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE
	BEST SN
	NAT AVE
	NAT TOP QTILE



## ADOPTIONS

### DEFINITION

Following a child becoming a LAC, it may be deemed suitable for a child to become adopted which is a legal process of becoming a non-biological parent.

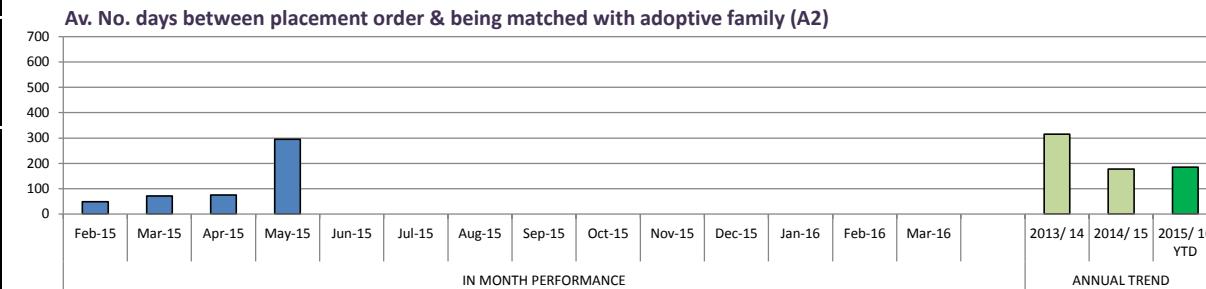
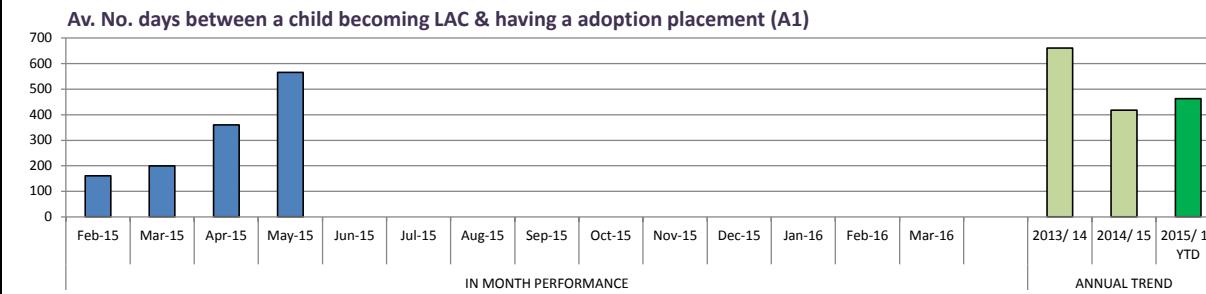
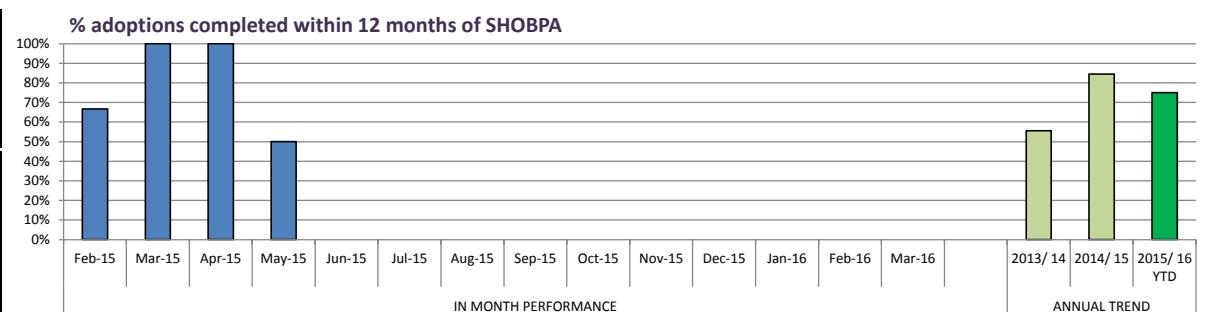
### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

2015/16 Data has been supplied by the service and remains unvalidated.

	% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	Av. No. days between a child becoming LAC & having a adoption placement (A1)	Av. No. days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family (A2)
Feb-15	66.7%	161.0	49.0
Mar-15	100.0%	200.3	71.0
Apr-15	100.0%	360.5	74.5
May-15	50.0%	566	295.0
Jun-15			
Jul-15			
Aug-15			
Sep-15			
Oct-15			
Nov-15			
Dec-15			
Jan-16			
Feb-16			
Mar-16			
2013/14	55.6%	661.0	315.0
2014/15	84.6%	417.5	177.3
2015/16 YTD	75.0%	463.3	184.8

### LATEST BENCHMARKING

SN AVE			
BEST SN			
NAT AVE			
NAT TOP QTILE			



**ROOTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>20th July, 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Update on Ofsted Inspections of Children's Homes</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Service</b>

**5. Summary**

- 5.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Corporate Parenting Panel members of the most recent Ofsted inspection outcomes in our five children's homes and to discuss ongoing improvement work across the service.
- 5.2 In addition, the report discusses a proposal for named Elected Members to visit each of our children's homes twice per year with the Regulation 44 Visitor, to monitor the quality of care afforded to young people in line with Elected Member Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

**6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 **That Corporate Parenting Panel Members note the information provided about the most recent inspection findings and the details of improvement work ongoing.**
- 6.2 **That Corporate Parenting Panel approve in principle that Elected Members will accompany the Regulation 44 Visitor on two visits per year to each of our children's homes, and that named Elected Members will be identified for this purpose.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

### 7.1 Background

7.1.1 The Local Authority has five children's homes, as follows:-

- **Silverwood** - A five bed home for young people aged 12 to 18 to stay long term.
- **Woodview** - A six bed home for young people aged 12 to 18 to stay long term.
- **St Edmunds** - A six bed home for young people aged 12 to 18 to stay long term.
- **Cherry Tree House** - A five bed home for children with disabilities to stay long term.
- **Liberty House** - A nine bed home offering short breaks for children with disabilities.

7.1.2 All children's homes are inspected at least twice annually by Ofsted. This includes one full inspection per year lasting two days and one interim inspection per year usually taking one day.

7.1.3 Ofsted inspects children's homes for compliance with the Children's Homes Regulations, 2015, and against nine 'Quality Standards'. These are:-

- Quality and Purpose of Care
- Children's Wishes and Feelings
- Education
- Enjoyment and Achievement
- Health and Well-Being
- Positive Relationships
- Protection of Children
- Leadership and Management
- Care Planning
- Regulation 5 - A new regulation on engaging with the wider system to ensure each child's needs are met

7.1.4 Ofsted grade children's homes one of four grades as follows:

**Outstanding** - Such a home provides highly effective services that contribute to significantly improved outcomes for children and young people who need help, protection and care. Their progress exceeds expectations and is sustained over time.

**Good** - Such a home provides effective services that help, protect and care for children and young people and have their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

**Requires Improvement** - In such a home there are no widespread or serious failures that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm. The welfare of Looked After children is safeguarded and promoted. Minimum requirements are in place, however, the children's home is not yet delivering good protection, help and care for children and young people.

**Inadequate** - Such a home is providing services where there are widespread or serious failures that create or leave children and young people being harmed or at risk of harm or result in children looked after not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

7.1.5 In addition to an overall grade for:-

*'the overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home'*

Ofsted also grade homes on the sub-categories of:-

*'how well children and young people are helped and protected'*  
and  
*'the impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers'*

**7.2 Current Ofsted Inspection Grades for Local Authority Children's Homes in Rotherham**

7.2.1 The following details the most recent Inspection grades awarded by Ofsted to each of our five children's homes:-

- **Silverwood** - The most recent full inspection was in July 2015. The home was graded '**Good**' in all areas.
- **Woodview** - The most recent full inspection was in June 2015. The home was graded '**Inadequate**' in all areas.
- **St Edmunds** - The most recent full inspection was in July 2014. The home was graded '**Good**'. The home had an interim inspection in October 2014 and was said to have declined in effectiveness, but maintained the grading of '**Good**'.
- **Liberty House** - The most recent full inspection was in September 2014. The home was graded '**Good**'. The home had an interim inspection in January 2015 and was said to have sustained effectiveness.
- **Cherry Tree House** - The most recent full inspection was in January 2015. The home was graded '**Adequate**' (Adequate as a grade was replaced by 'Requires Improvement' in the new Inspection framework implemented from April 2015).

7.2.2 In summary then, we have three children's homes currently graded as 'Good', one graded as 'Adequate' and one graded as 'Inadequate'.

### 7.3 Inspections in June and July 2015

7.3.1 Two of our homes have been inspected in the latest round of inspections. These are Woodview in June, and Silverwood in July.

7.3.2 As detailed above, Silverwood was inspected in July and was graded 'Good' in all areas. We have yet to receive the written report from Ofsted, however, the verbal feedback from the inspector included the following:-

- The Inspector had positive feedback from the young people, the staff team, schools attended by the young people and family members.
- Risk Assessments and Care Plans were good.
- Young people feel safe.
- There are good relationships between staff and young people.
- The staff team is consistent.
- There is a commitment to education.
- Leadership is good, there is effective management, all staff feel supported, supervisions and PDRs were in place, and there is a lot of staff training carried out and in place.
- There is a good relationship with all services.

7.3.3 Woodview was inspected in June and was graded 'Inadequate' in all areas. We have received the written report and a Compliance Notice has been issued. The Compliance Notice details areas where the Ofsted Inspector found the service to be non-compliant with the regulations. The Compliance Notice sets out actions the children's home must take by 24th July, 2015. In summary, they are as follows:-

- Take steps to update all Risk Assessments to include current risks and strategies to manage them and children's Care Plans.
- Minimise the risk of fire by encouraging young people to reduce their use of cigarettes and take steps to ensure the children and young people do not smoke in their bedrooms.
- Staff to build better relationships with young people in order to provide effective behaviour management.
- Assess the practice of locking doors and restricting access to parts of the home. Consider alternative methods of managing risks, for example, the use of waking night staff.

7.3.4 In addition to the failures noted at Woodview, the written Ofsted report noted that a strength in the home is that:-

*'There is a new manager in place who recognises the strengths and weaknesses of this home. He has plans in place to address the issues in this home.'*

7.3.5 The new manager referred to above has developed a full and detailed improvement plan to address the failures and omissions found by Ofsted and improvements are currently being implemented.

#### 7.4 Improvement Work Ongoing Across Our Children's Homes

7.4.1 There are a number of improvement initiatives ongoing or planned for our children's homes currently including:-

- **Ethnographic Research** - This is research aimed at identifying how it feels for a young person living in a children's home and for staff working in one, with a view to the findings informing our work to make our homes as positive an environment as possible.
- **Social Pedagogy Training** - This is planned for staff across the service and is about teaching staff the value of engagement with young people and equipping them with the skills to build positive relationships.
- **Building Refurbishment** - Plans are underway to refurbish, where necessary, the children's homes to ensure they are a pleasant home for children to live in.

#### 7.5 Elected Member Involvement in Regulation 44 Visits to Children's Homes

7.5.1 It is a requirement of Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes Regulations, 2015, that all children's homes must be visited once per calendar month by an independent person who must assess the extent to which the home is safeguarding and promoting young people's welfare. The Independent Visitor must send a report of her findings each month to Ofsted.

7.5.2 Elected Members, as Corporate Parents, have a role to ensure that Looked After children, including those placed in our children's homes, are having their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

7.5.3 Named Elected Members have previously visited our children's homes in their role as Corporate Parents. It is proposed that a system is established to ensure regular Elected Member visits and it is proposed that these visits be aligned with the Regulation 44 visits in order to minimise disruption for the young people in the home and for the Elected Member to be informed by the work of the Independent Visitor.

7.5.4 It is proposed that the details of such a system be discussed and agreed at Corporate Parenting Panel. The proposed model would be for a named Elected Member to be identified as the 'Corporate Parent Visitor' for each home and for that person to accompany the Independent Visitor to two visits to the home per year.

## **8. Finance**

8.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

9.1 Ofsted Inspection outcomes reflect the standard of care received by our Looked After children. Poor Ofsted outcomes reflect poor care and this can present a risk to those children.

9.2 The report has provided information about Ofsted inspection outcomes. Poor Ofsted gradings are a risk to the Council's reputation. A failure to address shortcomings and omissions is a further reputational risk.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

10.1 Ofsted inspection outcomes are an important indicator of our performance.

10.2 It is important that Corporate Parents play a full role in ensuring that Looked After children receive good care. Looked After children and young people placed in children's homes are some of our most vulnerable. Elected Member visits to children's homes is one good way for Members to fulfil their Corporate Parenting Responsibilities.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

None attached.

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