

## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

**Venue:** Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham, S60  
2TH

**Date:** Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016

**Time:** 5.00 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 and matters arising of the previous meeting held on 19th January, 2016. (Pages 1 - 11)
6. Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
  - Nominations / expressions of interest are sought for this role.
7. LAC Council presentation.
8. Corporate Parenting Performance Report. (Pages 12 - 27)
  - Sue Wilson to report.
9. Independent Reviewing Officer Service Annual Report. (Pages 28 - 46)
  - Vicky Schofield to report.
10. Children placed out of Borough analysis. (Pages 47 - 52)
  - Ian Walker to report.
11. Be A Hero - Fostering recruitment campaign update. (Pages 53 - 61)
  - Darren Johnson to report.

12. Virtual School report.

- Report for information.

13. Work programme 2016-2017: - (Pages 62 - 64)

- Draft work plan attached;
- To discuss future meeting formats.

14. Date and time of the next meeting: -

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, to start at 5.00 pm in the Rotherham Town Hall.
- 2016/2017 Corporate Parenting Panel meeting dates to be discussed.

**Membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel: -**

Councillors G. Watson (Deputy Leader and portfolio holder), J. Hamilton (Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission), S. Ahmed (second representative of the Improving Lives Select Commission), C. Vines (representative of the Opposition), S. Currie (Designation).



**SHARON KEMP**  
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**  
**Tuesday, 19th January, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Watson (in the Chair); Councillors Hamilton, Ahmed and Currie.

Officers in attendance: - A. Jessop, M. Whiting, L. Dale, A. Harvey, S. Wilson, C. Hall, C. Bailey, J. Parfremment, A. Muxlow, H. Etheridge.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Vines, Superintendent P. McCurry, K. Holgate, P. Davies, R. Wall, J. Hopkinson, L. Grice-Saddington.

it was noted that Phil Davies had resigned from the panel due to other work commitments. Superintendent McCurry was shortly to leave his post and would be replaced by Superintendent S. Green.

**VOICE AND INFLUENCE THEMED MEETING: -**

**D29.       DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No Declarations of Interest were made.

**D30.       MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD IN NOVEMBER, 2015, AND MATTERS ARISING.**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, were considered.

Some matters arising updates were provided: -

Under D21 – Communications – it was reported that the Foster Carer celebration diner had taken place on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, and had been a really positive event and a good atmosphere. Many positive comments were received.

Under D22 – Foster Service Annual Report – it was reported that the foster carer recruitment drive was launched. Monthly enquiries were being monitored and contacts in December were showing a substantial increase compared to the same point in the previous three years. This trend was very encouraging.

Under D24 – Support to Rotherham Care Leavers – there was progress to report that a residential hub had been identified that met the needs of the Leaving Care Hub. A capital bid had been submitted to conduct the necessary material upgrades.

Leaving care housing was also considered as part of the Council's developing draft Housing Strategy. The draft Strategy was undergoing consultation and was being presented to a wide range of stakeholders. Elected Members would receive a detailed presentation on the intended

Housing Policy and the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel were urged to consider how well the Strategy met the needs of Looked After Children who were leaving care and getting their first independent home. Constructive feedback from the members of the Corporate Parenting Panel should be fed back.

Councillor Currie explained that he thought it was important for the housing lived in by care leavers to be in an appropriate area. He also felt it was unacceptable for their leaving care payment to be used towards a housing deposit.

Under D25 – Missing Children and Young People – it was confirmed that the Improving Lives Select Commission had considered the issues relating to missing children and young people, and that they would continue to keep this as part of their work programme. This issue was considered in conjunction with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

Councillor Hamilton asked about processes for reporting children who went missing from education. It was noted that there were trigger points dependent on the number of sessions missed and lifetime attendance monitoring also took place.

Under D27 – Residential Homes Issues – Councillor Watson explained how some Elected Member visits had taken place and that details of the visits had been emailed to the Elected Members who had signed up. Recent visits to residential homes had resulted in the weekly progress plan being updated and improved, and altered Regulation 44 Visits. Members of the Council's Senior Leadership Team had visited and conducted a mini-audit.

Councillor Hoddinott had attended a residential home visit and had reported that she had met many passionate staff but that it was clear and evident which were permanent staff and which were agency workers. There was clear challenge to the staff to improve their practice and this was reassuring. There were some issues to be picked up in respect of record keeping. Overall there was evident love and warmth for the children and young people living there.

Resolved: - (1) That the minutes of the last meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, be agreed as an accurate record.

(2) That the matters arising updates provided be noted.

### **D31. COMMUNICATIONS.**

The following communication updates were provided for the Corporate Parenting Panel: -

Under Minute number D22, Fostering Service Annual Report, from the

previous meeting held an update on **fostering recruitment timescales** had been requested. A briefing paper had been circulated to the Corporate Parenting Panel members that showed that the fostering timescales were competitive.

The following **LAC Champion** appointments were confirmed: -

- Virtual School – Councillors C. Vines and Watson;
- Visiting childrens' homes – Councillors Ahmed and Hoddinott;
- Quality Assurance – Councillor Ahmed.

Further discussion was required to provide a terms of reference for the Quality Assurance role, including how to avoid duplicating any existing functions.

Michelle Whiting had been tasked with **reviewing officer attendance at CPP meetings** to ensure that the structure was streamlined and allowed for Elected Member question and challenge.

**Goodbye and best wishes** were passed on to Jane Parfremment, Assistant Director Safeguarding, who was shortly due to leave her post to take up a promoted post at Derby County Council (CHECK), and to Maryann Barton who had left her post as Head of the Leaving Care Service. The Corporate Parenting Panel's thanks and best wishes for the future were extended to each.

Resolved: - That the communications updates be noted.

#### **D32. PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AS AT THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 2015.**

Consideration was given to the report that showed performance relating to corporate parenting matters to the end of November, 2015.

- There were 418 looked after children;
- The number of children placed in out of the Borough independent placements was high and the strategy to reduce use was multi-faceted;
- An adoption recruitment campaign was to commence as there was a shortage of adopters for all age-ranges, including babies;
- 97.9% of looked after children had an up-to-date Plan;
- 94.9% of those children preparing to leave care had a pathway Plan;
- 75.1% of looked after children have had a stable placement for more than two years;
- 10.5% of looked after children had had three or more moves;
- 88.1% of children had had a review in timescale;
- 95.4% had been visited by their social worker in line with national minimum standards (83.6% within Rotherham's local standards);

- During the 8 months to the end of November, 2015, 26 children had been adopted, 20 within 12 months of their 'should be placed for adoption' decision = 76.9%;
- 91.7% of eligible looked after children had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan.

To the end of November, 2015, Rotherham had 6 Red rated indicators: -

- LAC cases reviewed within timescales;
- Percentage of children adopted (year to date);
- Percentage of LAC visits completed within timescale (Rotherham standard);
- Percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training;
- Percentage of adoptions completed within twelve months of the 'should be placed for adoption' decision (year to date);
- Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (rolling 12 months/ year to date).

The Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel raised questions about the performance relating to looked after children to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

The following questions were asked: -

- Councillor Currie asked about placement performance, connected persons, staying put and the percentage of children adopted.
- Councillor Ahmed asked about the health and emotional wellbeing indicators and how these related to drugs/alcohol services. What role did LAC Nurses play? – It was confirmed that looked after children did have a named nurse provided by the CCG. The Named Nurse was a Senior Practitioner, who was supported by an admin team. School nurses also undertook health assessments of LAC. The Service had a designated doctor who quality assured assessments. There was a Family Nurse Partnership and a nurse was based in the Youth Offending Team. Two Mental Health workers were based in the Virtual School; the Primary School Representative had used the service on two occasions and could confirm that the Service had been good.
- Councillor Hamilton asked about the visiting schedule for looked after children placed away from the Borough, and especially those at some distance. - Jane Palfrement explained that the expectations around social worker contact for children placed out of the Borough were the same as for local children. A Social Worker visit was expected within the first week and then every four weeks, unless the child was in a long-term placement, when they would be visited at least once every twelve weeks. Rotherham's expectations were significantly higher than the national. This expectation was one of the reasons why social work caseloads

were being closely monitored to ensure that social workers were not spread too thinly by excessive travel.

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

(2) That a future meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel take the health of looked after children as its theme/focus.

**D33. COMPLAINTS AND CUSTOMER CONTACTS MADE BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE BETWEEN 1ST DECEMBER, 2014, AND 30TH NOVEMBER, 2015.**

Consideration was given to the report that outlined Complaints Received by the Children and Young People's Services Directorate between 1st December, 2014 – 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

The CYPS Improvement Board had as their Action Plan to ensure that the voices and experiences of the most vulnerable children were routinely heard at all levels within the local authority (point 27) and that they informed strategic planning and commissioning (24).

In the timeframe under consideration: -

- 17 complains had been received;
- Stage One complaints – 16;
- Stage Two complaints – 1;
- No complaints had progressed to Stage Three;
- Four complaints were still ongoing and 13 had been closed;
- Three informal enquiries had been received.

The report submitted details of the 17 complaints and three informal enquiries. In the main they related to the attitude/conduct/actions of staff in children's homes or other types of accommodation, social workers not listening or doing what they said they were going to do or complaints about other young people they lived with/their actions.

Of the closed complaints, ten were upheld or partially upheld. Two complaints had been withdrawn due to the issues already being resolved. One complaint was not upheld.

Councillor Watson was pleased to see that the majority of complaints had been resolved at Stage One and that none had progressed to Stage Three.

Councillor Ahmed felt that the number of complaints were high and asked for assurances that they were being dealt with and lessons learned. Sue Wilson confirmed that learning was always taken from the complaints and that they were analysed for themes/patterns.

Resolved: - That the information shared be noted.

**D34. VOICE AND INFLUENCE FOCUSED REPORTS: -**

- **Report One - Development of participation and engagement with Looked After Children and Care Leavers: -**

Five pieces of work that linked to the meeting's voice and influence theme were presented. The embedding of voice and influence themes were seen by the Children and Young People's Services Directorate to be key improvement activities. It was felt that there was an opportunity to join-up the work streams, services and projects.

It was proposed that a working group be established to develop a more co-ordinated approach to engagement and participation and to build a deeper understanding of the lived experience of children in care. It was envisaged that the working group would report back to the Corporate Parenting Panel on the progress of their activities.

Intended outcomes: -

1. That the Corporate Parenting Panel note the range of engagement work undertaken to provide voice and influence for Looked After Children.
  2. That the Corporate Parenting Panel note the opportunity to align and join up these work streams, services and projects.
  3. That the Corporate Parenting Panel support the establishment of a working group to develop a more co-ordinated approach to engagement and participation, and to build a deeper understanding of the lived experience of children in our care.
  4. That the Corporate Parenting Panel endorse a proposal that the above working group focus specifically on demonstrable impact and outcomes from participation activity, and the most effective approaches to engaging looked after children in meaningful ways.
  5. That the Corporate Parenting Panel endorse a recommendation that the above group examine how the range of services and projects can be reviewed and redesigned to ensure maximisation of capacity, and the embedding of meaningful engagement of looked after children in the people and services that support them.
- **Report Two - Looked After and Leaving Care Young People's Feedback Report as at October, 2015: -**

The report was collated annually based on the voices of Rotherham's looked after and leaving care young people about their perceptions of living in care and being care leavers. Recommendations from young

people were included to help to inform future service planning and improvements.

Rotherham's Early Help Service operated a Looked After Children's Council (LACC) for children and young people aged 11 – 18 years. This provided a peer support group for young people living in care and care leavers. The LACC was listened to and its recommendations acted upon as a way of providing meaningful improvements, understanding young people's needs and provide better services that meet their needs.

Continued financial investment in the LACC was required in the next financial year to ensure that it could provide young-person friendly activities and engagement opportunities.

The 2015 outcomes of the Voice and Influence Report were shown. 69 young people had participated: -

- 64% of respondents felt that they were **always treated the same** as other young people who were not in care;
- 36% of respondents felt that they were **not always treated the same** as other young people who were not in care;
- 30% of LAC felt that they were **not the same value** as their peers because of their looked after status;
- 70% of LAC felt that they **were the same value** as their peers because of their looked after status;
- 55% of respondents voiced suggestions to improve the quality of experiences for LAC young people;
- 51% of LAC young people had more to tell the LACC.

In addition to the percentage responses, the submitted report included comments from the respondents.

There were four recommendations following the outcomes of the survey: -

- 1 & 2) LAC Equality supports trusting relationships = greater protection;
- 3) Greater social interaction with voice and influence youth groups;
- 4) LAC voices empowered to negotiate their contact with family.

Intended outcomes: -

- That Corporate Parenting Panel note the contents of the report
- That the Corporate Parenting Panel note the key role that the Looked After Children's Council play in having a voice and giving voice to other most vulnerable children and young people.
- That the Corporate Parenting Panel members promote the role of the Looked After Children's Council in their everyday work in the borough and 'champion' the LAC Council as a positive example of LAC Voice & Influence.
- That Corporate Parenting Panel note the recommendations of the

report entitled Development of participation and engagement with Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

- **Report Three – Rotherham Looked After Children’s Council LAC Summit Report – October, 2015: -**

The LAC Summit event that took place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, was outlined and feedback was provided. This event had led to nine promises: -

1. We will help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm.
2. We will listen to what you have to say and make sure it makes a difference.
3. We will help you to learn and do your best at school and college.
4. We will help you to be happy and healthy.
5. We will help you to learn new skills as you grow up and become an adult.
6. We will fully involve you in plans and decisions about you and your future.
7. We will help you take part in activities that you enjoy or that you are interested in.
8. We will help you to explore and be ready for the world of work.
9. We will help you to be proud of yourself and celebrate your individual beliefs.

Intended outcomes: -

- That the Corporate Parenting Panel support the desire to hold a LAC summit every year;
- That the young inspectors test out whether the Local Authority are meeting those promises;
- That the young inspectors report back to next year’s summit.

Following presentation of the LAC Promise, a verbal update was provided to the Corporate Parenting Panel on the work of the Virtual School. The new electronic PEP system was actively seeking and recording looked after children and young people’s voice. Lorraine Dale was encouraging all stakeholders to engage with the system.

Councillor Watson asked what was done to ensure that all education staff had read and taken on board a looked after child’s PEP? Lorraine explained how the improved quality of PEPs was enabling them to be seen as more relevant and useful. Whole school training was taking place on the issue, from headteacher, to senior leadership team, designated teachers, learning mentors and governors.

Councillor Currie asked about the support to governors. He was a LAC Governor and had been surprised by his governor colleague’s lack of knowledge of the priority of LAC. Lorraine was scheduled to provide LAC

training to governors in March, 2016.

Councillor Hamilton asked whether there were any differences in outcomes for primary and secondary-aged looked after children? Lorraine explained that it fluctuated yearly in Rotherham. Jane Parfremment explained the national studies that had been published on LAC's educational outcomes. Overall, they showed that being in care did not always/often close the gap with non-LAC peers. Often the educational outcomes of LAC were better when compared to the educational outcomes for children and families who lived on the edge of care.

It was suggested that a future Corporate Parenting Panel meeting focus on the educational outcomes of looked after children.

- **Report Four - Rotherham's Right 2 Rights Service as of 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2016: -**

Rotherham's Right 2 Rights Service had recently been inspected by Ofsted and had undergone developments. The Service provided services for children and young people who were looked after by the local authority. It also worked with children and young people with learning and/or physical disabilities who accessed the Orchard Centre.

The Service had increased its staffing levels in order to address the difficulties faced by the Service. Additional capacity intended to increase the focused and timely response to the young people so they know their rights and they have their voices heard by a Rights, Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service. This service was offered to all of Rotherham's looked after children, placed both in and outside of the Borough.

The 2014 Ofsted inspection noted that children liked the independent visitors and advocacy services.

The report noted the functions of the Service: -

- Rights;
- Information and advice;
- Rother-Link Service for children and young people living in out-of-authority placements;
- Visits to all children and young people over the age of five years;
- Children's Group;
- Disability Group;
- Advocacy;
- Advocacy referrals and allocations – there were 55 current advocacy cases and no cases awaiting allocation;
- Business support;
- Independent Visitor Service;

- There were 16 fully trained volunteers – 10 were allocated to a looked after child and 4 were in the marching process. Two volunteers were on hold;
- Involvement of children and young people;
- Referrals for LAC placed in out-of-authority placements;
- Contributing to strategic improvements relating to the voice of the child.

Intended outcomes: -

- That Corporate Parenting Panel note the contents of the report.
- That Corporate Parenting Panel note the key role that the Right 2 Rights Service currently play in supporting looked after children and young people and in ensuring that their wishes and feelings are acknowledged, recorded and appropriately acted upon.
- That Corporate Parenting Panel note the recommendations of the report entitled Development of participation and engagement with Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
- **Report Five: - R U Listening? DVD: -**

The DVD created by the members of the LACC was played. The DVD showed images of Rotherham looked after children and young people showing written cards/placards of the things they wanted and expected in life. The images were accompanied by a vocal track recorded by a Rotherham looked after young person. The DVD was a very emotional but well-produced and professional resource. Alongside it a photo-book had been produced that showed still images from the DVD.

#### **D35. DISCUSSION ON THE PREVIOUS ITEM FOCUSING ON HOW VOICE AND INFLUENCE WORK IS DONE IN THE COUNCIL.**

The Elected Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel discussed how they could contribute to ensuring that looked after children and young people's voice and influence was as strong as it could be.

There was support for the working/steering group meeting to provide overarching guidance and oversight.

- Performance measures;
- Best use of technology to gather children and young people's views;
- Use of young inspectors;
- Embed at every level of the children's workforce, including school governors;
- Early intervention and support to families.

The Elected Members in attendance spoke about the improvements and support that could be provided through the democratic processes. This

included the emerging role for pre-scrutiny, and the current role of the Improving Lives Select Commission in looking at the role and importance of voice and influence measures. It was felt that all councillors should be included in these processes, to enable them to ask questions and scrutinise developing policies.

**It was requested that the Corporate Parenting Panel's thanks and appreciation be passed on to the LACC members for the work they had carried out and the representation they provided for their looked after peers.**

Agreed: - (1) That the wide-range of information provided on the current role of voice and influence work within Rotherham be noted.

(2) That a working group be established to provide oversight on voice and influence and to ensure that it is embedded in every layer of the health, social care and education children's workforce, including ensuring that all professionals abide by the nine LAC Promises.

(3) That the Corporate Parenting Panel receive feedback on the progress of the voice and influence working group at future meetings.

**D36. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETINGS: -**

Agreed: - That the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016, to start at 5.00 pm in the Rotherham Town Hall.

**D37. WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016: -**

**March, 2016**

- IRO annual report
- Recruitment and retention of foster carers
- Children placed out of Borough – update

**July, 2016**

- LAACT annual report

**A future focus meeting on: -**

- Looked After Children and Young People educational outcomes.

---

## Summary Sheet

**Council Report:**

Corporate Parenting Panel

**Title:**

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?:** No

**Director Approving Submission of the Report:**

Nicole Chavaudra, Director of Safeguarding

**Report Author(s):**

Sue Wilson, Head of Service, Performance & Planning

Gary Pickles, Head of Service, Children in Care

**Ward(s) Affected:**

All

**Executive Summary:**

This report provides an update on the performance of services for looked after children as at the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. This report should be considered alongside the data report attached.

The data presented within the attached report is a subset of the Safeguarding Children and Families Monthly Performance Report January 2016.

**Recommendations:**

That the Panel consider the detail provided in the performance reports in relation to the services for looked after children and care leavers

**List of Appendices Included:**

Monthly Performance Report January 2016

**Background Papers:****Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel:**

No

**Council Approval Required:**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public:**

No

**Title:** Corporate Parenting Performance Report

**1. Recommendations**

1.1 That the Panel consider the detail provided in the performance reports in relation to the services for looked after children and care leavers

**2. Background**

2.1 This report provides an updated summary of performance under key themes as at the end of January 2016 which is presented to the CYPS Performance Meeting which specifically covers data and information in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers

2.2 A number of improvements have been made to the performance management arrangements for Safeguarding Children and Families services since the Ofsted Inspection of 2014 including this new suite of performance information.

**3. Key information:**

3.1 At the end of January 2016 there were 417 looked after children which equates to 73.9 per 10k population. Although this is in line with our statistical neighbours it is higher than the national average and best performing LAs.

3.2 At the end of the month there were 417 Looked After Children (LAC), which equates to 73.9 per 10k population. Although this is broadly in line with our statistical neighbours they are higher than the national average and best performing LA's. 'Edge of care' arrangements need to be strengthened over time to prevent the need for children to come into care this is part of the departmental strategy. This is particularly the case in respect of adolescents entering the care system for the first time. Outcomes are rarely improved for young people coming into care in adolescence and work will commence over the next few months to develop a service specifically to work with this group.

3.3 At the end of January 2016 there were 98.6% of looked after children who had an up to date plan and 93.9% of those children preparing to leave care with a pathway plan.

3.4 At the end of January 2016 74.5% of looked after children have had a stable placement for more than 2 years, with 11.2% of looked after children who had 3 or more moves.

- 3.5 As reported previously performance in relation to long term LAC stability is very strong at 74.5% however it 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 or remaining in placements that are not meeting their long term needs. The performance in relation to children who have had 3 or more placement moves in a year is of some concern in that although the percentages compare well 47 children is just too many. The Deputy Director and newly appointed LAC managers will be looking at this group of children over the next period in order to better understand the issues.
- 3.6 Our sufficiency strategy and performance meetings identify that we have too many children placed in residential care, this balance has started to change for our internal provision but remains an issue in relation to the number of children placed in out of authority residential care and we will need to shift that balance to have more children placed in a family setting. This work is now underway and a more robust approach to reviewing these placements is firmly in place.
- 3.7 At the end of January 2016 91.4% of looked after children had a review in timescale and 97% had been visited by their social worker in line with national minimum standards (with 80.2% within our local standards).
- 3.8 During the 10 months to the end of January 2016 there had been 32 children adopted with 26 of this within 12 months of their “should be placed for adoption” decision (SHOBPA) – 81.3%
- 3.9 Performance each month can vary significantly given the size of the cohort which is always very small. There have been 2 adoptions in January taking the total for the reporting year so far to 32.
- 3.10 Given these factors it is most useful to look at a rolling 12 months than a month snapshot and overall performance in this area over the last 3 years has shown an improving trend. The available number of in house adopters is lower than we need and this is likely to result in the need to purchase placements from other adoption providers. The adoption recruitment campaign is being redesigned and shared arrangements with other South Yorkshire authorities are being progressed.
- 3.11 Performance around PEP’s in January was 90.7% of eligible looked after children have an upto date PEP.

3.12 The completion of the PEP moved to an E-PEP system in September (start of Autumn term). It was anticipated that performance data would take some time to show improvement and performance was of significant concern. Urgent activity was undertaken to examine the issues and as a result a revised system for signing off of PEPs was put in place by the Assistant Director Education and Skills this resulted in a jump in performance. We will endeavour to maintain this with a renewed focus on the quality of plans ensuring that they address individual needs and termly goals. Incremental improvements had been made each month until December, this has reduced further with the percentage of LAC with up-to-date plans at 90.7%.

**4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

There are no options to consider in relation to this report

**5. Consultation**

There are no areas required for consultation in relation to this report

**6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

6.1 There are no timescales in relation to any decision making in relation to this report and its contents

**7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

7.1 There are no specific financial implications in regard to the performance report itself, however supporting looked after child 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.

**8. Legal Implications**

8.1 There are no immediate legal implications associated with the proposals.

**9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 There are no Human Resources implications associated with the proposals.

**10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

10.1 This report is to provide information to the Corporate Parenting Panel to ensure they have as much information as possible in relation to the numbers of and performance of services supporting looked after children and care leavers in Rotherham who are potentially one of the most vulnerable groups. As corporate parents of these children and young people it is important that the panel understand the information presented to help shape and improve services to them

## **11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 Data is recorded routinely around ethnicity of children and young people who are in the care of the local authority and is used in relation to their current and future placements and permanency.

## **12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

12.1 Corporate Parenting responsibility is more than just for elected members and staff and managers in Children & Young People's Services it is also important that key partners and other Directorates play a part in championing our young people and helping to improve their lives.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 Resources have been strengthened in relation to developing improved services for children and young people who are looked after in Rotherham.

13.2 A quality assurance framework has been developed to ensure that the quality of services for children and young people is regularly audited and assured.

## **14. Accountable Officer(s):**

Sue Wilson (Head of Service, Performance & Planning)  
Gary Pickles (Head of Service, Children in Care)

### **Approvals Obtained from:-**

**Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services: Not applicable**

**Director of Legal Services: Not applicable**

**Head of Procurement (if appropriate): Not applicable**

**This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:**  
<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>

# Safeguarding Children & Families

## Monthly Performance Report

### As at Month End: January 2016

*Please note: Data reports are not dynamic. Although care is taken to ensure data is as accurate as possible every month, delays in data input can result in changes in figures when reports are re-run retrospectively. To combat this at least two individual months data is rerun for each indicator. Therefore there may be data discrepancies present when comparing this report to that of the previous month.*

#### Document Details

**Status:** FINAL

**Date Created:** 18/2/2016

**Created by:** Deborah Johnson, Performance Assurance Manager - Social Care

**Contact:** Ext. 22666 / [deborah.johnson@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.johnson@rotherham.gov.uk)

# Performance Summary

As at Month End: January 2016

(\*DOT - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' in reference to the polarity of 'good' performance for that measure.)

NO.	INDICATOR	GOOD PERF IS	DATA NOTE (Monthly)	LAST THREE MONTHS			Year to Date 15/16		DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month unless stated)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND		LATEST BENCHMARKING - 2014/15				
				Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	YTD	DATA NOTE			Red	Amber	Target Green	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	Info	Count	411	421	417			↓				n/a		407				
	7.2	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18	Info	Rate per 10,000	72.9	74.6	73.9			↓	more than 3/5	+/-5	upto +/-2 of 73.5	70	70	73.4	49.0	60.0		-
	7.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Info	Count	25	20	10	172	Financial Year	↓				n/a	147	175				
	7.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	16	11	15	166	Financial Year	↑				n/a	136	160				
	7.5	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Adoption)	High	Percentage	43.8%	36.4%	53.3%	36.7%	Financial Year	↑	YTD	<33%	33%>	35%	55 40.44%	60 37.50%				
	7.6	LAC cases reviewed within timescales	High	Percentage	88.57%	94.9%	91.4%	82.9%	Financial Year	↓	YTD	<90%	90%<	95%	98.6%	352/371 94.9%				
	7.7	Percentage of children adopted	High	Percentage	12.5%	36%	13.3%	20%	Financial Year	↓	YTD	<20%	20%<	22.7%	26.5%	26.3%	25.1%	35.0%	17.0%	37.0%
	7.8	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments	High	Percentage	93%	92.6%	93.9%			↑	YTD	<90%	90%<	95%	82.7%	81.4%				
	7.9	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	High	Percentage	94.4%	94%	92.8%			↓	YTD	<90%	90%<	95%	42.5%	58.8%				
	7.10	% of LAC with a PEP	High	Percentage	98.1%	95.9%	97.0%			↑	YTD	<90%	90%<	95%	65.7%	68.7%				
	7.11	% of LAC with up to date PEPs	High	Percentage	94.7%	92.3%	90.7%			↓	YTD	<90%	90%<	95%	72.9%	71.4%				
	7.12	% of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	High	Percentage	98.3%	98.1%	98.6%			↑	YTD	<93%	93%<	95%	67.0%	98.8%				
	7.13	% of completed LAC visits which were completed within timescale - National Minimum standard	High	Percentage	97%	97%	97%			→	YTD	<95%	95%<	98%		94.9%				
	7.14	% of completed LAC visits which were completed within timescale - Rotherham standard	High	Percentage	75%	76%	80.2%			↑	YTD	<85%	85%<	90%		64.0%				
CARE LEAVERS	8.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	197	204	198			↓				n/a		183				
	8.2	% of eligible LAC with an up to date pathway plan	High	Percentage	94.9%	93.1%	93.9%			↑	YTD	<93%	93%<	95%		69.8%				
	8.3	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	97.5%	96.6%	98.5%			↑	YTD	<95%	95%<	98%	96.3%	97.8%	74.2%	100.0%	77.8%	90.0%
	8.4	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	High	Percentage	64.5%	64.2%	63.1%			↓	YTD	<70%	70%<	72%	52.3%	71.0%	40.8%	65.0%	45.0%	55.8%
PLACEMENTS	9.1	% of long term LAC in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years	High	Percentage	75.2%	74.7%	74.5%			↓	YTD	<68%	68%<	70%	68.8%	110/153 71.9%	67.6%	79.0%	67.0%	71.1%
	9.2	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	Low	Percentage	11.1%	11.3%	11.2%			↑	YTD	>12%	12%>	10%	11.2%	49/409 12.0%	9.6%	7.0%	11.0%	9.0%
ADOPTIONS	10.1	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	100%	100%	100%	81.3%	Financial Year	→	YTD	<83%	83%<	85%	55.6%	84.6%				
	10.2	Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A1) (Rolling 12 months)	Low	Rolling year - ave count	337.7	332.1	322.6	322.6	Rolling Year	↑	YTD	>511	511>	487	661	417.5	507.3	328.0	525.0	468.0
	10.3	Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2) (Rolling 12 months)	Low	Rolling year - ave count	133.2	131.3	128.6	128.6	Rolling Year	↑	YTD	>127	127>	121	315	177.3	217.1	45.0	217.0	163.0

## PLANS - IN DATE

<b>DEFINITION</b>	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)
-------------------	---

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** For all plan types the exceptions are reviewed at the weekly performance meetings so that the reasons for an absence of an up to date plan is clearly understood by senior managers. Performance in relation to plans remains high and has further improved for CIN.

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 next few months will concentrate on the quality of the plans, and the work which these plans should be driving. This may result in plans requiring further work before association on the system which may cause delay and impact on these performance measures.

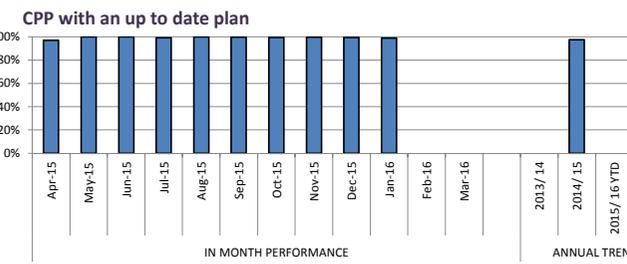
The remits of both the locality and looked after children teams are being adjusted in order to enable social workers to develop a more specialist approach to distinct areas of work. This and the move towards embedding the Strengthening Families model is expected to contribute to the improvement in the quality of plans that is required generally. Pathway plan structures are being reviewed to make them more young person friendly to encourage 'ownership' by young people of their own plan. These will be introduced with the implementation of the new IT system

	5.4	5.5	6.13	7.12	8.2
	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

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		5.4	5.5	6.13	7.12	8.2
	Apr-15	94.1%	78.3%	97.0%	94.1%	77.6%
	May-15	98.3%	76.5%	100.0%	94.3%	85.2%
	Jun-15	97.7%	83.5%	100.0%	95.5%	92.8%
	Jul-15	96.3%	93.6%	99.2%	98.8%	94.2%
	Aug-15	96.2%	93.8%	100.0%	98.1%	98.5%
	Sep-15	95.3%	91.4%	99.8%	98.8%	94.9%
	Oct-15	95.7%	93.5%	99.5%	98.8%	94.9%
	Nov-15	96.6%	95.0%	99.7%	98.3%	94.9%
	Dec-15	95.3%	91.7%	99.4%	98.1%	93.1%
	Jan-16	95.8%	93.3%	98.9%	98.6%	93.9%
	Feb-16					
Mar-16						

ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14	43.8%	67.0%	
	2014/ 15	65.1%	97.6%	98.8%
	2015/ 16 YTD			

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				
	BEST SN				
	NAT AVE				
	NAT TOP QTILE				



# 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 LA's. 'Edge of care' arrangements need to be strengthened over time to prevent the need for children to come into care this is part of the departmental strategy. This is particularly the case in respect of adolescents entering the care system for the first time. Outcomes are rarely improved for young people coming into care in adolescence and work will commence over the next few months to develop a service specifically to work with this group.

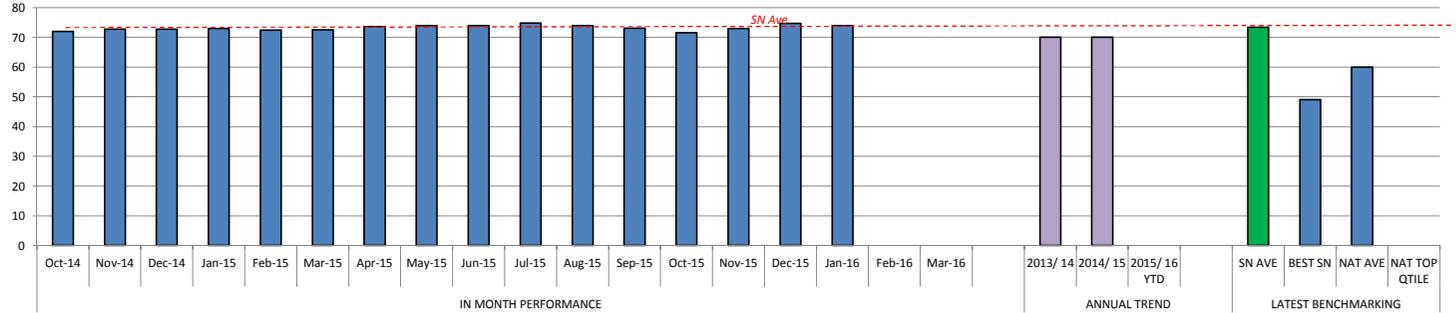
	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.4
	Rate of children looked after per 10K pop	Number of LAC	Admissions of children looked after	No. of children who have ceased to be LAC

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		7.2	7.1	7.3	7.4
	Oct-14	72.0	404	16	15
	Nov-14	72.7	408	19	12
	Dec-14	72.7	408	6	9
	Jan-15	72.9	409	24	10
	Feb-15	72.4	406	14	22
	Mar-15	72.5	407	12	11
	Apr-15	73.6	415	17	18
	May-15	73.9	417	22	20
	Jun-15	73.9	417	22	17
	Jul-15	74.8	422	25	21
	Aug-15	73.9	417	6	10
	Sep-15	73.1	412	11	17
	Oct-15	71.5	403	23	28
	Nov-15	72.9	411	25	16
	Dec-15	74.6	421	20	11
	Jan-16	73.9	417	10	15
Feb-16					
Mar-16					

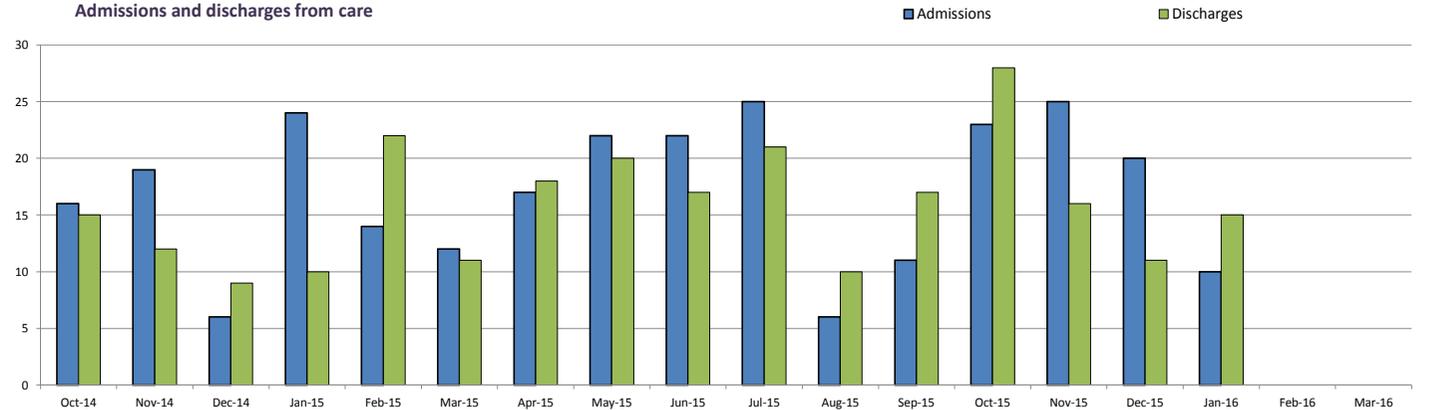
ANNUAL TREND		7.2	7.1	7.3	7.4
	2013/ 14	70.0		147	136
	2014/ 15	70.0		175	160
2015/ 16 YTD			172	166	

LATEST BENCHMARKING		7.2	7.1	7.3	7.4
	SN AVE	73.4			
	BEST SN	49.0			
	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

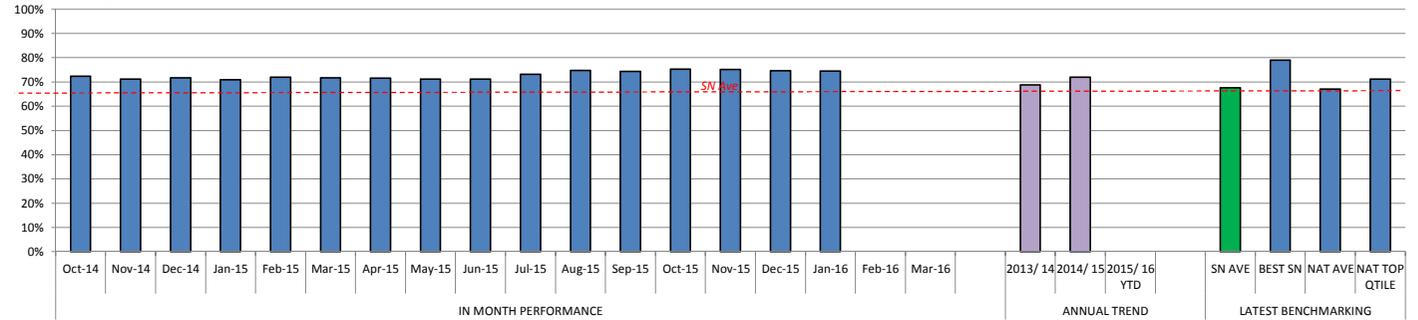
**DEFINITION** A LAC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (LAC) and is placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

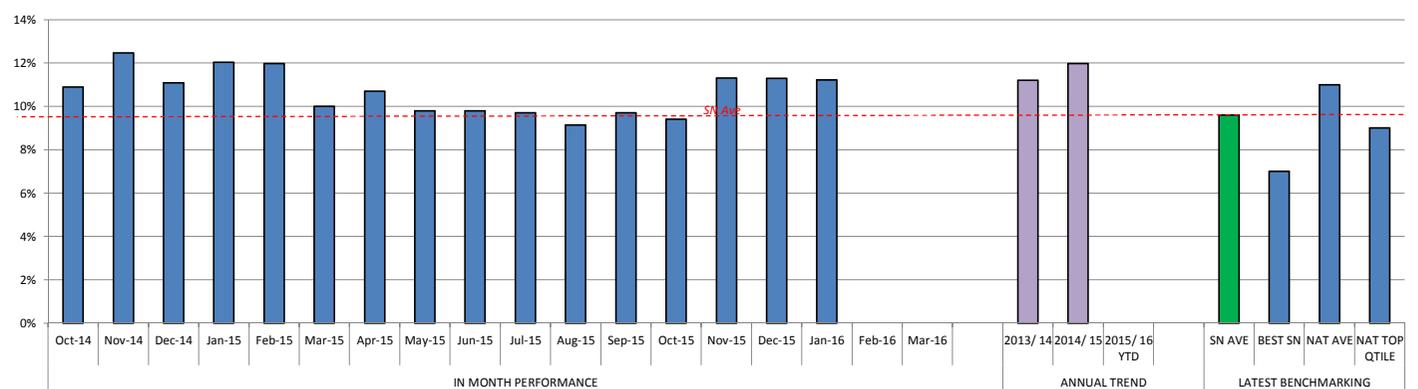
As reported previously performance in relation to long term LAC stability is very strong however it will be examined closely as part of our strategy to reduce the number of children in out of authority placements. We need to ensure that stability does not mask case drift and result in children remaining looked after longer than necessary or remaining in placements that are not meeting their long term needs. The performance in relation to children who have had 3 or more placement moves in a year is of some concern in that 47 children is just too many. The Deputy Director and newly appointed LAC managers will be looking at this group of children over the next period in order to better understand the issues. Our sufficiency strategy identifies that we have too many children placed in residential care, this balance has started to change for our internal provision but remains an issue in relation to the number of children placed in out of authority residential care and we will need to shift that balance to have more children placed in a family setting. This work is now underway and a more robust approach is firmly in place.

	9.1		9.2		
	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	
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Oct-14	115 of 159	72.3%	44 of 404	10.9%
	Nov-14	111 of 156	71.2%	50 of 401	12.5%
	Dec-14	109 of 152	71.7%	46 of 415	11.1%
	Jan-15	105 of 148	71.0%	49 of 407	12.0%
	Feb-15	110 of 153	71.9%	49 of 409	12.0%
	Mar-15	109 of 152	71.7%	41 of 409	10.0%
	Apr-15	106 of 148	71.6%	44 of 412	10.7%
	May-15	108 of 152	71.1%	41 of 417	9.8%
	Jun-15	108 of 152	71.1%	41 of 417	9.8%
	Jul-15	109 of 149	73.2%	41 of 421	9.7%
	Aug-15	110 of 147	74.8%	39 of 417	9.1%
	Sep-15	110 of 148	74.3%	40 of 412	9.7%
	Oct-15	110 of 146	75.3%	38 of 406	9.4%
	Nov-15	109 of 145	75.2%	48 of 418	11.3%
	Dec-15	109 of 146	74.7%	48 of 425	11.3%
	Jan-16	108 of 145	74.5%	47 of 419	11.2%
	Feb-16				
Mar-16					
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	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				
<b>LATEST BENCHMARKING</b>	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%

**% long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years**



**% LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months**



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - REVIEWS & VISITS

### DEFINITION

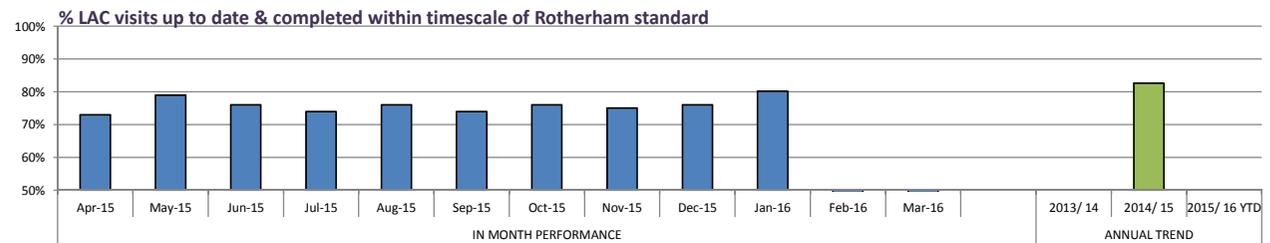
The purpose of LAC review meeting is to consider the plan for the welfare of the looked after child and achieve Permanence for them within a timescale that meets their needs. The review is chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)

The LA is also responsible for appointing a representative to visit the child wherever he or she is living to ensure that his/her welfare continues to be safeguarded and promoted. The minimum national timescales for visits is within one week of placement, then 6 weekly until the child has been in placement for a year and the 12 weekly thereafter. Rotherham have set a higher standard of within first week then 4 weekly thereafter until the child has been permanently matched to the placement.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

LAC Visits are monitored at the weekly performance meeting. Performance in relation to visits within the National Minimum Standards remains well above 90% 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 the National one, performance in relation to local standard is still not good enough and will continue to be the focus of sustained management attention. The reviews that were out of timescale related to 7 children from 3 families. One was recorded as late as a result of an earlier data entry issue, one was postponed as a result of a crisis in the placement that required an immediate response and one was a result of the late submission of a care plan. The latter issue has been followed up with the manager concerned.

	7.6		7.13	7.14	
	No. LAC cases reviewed within timescales	% of LAC cases reviewed within timescales	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of National Minimum standard	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of Rotherham standard	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Apr-15	79 of 84	94.0%	98.6%	73%
	May-15	63 of 74	85.1%	95.2%	79%
	Jun-15	95 of 103	92.2%	94%	76%
	Jul-15	106 of 116	91.4%	96%	74%
	Aug-15	32 of 37	86.5%	96%	76%
	Sep-15	117 of 127	92.1%	94%	74%
	Oct-15	84 of 88	95.5%	96%	76%
	Nov-15	93 of 105	88.6%	97%	75%
	Dec-15	93 of 98	94.9%	97%	76%
	Jan-16	74 of 81	91.4%	97%	80.2%
Feb-16					
Mar-16					
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14		98.6%		
	2014/ 15	19 of 371	94.9%	95.2%	82.6%
	2015/ 16 YTD	321 of 387	82.9%		
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

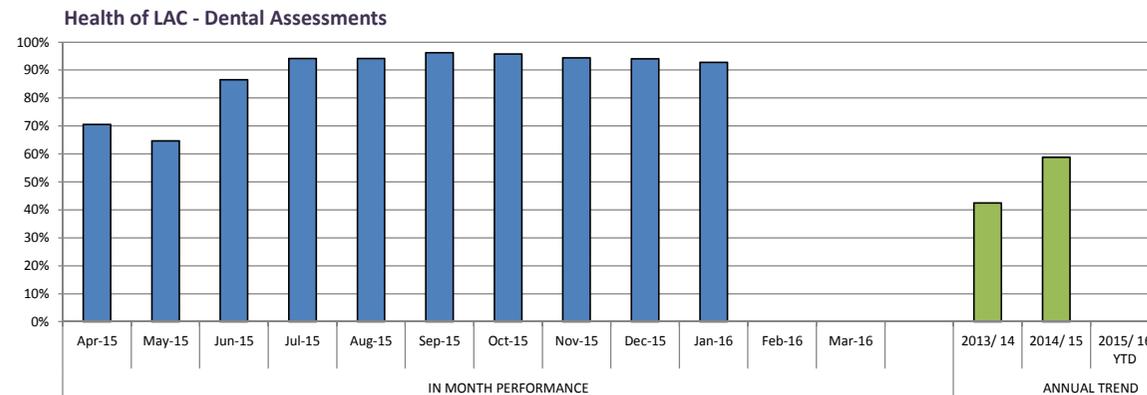
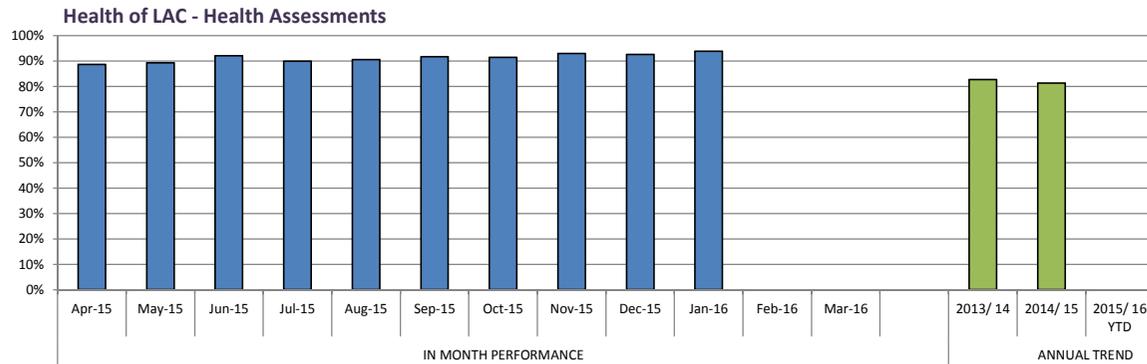
Performance in relation to health and dental assessments was poor and has been the focus of concerted joint effort and has shown previous improvement. Close monitoring means that any dips in performance are understood. Due to the process for health QA checks of assessments following completion there is a time lag between the assessment occurring and showing on the system as completed. Performance will continue to be very closely monitored.

	7.8	7.9
	<b>Health of LAC - Health Assessments</b>	<b>Health of LAC - Dental Assessments</b>

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		7.8	7.9
	Apr-15	88.7%	70.5%
	May-15	89.3%	64.7%
	Jun-15	92.1%	86.6%
	Jul-15	89.9%	94.1%
	Aug-15	90.6%	94.1%
	Sep-15	91.7%	96.2%
	Oct-15	91.5%	95.7%
	Nov-15	93%	94.4%
	Dec-15	92.6%	94.0%
	Jan-16	93.9%	92.8%
	Feb-16		
	Mar-16		

ANNUAL TREND		7.8	7.9
	2013/ 14	82.7%	42.5%
	2014/ 15	81.4%	58.8%
2015/ 16 YTD			

LATEST BENCHMARKING		7.8	7.9
	SN AVE		
	BEST SN		
	NAT AVE		
NAT TOP Q TILE			



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS

### DEFINITION

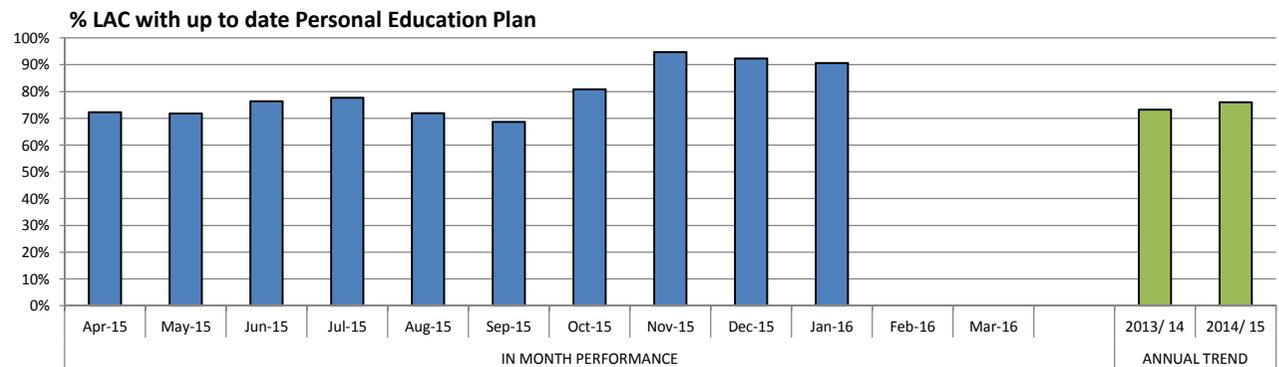
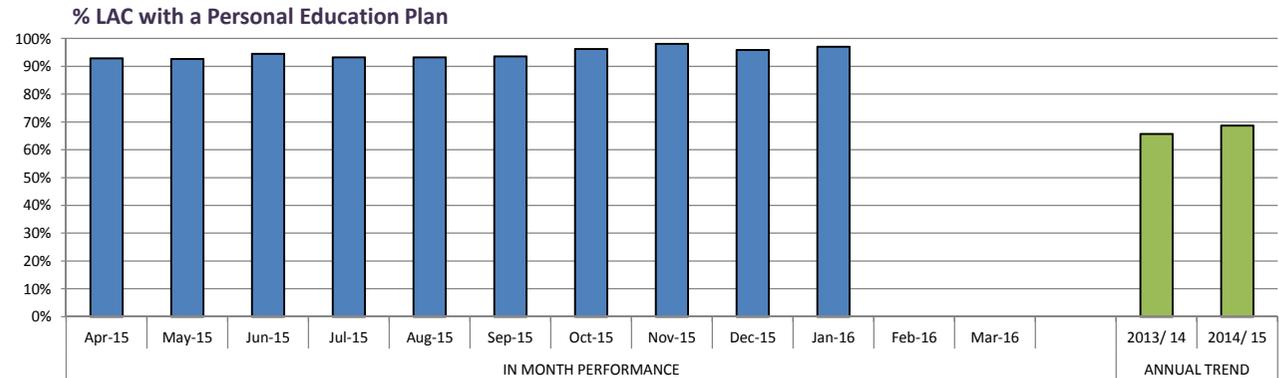
A personal education plan (PEP) is a school based meeting to plan for the education of a child in care. The government have made PEPs a statutory requirement for children in care to help track and promote their achievements.

### 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.

The completion of the PEP moved to an E-PEP system in September (start of Autumn term) It was anticipated that performance data would take some time to show improvement and performance was of significant concern. Urgent activity was undertaken to examine the issues and as a result a revised system for signing off of PEPs was put in place by the Assistant Director Education and Skills this resulted in a jump in performance. We will endeavour to maintain this with a renewed focus on the quality of plans ensuring that they address individual needs and termly goals.

		7.10	7.11
		% LAC with a Personal Education Plan	% LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Apr-15	92.9%	72.3%
	May-15	92.6%	71.8%
	Jun-15	94.5%	76.3%
	Jul-15	93.2%	77.7%
	Aug-15	93.2%	71.9%
	Sep-15	93.6%	68.6%
	Oct-15	96.2%	80.8%
	Nov-15	98.1%	94.7%
	Dec-15	95.9%	92.3%
	Jan-16	97.0%	90.7%
	Feb-16		
	Mar-16		
	ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14	65.7%
2014/ 15		68.7%	76.0%
2015/ 16 YTD			
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		
	BEST SN		
	NAT AVE		
	NAT TOP QTILE		



# CARE LEAVERS

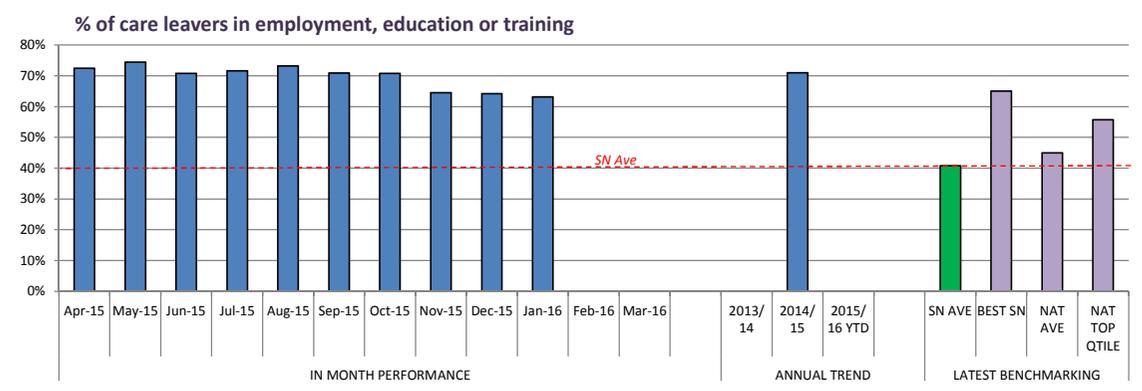
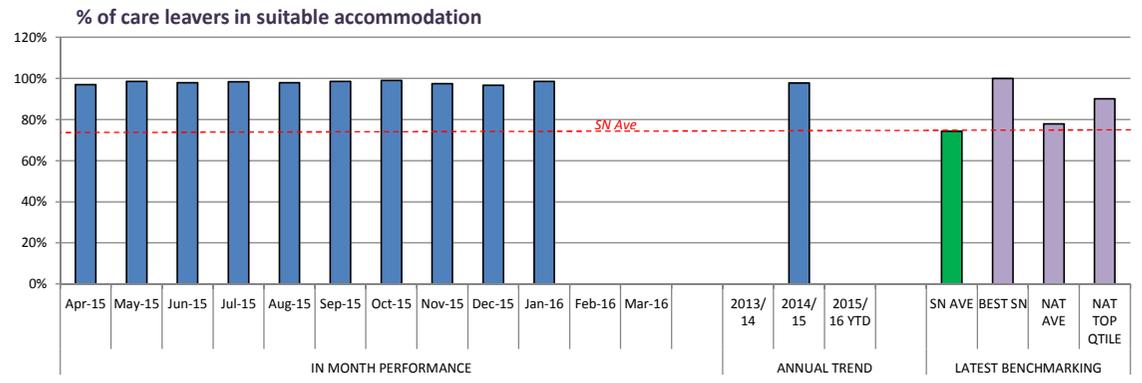
**DEFINITION** A care leaver is defined as a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after away from home by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after away from home by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** There will be a renewed focus on ensuring that our care leavers really are in suitable accommodation meaning that we are confident that are young people are living in situations that we would be content for any young people to living in. The indicator below only tells us that we have few if any young people living in bed and breakfast accommodation or are in prison. We will also be looking in the coming months about the actions that are required to drive up the numbers of young people who are in further education, training or employment. Both these areas will require the attention of the Corporate Parenting Panel on a regular basis.

		8.1	8.3	8.4
		Number of care leavers	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	% of care leavers in employment, education or training
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Apr-15	189	97.0%	72.5%
	May-15	200	98.5%	74.5%
	Jun-15	198	98.0%	70.8%
	Jul-15	190	98.4%	71.6%
	Aug-15	198	98.0%	73.2%
	Sep-15	199	98.5%	70.9%
	Oct-15	195	99.0%	70.8%
	Nov-15	197	97.5%	64.5%
	Dec-15	204	96.6%	64.2%
	Jan-16	198	98.5%	63.1%
	Feb-16			
	Mar-16			

<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2013/ 14			
	2014/ 15	183	97.8%	71.0%
	2015/ 16 YTD			

<b>LATEST BENCHMARKING</b>	SN AVE		74.2%	40.8%
	BEST SN		100.0%	65.0%
	NAT AVE		77.8%	45.0%
	NAT TOP QTILE		90.0%	55.8%



# 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.

The date it is agreed that it is in the best interests of the child that they should be placed for adoption is known as their 'SHOBPA'. Following this a family finding process is undertaken to find a suitable match for the child based on the child's needs, they will then be matched with an adopter(s) followed by placement with their adopter(s). This adoption placement is monitored for a minimum of 10 weeks and assessed as stable and secure before the final adoption order is granted by court decision and the adoption order is made.

Targets for measures A1 and A2 are set centrally by government office.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

Performance each month can vary significantly given the size of the cohort which is always very small.

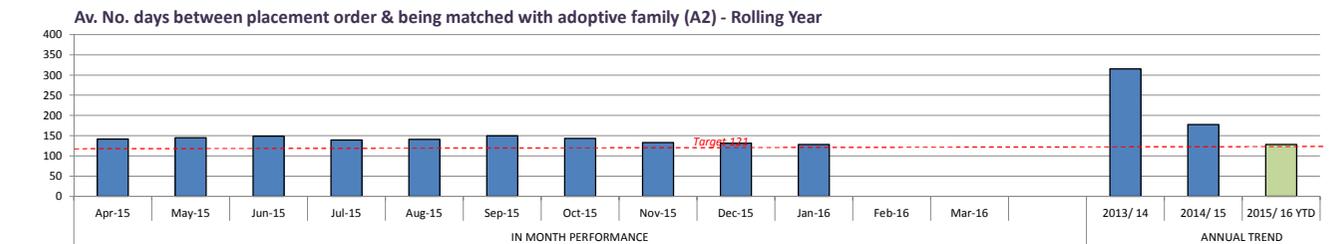
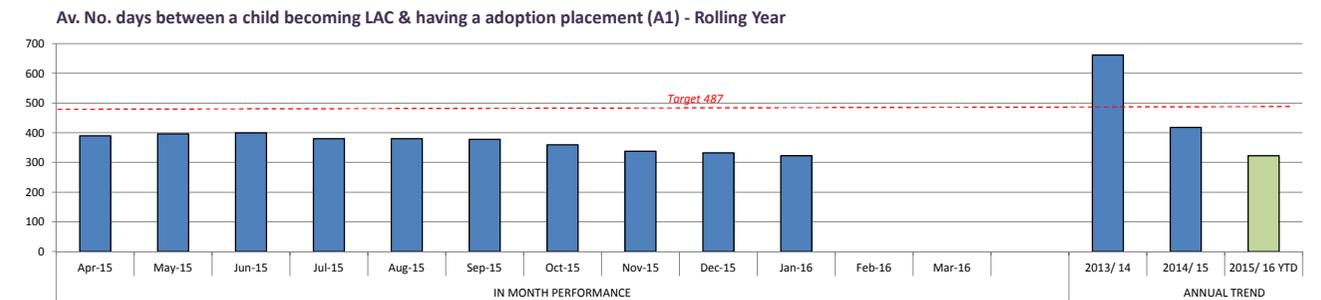
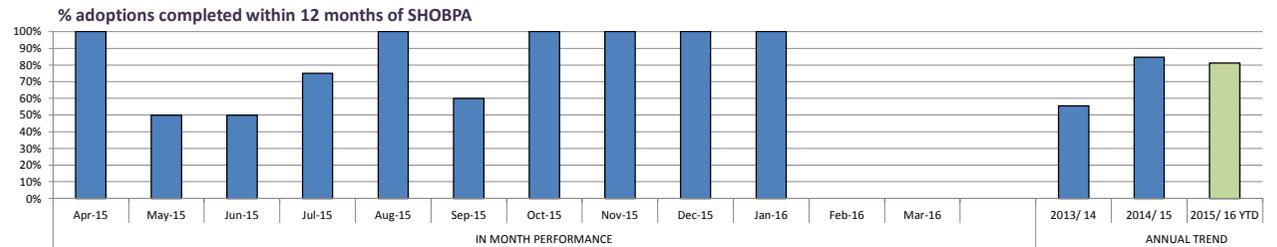
Given these factors it is most useful to look at a rolling 12 months than a month snapshot and overall performance in this area over the last 3 years has shown an improving trend. The available number of in house adopters is lower than we need and this is likely to result in the need to purchase placements from other adoption providers. The adoption recruitment campaign is being redesigned and shared arrangements with other South Yorkshire authorities are being progressed.

	Number of adoptions	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	10.1	10.2	10.3	
			% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	Av. No. days between a child becoming LAC & having a adoption placement (A1) (rolling yr.)	Av. No. days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family (A2) (rolling yr.)	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Apr-15	4	4	100%	389.9	142.2
	May-15	2	1	50%	396.3	144.7
	Jun-15	2	1	50%	399.6	148.9
	Jul-15	8	6	75%	379.7	139.6
	Aug-15	1	1	100%	380.1	140.7
	Sep-15	5	3	60%	378.1	149.8
	Oct-15	3	3	100%	359.8	143.6
	Nov-15	2	2	100%	337.7	133.2
	Dec-15	1	1	100%	332.1	131.3
	Jan-16	2	2	100%	322.6	128.6
	Feb-16					
	Mar-16					

ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14		55.6%	661.0	315.0
	2014/ 15		84.6%	417.5	177.3
	2015/ 16 YTD	26	32	81.3%	322.6

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				
	BEST SN				
	NAT AVE				
	NAT TOP QTILE				

\*Annual Trend relates to current reporting year April to Mar not rolling year



**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**  
**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>8.2.16</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Rotherham Independent Reviewing Officer Service - Annual Report for the Year April 2014 - March 2015</b>
<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Safeguarding, Children and Families Children and Young People's Service</b>

## **1. Introduction**

This report provides an overview of practice in relation to children looked after by Rotherham Local Authority. It will highlight the progress made during 2014-15 within the IRO Service in Children and Young People's Service, whilst also providing some examination of the challenges posed, and recognising and planning around the areas for development. The report will look at achievements and successes in respect of the outcomes for our children and young people. It is hoped this report also serves as a voice for Rotherham's looked after children and young people.

The Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), along with other Officers has a duty to fulfil their corporate parent role in respect of individual children. The role involves regular thorough review of the child's Care Plan, it means negotiating for best outcomes, at times challenging practice and decision making, operating in a timely way, working in partnership and solidly encouraging the participation of children and young people and those with legal parental responsibility for the child, as appropriate.

Over the past few years there has been discussion and national debate about how it is best to ensure IRO's are able to fulfil their role.

## **2. Purpose of the Service and the Legal Context**

IRO's work within the wide statutory framework of the legislation which governs children's social care. Their specific role in regard to looked after children however, is governed by a suite of statutory guidance namely the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010, which came into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

The Guidance places statutory duties on the IRO:-

- To monitor the local authority's performance in respect of their functions in relation to the child's case (not just the Review).
- To participate in any review of the child's case.

- To ensure that any ascertained wishes and feelings of the child concerning the case are given due consideration by the appropriate authority.
- To perform any other function which is prescribed in the regulations

In undertaking these duties, the IRO has specific responsibilities:-

- To promote the voice of the child (child at the centre of the work).
- To ensure that plans for looked after children are based on a detailed and informed assessment, are up to date, effective and provide a response to each child's needs.
- To identify any gaps in the assessment process or provision of service.
- To make sure the child understands how an advocate could help, and also understands their entitlement to one.
- To offer a safeguard to any 'drift' in care planning for looked after children and the delivery of services to them.
- To monitor the activity of the responsible authority as a corporate parent in ensuring that care plans have given proper consideration and weight to the child's wishes and feelings and that, where appropriate, the child fully understands the implications of any changes made to their care plan

Through 2013 and early 2014 the changes to the role of the IRO have been the subject of an Ofsted thematic review in (March 2013) closely followed by the NCB publishing research in 2013 and 2014 around the efficacy of IRO services (March 2014). The NCB and Ofsted reports look closely at the ability of the IRO to be the voice of the child in Care planning and challenge LA's where appropriate, in terms of their corporate parenting role and decision making. The foreword to the NCB research was written by Mr Justice Peter Jackson and within this he makes a comment highlighting what an effective IRO and IRO service needs to be:

*'The Independent Reviewing Officer must be the visible embodiment of our commitment to meet our legal obligations to this special group of children. The health and effectiveness of the IRO service is a direct reflection of whether we are meeting that commitment, or whether we are failing.'*

### 3. Profile of the IRO Service

The Rotherham IRO Service is situated within the Safeguarding Unit and has grown to cover the Foster Care IRO. Other teams and services within the Unit include Child Protection Conference Chairs, Vulnerable Lead Conference Chair ( CSE and Missing), Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Rights 2 Rights Service (Children's Advocacy) and Independent Visitors.

In addition to the core function of the role; monitoring and reviewing Children's Care Plans, the IRO Service is also involved in:

- Meetings on individual cases such as strategy meetings, planning meetings, meetings under LADO procedures, network meetings.
- Wider consultation on issues relating to looked after children.
- Auditing work as part of the Quality Assurance Framework (across the range of casework, not solely LAC).
- Training and development, including inputting to the training of Independent Visitors and Volunteers.
- Assisting with addressing of complaints and investigations.
- Supporting staff induction and awareness raising across the service.
- Providing opportunities for shadowing by other staff and students, to assist learning and development of the wider workforce.
- Highlighting good practice (by workers/partner agencies/carers), as well as feeding back evidence of poor practice, concerns about placements or safeguarding issues (through Dispute Resolution process and through liaison with LADO in cases of safeguarding issues and professionals/foster carers/ residential staff).
- Working jointly with Child Protection Conference Chairs on cases where children are subject to a CP Plan and become Looked After, to gain clarity of status

#### **Staffing - Developing a Stable and Permanent Team**

There has been considerable change and development within the Rotherham IRO team since 2010. In 2011 The implementation of the Care Planning and Placement Review Regulations, and the IRO Handbook has had national impact on the role of the IRO setting out clear additional duties in relation to visiting / communication with children before reviews, 'monitoring' the case between reviews, being kept up to date on key changes in the child's or families circumstances and creating a clear process for IRO's to raise and address challenge. This led to the recommendation from Government that the appropriate IRO caseload is between 50-70 children. This recommended case load was last achieved in September 2011.Changes to the management and the configuration of the team and increasing LAC figures on a year by year

basis has seen the numbers allocated to IRO's around the 80 per full time IRO Post.

As part of the ongoing drive to improve the services and experience offered to our Looked after children DLT has agreed to additional recruitment of a further 2 IRO's in May 2015 to further support the capacity of IRO's to ensure they are able to effectively capture the voice of the children, through direct visits where needed, and to raise challenge and improve the oversight of the quality of young people's journey through care.

The recruitment process for IRO's commenced in September 2015 following regarding of the IRO posts to make them level with team managers. The 4 vacant posts have been covered by agency staff, for the latter half of 2015. Across the team there is a wealth of relevant experience and knowledge. The team is also now more representative of the children and young people in care in terms of gender and ethnicity of children across Rotherham. By April 2016 we will have 3 new IRO's in post, with one vacancy to fill. There is also exploration of creating a senior IRO post to support staff supervision and development.

### **Caseloads**

The high caseloads through 2014 and 2015 impacted on the IRO's capacity to undertake all the required tasks and responsibilities of the role to a consistently high standard. The key area where this can be seen is in that a number of notes from meetings are not written up within the 20 working days timescale. This has been a key area of focus over the last 12 months, with the aim being that all reports will be circulated in timescale. Key actions are also now being completed within 24 hours of the review to support better communication of agreed actions and where needed concerns of challenges around the experience of the child and care planning.

A key part of the IRO's role is the work in between each LAC Review that takes place for a child – tracking cases and issues in order to improve the quality of casework and to ensure drift and delays for children are avoided, and to increase the level and quality of participation of children and young people in the process of their Review. At times this can be less at the forefront than would be desired, due to caseload pressures:

### **Training and Development**

All IRO's have attended training days and opportunities for development, in line with their HCPC registration, as a minimum. Changes in staff, including at times use of temporary agency IRO's means that there have been periods of revisiting core IRO skills and working towards achieving a consistency of practice across the IRO team.

The IRO team have regular weekly 'allocation' meetings where allocation of any new cases is undertaken and IRO's are able to touch base with each

other and shares pieces of practice and issues. This supports consistently in approach in challenging issues and allows IRO's to reflect on their role in the care planning process. Additionally, there are once monthly (2.5 hour) team meetings where practice and performance issues are discussed, and the opportunity is taken to distribute and discuss any relevant information such as changes in legislation, new initiatives, and share practice and training experience. This time is often used to form and maintain appropriate professional links with partner agencies, and other professionals within children's services. There has been specific focus on Foster to adopt (Early permanence) and links with the adoption and fostering service.

In terms of specific training, in the period 2014 - 2015, IRO's have attended training sessions on:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation (awareness raising).
- SDQ/Attachment training.
- Participation in the IRO regional forum
- Triple AAA Training – Neglect and voice of the child
- PLO and legal training with Team Manager's
- Neuroscience training around victims of abuse – Zoe Loderick
- Early permanence –Adoption Consortium
- Adoption and Contact training
- Working together 2013 – refresh LSCB Training
- Personal Education Plans.
- Work of the Looked After and Adopted Children Support Team (LAACST).

IRO's have also participated in some key meetings and groups to support and review developments in practice and policies across RMBC to ensure they reflect the voice of the child and support best practice. These include attending the policy and systems review group, Early Permanence Champion IRO and participation in the Voice of the child, LAC strategy sub group.

In the coming 12 months, there are plans to support the IRO's to develop specific areas or specialism around CSE, Missing, Education and transition to adulthood, as well as the EHC plans. This will support the learning across the service, support the professional development of the IRO's and promote the voice of our looked after children as the IRO brings their knowledge and understanding of what our LAC young people are saying in RMBC to these forums.

#### 4. Performance

##### LAC Reviews

From April 2014 to March 2015 the IRO's managed LAC Reviews, with recorded as taking place within the required timescale.

	Outside	Within	Sum:
APR-2014	2	94	96
MAY-2014	1	118	119
JUN-2014	4	80	84
JUL-2014	0	107	107
AUG-2014	0	51	51
SEP-2014	2	103	105
OCT-2014	5	103	108
NOV-2014	0	92	92
DEC-2014	10	80	90
JAN-2015	8	74	82
FEB-2015	2	69	71
MAR-2015	4	133	137
	<b>38</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>1142</b>

In respect of the Reviews which are recorded as having taken place outside of statutory timescale, upon further manual validation this number further reduced to 27 reviews meaning that 97.64 % of reviews were completed in timescale.

The themes around why reviews had not been completed in timescale were:

- SW sickness – 7 reviews
- Late notification by SW Team – 4 reviews
- Incorrect due date used – 1 review
- Plan to return home ( review not held) – 3 reviews
- Delay in ending lac as planned – 2 reviews
- SW / IRO capacity – 2 reviews
- Review commenced but could not be completed in time – 1 review
- Dispute re the care plan / no care plan – 3 reviews
- Delay in IRO arranging review – 2 reviews
- 3 month review of Placement Order not completed - 2 reviews

In order to address the level of reviews out of timescale IRO's are ensuring they plan the all subsequent reviews early to support last minute cancellations due to sickness, but also to support a challenge to the care plan / quality of the assessment, which may mean stepping a review down, where appropriate for that child and to still complete in a meaningful timescale for the child / YP.

A common practice within the IRO team for a number of years has been to complete reviews as a series of meetings and to class these as commenced and completed in timescale. This practice has ceased since March 2015 and moving forward will ensure that if a review cannot be completed in timescale this is clearly recorded on the child's file and the practice reviewed.

## Participation of Children and Young People

### The voice of the child

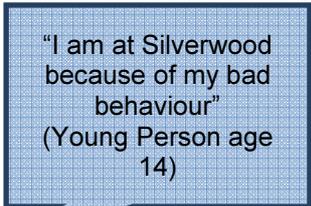
As part of the working group developing the RMBC strategy for looked after children in Rotherham, one of the key themes is the voice of the looked after child and how this is heard and acted upon within their reviews and care planning. Whilst all feedback and input from children and young people is managed on an individual basis within each LAC Review, it is also important to consider this information from a more strategic viewpoint. It was agreed that because each child (over 4 years) are sent a consultation booklet prior to their LAC Review, these could offer some direct insight into if our looked after children are happy with the support and services they are being offered and if their views are being heard and responded to. There are 2 separate types of booklet, one for primary school age children and one for young people of 11+ years. Those returned are included within the Review record and placed on the child's file.

It was agreed that a snapshot would be taken of the year, and the reviews taking place from July to September 2014 were chosen. The feedback was analysed by Jo Kostanjsek, Service Improvement Officer.

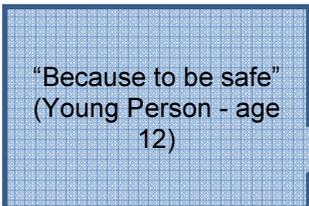
There were 270 reviews held in the chosen period– 27 % were preschool; 54 % did not complete a consultation booklet and the remaining 19% (51 children) returned a booklet

### From this feedback it was found:-

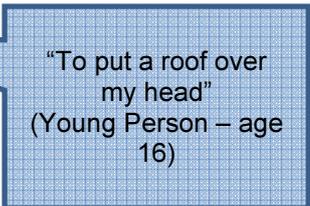
- **84% of looked after children** and **96% of looked after young people** understand why they are looked after
- **96% of young people** do not need any further information about being looked after.



"I am at Silverwood because of my bad behaviour"  
(Young Person age 14)



"Because to be safe"  
(Young Person - age 12)



"To put a roof over my head"  
(Young Person – age 16)

What has gone well for them since their last review?:

- **100%** of looked after children giving their feedback said something had gone well for them, although only **72%** of looked after young people said they had something gone well with **12%** being unsure

Are they happy where they are living?:

- **96%** of looked after children and **76%** of looked after young people giving their feedback are happy where they are living
- **24%** of looked after children have something worrying them and a further **4%** are unsure (court and contact arrangements)

Contact and their family:

- **96%** of looked after children giving their feedback understand when they should see their family although **20%** are not happy with their arrangements to see them and a further **12%** are unsure.

"I don't want to see daddy because daddy's naughty"

"I don't want to go to any contacts"

"Contact makes me sad at contact. Mum and dad whisper things to me. They say I have to pray and I don't want to. They say I have to go to mosque and I don't want to. They say I have to be a proper Muslim and I don't want to be"

- **30%** of looked after children have something they are not happy with and want to change (food, contact and behaviour)

What would you change?

- **32%** of looked after young people giving their feedback said there is something they are not happy with and want to change and a further **8%** were unsure (40% in total).

"Want to move to have someone to play with"  
(Young Person)

"Want to go home"  
(Young Person)

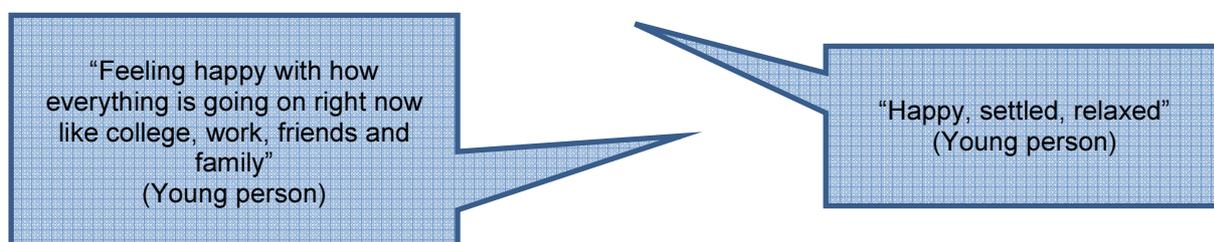
- **31%** of looked after children giving their feedback do not know what their plans are for the future, and a further **12%** are unsure

Their view of their Social Worker:

- **8%** of looked after young people said they do not see their social worker enough but **12%** said they were unsure if they do see them enough or not.
- **96%** of young people know their social workers name and **80%** feel they come and see them if they ask them to
- **92%** of looked after children and **88%** of looked after young people giving their feedback feel they can talk to their social worker
- **92%** of looked after children feel that their social worker listens to what they have to say
- **16%** of looked after young people think there social worker does not listen to them and a further **16%** feel unsure if they listen or not (total 32%)

Health and Wellbeing:

- **68%** of looked after young people were able to tell us how they were feeling right now and **32%** who were unable or unwilling to express their feelings, no-one was unsure.



- **100%** of looked after young people have had the opportunity to do different activities and try new things
- **100%** of looked after children have not got any health worries and feel happy and well
- although **16%** of looked after young people have got some health worries (eating vegetables, their teeth and anger issues with boys)

Education, school, college and training:

- **88%** of looked after children expressed they feel they are doing well at school and **92%** do not feel worried about school
- **76%** of looked after young people are happy with their school, college, work or placements

- **36% of looked after young people** giving their feedback do have and have sometimes had problems with bullying and **33%** of the people do not think there is enough done to help them about bullying
- **28% of young people** did want to speak to someone specific about their placement and named the worker

### **Impact for young people and evidencing outcomes:**

This information allows us as an IRO service and our colleagues within the LAC service as well as others who are corporate parents, to know where we need to focus our support and services. Overall young people are happy with the placements they have and understand why they are looked after and see their families. The key themes of worries around contact and court are present for some children at each review, but support the care team around each child to understand the level of support they need to understand their journey through care and explore why and when decisions are made.

The key issues that the IRO service has picked up on is how we can support young people to make a contribution to their reviews as the completion rate around consultation booklets continue to be low. We are working with LAC council to redesign our consultation forms to make these more child centred and to explore if we are asking the right questions.

### **Active participation in reviews:**

Over 2 thirds of LAC reviews involved the young person attending, contributing themselves or using an advocate. This number includes those young people who do use consultation booklet or where observations are offered to reflect the child's views, due to their age. This still leaves a third of reviews where young people do not directly contribute and 'may' engage in their review process, but it is acknowledged by the IRO that their voice is not robustly heard. There are also 8 reviews where the views of the YP were felt by the IRO not to be known.

With additional resources into the IRO team, each IRO is ensuring that where a child or YP has struggled to contribute that they have a visiting plan in place to support the YP to engage in their care plan and review process.

There is anecdotal evidence from IRO's that young people have chaired their own reviews (around 20 through the year) but this is not yet formally recorded.

### **Complaints**

During the year 2014-2015, there has been 1 complaint received, relating to the LAC Independent Reviewing Service. This related to the conduct of a child's looked after review and a mother feeling excluded from the process. This was explored by the Acting Safeguarding Manager (Operations manager) and partially upheld, with learning points around conducting reviews

in a short timescale, that support parent's and the children involved being able to participate.

### **Participation of Parents/those with Parental Responsibility**

Alongside facilitating and ensuring children's participation in the Review of their Care Planning, IRO's also work hard at supporting parental participation in the process. This includes occasions where there is a conflict of interest and perhaps the young person's attendance at a meeting is prioritised; in such circumstances the IRO will arrange a separate meeting/discussion with the parent. IRO's will also meet separately with parents on the occasions when a decision has been made to exclude one parent, for example, due to conflict or domestic abuse between parents. Information recorded in CCM in respect of parental involvement in LAC Reviews, detailing invitations sent, exclusions and attendance.

Out of 1142 reviews:

- 136 reviews where parents were invited and attended
- 170 parents were formally excluded ( either due to safety or linked to the fact a child had moved to an adoptive placement)
- 175 parents were not invited but involved in the review process
- 28 parents were not invited (usually as whereabouts not known)
- The highest number is linked to parents invited but not attending. Often they complete the consultation booklet or discuss their views with the IRO.

This data from CCM is not always reliable and it is envisaged that the move to Liquid Logic will support more effective feedback around parent participation.

### **Advocacy for children and young people and Independent Visitors**

Advocacy for looked after children and young people is provided within Rotherham through the Rights to Rights Service, which is based within the Safeguarding Unit. The (volunteer) Independent Visitor service is also based within Safeguarding. Both services are managed by the Children's Rights Manager, who in turn is managed by the Safeguarding Unit Manager (now the Operations manager for IRO's and Conference Chairs).

Independent Reviewing Officers play a vital role in liaising where necessary, with the Children's Rights Service, to ensure children and young people are in receipt of a service from an Advocate, or an Independent Visitor, as appropriate.

In regard to the provision of Independent Visitors, the IRO has a particular role, and responsibilities. The appropriateness of the continuing appointment of the particular Independent visitor and indeed of any Independent Visitor for an individual child or young person is considered at each statutory review:

- The IRO must be satisfied that the appointment is in the child/young person's continuing interest.

- The IRO must also ensure that effective liaison and communication arrangements are in place between the Independent Visitor and others involved in the child and young person's care.
- In such circumstances, the IRO plays a vital role, within their communication with the child/young person in establishing the child's views

Over the period of this report 17 children were matched with IV's with a further 2 matches to be progressed.

## **5. Conduct of the Local Authority in relation to children's cases**

### **IRO Monitoring and Challenge**

The IRO Handbook and Care Planning Regulations, 2010, clearly place responsibility upon the IRO to 'monitor the child's case' on an ongoing basis. There is the expectation that the IRO will challenge management where necessary and 'champion' positive care planning which is timely and relevant in respect of individual children. As part of the monitoring function, the IRO also has a duty to monitor the performance of the local authority's function as a corporate parent and to identify any areas of poor practice. IRO's seek to ensure good outcomes for children. They do this on an individual basis through the quality assurance role they impose within the LAC Review process. This is best reflected via the IRO preparation document, where as of Feb 2015, also incorporates the key actions and any informal or formal dispute being raised.

The IRO's undertake considerable work in seeking to resolve informally, and at the lowest possible level, any issues of concern in respect of planning for children. Such 'informal concerns' are communicated in writing to the Social Workers and Team Managers along with the Review decisions and recommendations (Key Actions), within 24 working hours of the Review meeting taking place. This record is placed on the child's file with a clear request that the sw and Team manager feedback to the IRO on how the issue will be addressed.

### **Dispute Resolution Process**

A key function of the IRO is to resolve problems arising out of the care planning process, especially where informal resolution has not had the required impact and outcome for the child or YP.

The IRO Handbook and Care Planning Regulations outlines the requirement of each Local Authority to have in place a local 'Dispute Resolution Process' This is a formal process through which an IRO can escalate their concern to the appropriate management level. Rotherham's Dispute Resolution Process (DRP) was formulated and implemented from January 2011.

In Rotherham this means:

- Stage 1 is directed at the team manager to address ( response within 10 working days)
- Stage 2 is directed at the service manager to address ( response within 5 working days)
- Stage 3 is directed to the Assistant director ( response within 24 hours)
- The final stage available is referral to CAFCASS

The dispute resolution process details timescales of 20 working days maximum to resolve 'disputes'/problems with care planning.

The IRO also has the power and responsibility via the Care Planning Regulations to refer a matter to CAFCASS at any point in the dispute resolution process if they feel such is appropriate to ensure the best outcomes for a Looked after child.

**IRO Activity from April 2013 to March 2014 in respect of resolving 'Informal Concerns', and matters which are progressed through the Dispute Resolution Process**

	<b>Informal Concerns</b>	<b>Stage 1 DRP</b>	<b>Stage 2 DRP</b>	<b>Stage 3 DRP</b>	<b>Contact with CAFCASS</b>
April 2014	23	7	1	-	-
May	29	8	3	-	-
June	17	6	1	-	-
July	30	2	1	-	-
August	10	3	-	-	2
Sept	16	13	-	-	-
October	11	5	4	-	-
November	11	4	3	-	-
December	4	3	2	-	-
January	5	14	10	-	-
February	8	8	12	-	-
March 2015	10	20	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>37</b>	-	<b>2</b>

As highlighted by the above table, the majority of the concerns raised by IRO's in respect of care planning for children were dealt with at the 'Informal stage'. However following a positive shift in practice to ensure one missing statutory visit at stage is given the focus it requires, there was agreement at performance meetings in March 2015, that 1 missed statutory visit should warranted a DRP 1. This reflects the trend in the table with the number of Informal concerns decreasing and the number of DRP1's rising.

The increase around DRP stage 2's is linked to work completed with IRO's to work a more consistent and robust response and alert and escalate issues that were not being resolved or warranted senior management input to progress. issues and concerns at stage 2 have been around delay in progressing LT matches, passports, delay in agreeing funding for therapeutic input, delayed revocation of placement Order and poor response / resolution from the TM's around basics statutory work , i.e. visits, PEP's and health assessments that did not have a robust response at stage 1.

- The pattern of reduced DRP 2's in March also reflected a shift in practice, where key issues that were felt to be impacting on the quality of care given to a young person or where there had been specific delay, have progressed through discussion with Service managers and an agreed alert to senior managers to make sure these are issues are addressed as a matter of urgency. Linked to this there have been 9 alerts:
- concern re support to placement as female carer died (SA);

- YP in custody and due for release before 18<sup>th</sup> birthday – concerns around lack of planning for exit
- SGO application – issue around supporting contact
- Suitability of placement
- Placement change, that was not supported by assessment
- Complaint from parents that not seeing SW and do not know who this is
- Lack of police feedback re criminal investigation
- Delay in adoption application linked to legal name change
- Lack of input from CAMHS to keep a child safe and plan for a suitable placement

Comparison with last year's figures:

	<b>Informal Concerns</b>	<b>Stage 1 DRP</b>	<b>Stage 2 DRP</b>	<b>Stage 3 DRP</b>	<b>Contact with CAFCASS</b>
2013 - 2014	150	35	20	-	-
2014 - 2015	174	93	37	-	2

Analysis of the work undertaken in resolving Informal Concerns and matters which have been progressed through the formal Dispute process reveals the following themes:

**Issues and themes dealt with under 'informal concerns':**

- Absence of LAC statutory visits
- Deficits in recording/key documents
- SW report for LAC Review and/or Care Plan not on file –
- Placement with Parent's assessment not on file/not authorised
- PEP's not up to date, or not on file
- Lack of up to date Health Assessment
- Concerns around care planning, including around contact issues
- Concern around decision-making around safeguarding issues and risk being managed in placement
- Instability of placement
- Suitability of placement
- Lack of Risk assessment / assessment due to specific changes in circumstances of placement
- Lack of clarity around legal status
- Delay in commencing legal proceedings regarding revocation of Placement Order / Care Order
- Delay in progressing permanency, eg through long term links in foster placements
- Delay in service provision, eg CAMHS and education
- Delay in resources/planning, eg for building extensions
- Delay in child or carer/parent receiving explanations/information regarding decisions, eg life story work/letterbox arrangements
- Concern about provision of specific specialised support to young person / placement

- Concerns around how a YP's identity needs were not being met in placement and required additional support
- Concerns around the provision of placement post 18 ( young people wanting to remain in their foster placements)

From the beginning of March there has been a change in the way that DRP 2's are raised with senior manager's with an agreement that a safeguarding alert is progressed via email before this stage is reached, where possible, to ensure that senior manger's have an earlier awareness of issues prior to the formal Dispute process .Consideration needs to be given to how this data is recorded in the future to ensure the themes are reflected and IRO's can evidence the impact of their role and the outcomes achieved for our young people as a result.

**Issues raised under Stage One of the Formal Dispute Process:**

- Lack of Statutory Visits (more than one visit)
- Concern over care planning – regarding a child being returned home without a clear assessment or plan
- Concern around decision-making; safeguarding issues and risk being managed in placement.
- Delay in health assessment taking place
- Delay in an updated PEP
- Delay in application to revoke Placement Order
- Delay /lack of progress in care planning
- Delay in permanence planning in respect of SGO
- Lack of updated Care Plan ( escalated from informal concerns)
- Delay in progressing long term match with foster carers
- Concerns around the provision of placement post 18 ( young person felt to be at significant vulnerability due to not meeting adults criteria)

**Issues raised under Stage Two of the Formal Dispute Process:**

- Concern around decision-making; safeguarding issues and risk being managed in placement.
- Delay in permanence planning in respect of SGO
- Concerns around the provision of placement post 18
- More than one statutory visit missing from the file and raised through DRP1 but then escalated due to LAC of response
- Placement suitability and effective long term planning for an YP before and after a placement breakdown.
- Delay in therapeutic provision for a YP and the impact on his LT placement stability
- Contact concerns not being assessed following expressed wishes of the children.
- Delay in revocation of placement Order
- Concerns around delay of revocation of Placement Order on Long term Match

### **Contact with CAFCASS**

- This year we have sought advice from CAFCASS on 2 occasions following concerns held by the IRO's and manager that there were concerns in relation to the care plan for 2 young people. Both were in a court process and were around adoption decisions. One where there was indecision about a return to family and the second where there was agreement from social care and the IRO around the plan, but concerns re the view of the Guardian.

### **Identifying themes and what this highlights around outcomes for our LA children / YP:**

- There has through 2014 to 2015 continued to be a significant number of informal concerns raised around statutory visits. Please note given the increased focus on compliance with visiting if 1 visit is missed this is regarded as a DRP 1 not an informal concern as previously.
- There have been concerns around care plans either not being on file available for the review of the quality of care planning
- There has been a sustained increase in concern around longstanding Placement Orders not being revoked within an appropriate timescale and these have been escalated through the process and are currently at DRP 2 being addressed via Service Managers.
- The issues around PEPs and Health assessments not being completed within the 20 working day timescale continue to be around the same level from the year previously. However due to a continued delay in this being addressed by the teams there has been increase in increase in this issue at the DRP stage 1.
- There has been an increase in concerns around care planning and statutory visits that has escalated at times due to a lack of feedback from team managers at all points of the process.
- On a positive note there were no concerns raised for the 12 month period around delays in children being placed for adoption.
- New issues for this year are around addressing issues around identity, therapeutic provision, timely assessment around contact and a rise in concern around the stability of placements.
- Of concern are a noticeable low number of escalations and disputes around the quality of care plans / assessments and picking up issues around drift and delay. This has been addressed with the IRO's through supervision and team development sessions, and will be a key area of focus for the year to come.

## **6. Summary**

During 2014-15, there have been further changes in the IRO team and with a number of staff leaving, commencing roles and agency staff it has been a challenging year. The IRO team has worked to continue to provide an effective review and monitoring of Care Planning for Rotherham's looked after Children. This is evidenced by a more visible mechanism that is now in place around informal concerns and DRP's allows the IRO 's to highlight their knowledge and insight into what is important for the looked after young people in Rotherham, and to highlight what is working well and what needs to be addressed.

The service has contributed to improved outcomes for Looked after Children through supporting the participation of children and young people, their parents and carers and other relevant people in the decision making about the children's care. The IRO team has continued to work positively with wider agencies and with the changes in the legal climate and the implications for when young people become LAC and when decisions around their future need to be made.

## **Strengths**

- Reviews indicate a good level of child participation and evidence of the voice of the child, including through links with the Advocacy service (children's rights service) and links with Independent Visitors.
- IRO's are providing challenge in respect of a range of practice, resource and care planning issues. In working to raise the profile and consistency of this challenge across the borough, the IRO service is able to highlight gaps in provision and areas of need for individual children, whilst also highlight more widespread 'themes and patterns'.
- The IRO service has recognised the need to evolve and work closely with managers to address issues earlier and this is starting to develop as issues that should be raised via Dispute are explored with managers across the IRO's to improve consistently of the Quality assurance measures.
- The additional resources agreed for the team in May 2015 has provided a real boost and recruitment is ongoing to these posts (expected in March 2016)
- The number of statutory LAC Reviews held on time decreased but most robust performance management is working to address this.
- The Foster Care IRO role within the Safeguarding unit is already proving to be very positive in terms of managing complex issues and safeguarding issues around carers. There is also a positive commitment from the Fostering Team to work together with the Foster Care IRO to further improve the quality and timeliness of Foster Care Reviews.

## **Areas for development and action plan:**

1. Development of a Quality Assurance framework around the IRO activity, including qualitative audit of the IRO activity, direct

observations and peer evaluation. This also needs to consider compliance with the IRO handbook and Care Planning Regs (March 2016).

2. Ongoing robust individual and team evaluation of the Dispute Resolution Activity. Monthly reporting to SMT to be progressed.
3. Review of the IRO Dispute process and CP Conference Chair Escalation process, to ensure they are streamlined, robust and fit for purpose (end of March 2016).
4. To put in place strategies for ensuring Reviews are held within timescale and record themes and patterns around delay reasons (in place)
5. For the Operations manager to work with IRO's around the timeliness of reports produced from the review meeting, and the timely distribution of such reports. (weekly monitoring in place)
6. The IRO team will work with social work teams to develop a joint understanding around the monitoring role of the IRO. The IRO team will work to develop a more formal agreement around a 'monitoring meeting / discussion' on cases, wherever the IRO has concerns around key actions / informal concerns being progressed, or potential issues around drift and delay. This will help to increase the visibility of the positive resolution work undertaken by IRO's and increase the IRO footprint.
7. To explore how we can improve children and YP's participation on their reviews. To review the consultation documents with the LAC council ( completed) and look to re-design in line with their feedback
8. To further explore the development of a protocol for Young People chairing their own reviews. This will be supported by the development of the review agenda document.
9. To explore how we can improve our service via feedback from young people and to link with the Young inspectors to support us with this (March 2016)

Rebecca Wall  
Operations manager for IRO's and Conference Chairs  
Rotherham Safeguarding Children Unit

## Summary Sheet

## Council Report

**Title:** Out of Authority Placements for Children in Care

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?** No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report** Ian Thomas

### Report Author(s)

Ian Walker, Service Manager

### Ward(s) Affected

All Wards affected.

## Summary

In this report the term 'Out of Authority' (OoA) placements refers to situations in which Rotherham children are placed in foster care or residential care where in house resources are not used. The placement may be geographically within the Rotherham MBC boundary.

The current level of use of OoA Children's Homes and Independent Fostering Agency placements is unsustainable and conflicts with the Sufficiency Strategy. The current level of use is not sustainable because:

- Young people are placed 'at a distance' to their family, friends and familiar networks.
- These placements place a significant financial pressure on the Council.
- They have a significant impact on social work capacity due to the time spent by social workers visiting young people placed at a distance.

As a result, a strategic plan to review these placements has recently been re-launched with the aim of reducing these placements both in number and cost over the course of the coming financial year.

**Recommendations**

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of this report.
- 1.2 Members of the Panel are encouraged to promote the rewards of being a foster carer for Rotherham MBC.

**List of Appendices Included**

N/A

**Background Papers**

N/A

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

N/A

**Council Approval Required**

N/A

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

N/a

## **Title – Out of Authority Placements for Children in Care**

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of this report.
- 1.2 Members of the Panel are encouraged to promote the rewards of being a foster carer for Rotherham MBC.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 As of the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 there were 44 children in care placed in Out of Authority Children's Homes and 78 children in care placed with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) with one young person being placed on remand in a Youth Offender Institution. Thus 29% of the 425 children in care were not placed within Rotherham placements. This creates a significant pressure on both financial and personnel resources within the service. The recent closure of some of the children's homes within Rotherham has exacerbated this pressure.

### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Department for Education's research into achieving positive outcomes for children in care evidences that those children placed in children's homes are far less likely to achieve positive outcomes in terms of education, health and placement stability than their peers. Placement stability with a trusting and supportive adult has been identified as the key factor in the attainment of successful outcomes for young people. Out of the 47 children who have experienced three or more placement moves over the course of the past 12 months, 19 of them have had a placement disruption from an OoA Children's Home and 15 from an IFA. Therefore despite the additional costs these placements incur, there is no guarantee of placement stability.
- 3.2 In placing children outside of Rotherham Borough we have less control over how their needs are to be met. This includes access to appropriate education, health and dental checks and CAMHS provision.
- 3.3 Having reviewed the data, systems and processes the following strategies will be implemented with the aim of reducing both the numbers of children placed out of authority and the costs they carry with them :-
  - At present there are 19 young people aged 16 or 17 who remain placed in OoA placements. Historically these young people have drifted back to Rotherham as they approach adulthood and yet there has been no strategic proactive planning to support this process. As from April the Leaving Care and Children in Care Services will co-facilitate a newly formed Transitions Panel which will drive effective Pathway Planning for all children in care aged over 16. This cohort of 19 young people will be in the first tranche of plans that are reviewed

so as to ensure a timely and considered move to in-house or semi-supported accommodation provision.

- There are also 28 children aged 5-11 years who have been placed with their IFA foster carers for more than 12 months. Given the shortfall of in-house foster carers these young people are unlikely to move to in-house provision within the foreseeable future and thus face remaining in an IFA for the next 7-12 years. At an average cost of £750 per week this is a significant financial commitment of over £1m per year and the lack of formalised permanence for them is inappropriate. In each case the social worker will be tasked to instigate a conversation with the foster carers regarding the possibility of them agreeing to obtain a Special Guardianship Order in respect of the children for which an allowance equivalent to their current foster allowance could be paid. By eliminating the element of the fee paid to the agency the cost of each placement could be approximately halved. This process will also ensure permanence is achieved for these young people.

If the foster carers are not willing to apply for an Special Guardianship Order, permanence will be secured via a long-term match.

- The Residential Placement Panel and Fostering Placement Panel are effective in providing robust gatekeeping process for new placement requests and a review of the continuation of placements. Where a move of placement is not in the best interests of the young person the Panels will review and challenge any additional services from the placement provider including additional staffing, transport and therapeutic provision.
- This Panel is attended by a representative from the Children's Commissioning Group (Health). This will enable Rotherham MBC to highlight young people who should attract a contribution from Health.
- The high number of IFA placements is, in most cases, as a result of an absence of appropriate Rotherham foster placements. To address this the Council are considering/ implementing the following:
  - Introducing a revised foster carer remuneration scheme. This will enable the Council to be more competitive in attracting new carers and retaining our existing approved carers.
  - Re-launching the Local Hero Recruitment Campaign. This campaign when initially launched in November 2015 involved a new brand and marketing recruitment strategy with the emphasis on strengthening our Digital/Social Media Marketing Activities to support an increase in number of enquiries.
  - Re-structuring the fostering team to establish a new dedicated marketing recruitment team to improve customer response handling at point of enquiry through to approval to increase the percentage of Expression of Interest that move successfully through to full approval.

- Enhancing the links with the Communication Team for supporting Online & Offline marketing & recruitment activities.

A review of the Placement Finding Service to ensure it always identifies the right placement in a timely manner

- Improved care planning by the Children in Care social work teams in which tailor made packages of 'Team Around the Child' support are formulated should enable more of our young people to continue to have their needs met within Rotherham placements.

#### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

4.1 N/A

#### **5. Consultation**

5.1 N/A

#### **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

6.1 N/A

#### **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

7.1 Out of Authority placements are the most significant spend within the Children and Young People's Service. By the end of the current financial year the forecast spend will be £7.86m on Out of Authority Children's Homes and £5.42m on Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) making a total spend of £12.98m.

7.2 A total of 64 children are placed more than 20 miles from the Rotherham MBC boundary with children being placed as far afield as Carlisle, Northumberland, Hull, Portsmouth and London. With a requirement for social workers to visit young people on at least a 4 weekly basis the travelling times do place significant pressures on social work capacity which impacts on their ability to fulfil other responsibilities.

#### **8. Legal Implications**

8.1 N/A

#### **9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 N/A

**10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

10.1 Having more young people in our direct care is likely to improve their outcomes.

10.2 The views of young people will be taken into account before any placement episode is ended. Where it is the expressed wish of the young person to remain in a placement, they are likely to be sustained if they are being appropriately safeguarded and their welfare is promoted.

**11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

N/A

**12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

N/A

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

N/A

**14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Named officer

Director of Legal Services:- Named officer

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):-

*Name and Job Title.*

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>

**Summary Sheet**

**Council Report**

**Title**

Local Hero Fostering Recruitment Campaign

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jean Imray

**Report Author(s)**

Darren Johnson

**Ward(s) Affected**

All Wards Affected

**Summary**

**Recommendations**

**List of Appendices Included**

None

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

N/A

**Council Approval Required**

To endorse Local Hero Campaign and workstream activities for improving numbers of approved carers

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Title (Main Report)**

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel fully endorses and support the Local Hero Fostering & Recruitment Campaign and approach outlined in report.

### **2. Background**

2.1 On 11th November 2015, the Local Hero Campaign was successfully launched by Cllr Gordon Watson to support RMBC new fostering campaign strategy which was developed in response to:

- a gradual decline/reduction in fostering enquiries coinciding with the publication of the Jay Report
- net loss in fostering households believed at least in part to be caused by subsequent negative media attention over prolonged period
- the need to regionally re-position RMBC as the agency of choice when considering a career in fostering
- the need to identify creative solutions for promoting fostering and increasing numbers of new enquiries and approved carers

Since launch we have improved our online & offline processes, applying a variety of marketing methods to promote the campaign and target prospective foster carers in Rotherham and across neighbouring borough's. A Marketing & Recruitment Steering Group has now been established; the group meets on a monthly basis to oversee and co-ordinate the campaign and includes representation from our communication team. Main focus for the group during next six months is to:

- further generate interest/momentum on the back of November launch
- increase brand awareness through the Local Hero Campaign
- improve public perception regarding fostering in Rotherham
- provide effective co-ordination/delivery of online & offline activities
- increase our conversion rate from enquiries to approval

### 3. Key Issues

#### 3.1 Offline Activities & Super Output Areas

We have increased our promotional work in key areas identified as prime localities for targeted recruitment e.g. Thurcroft, Swinton, North Anston & Herringthorpe. Posters and leaflets have been distributed to Local Parishes, Schools, GP Surgeries, Libraries, Community/Leisure Centres; and the Local Hero campaign promoted in parish newsletters. An event calendar has been set up to enable us to track and engage in upcoming events throughout the year e.g. Swinton FC, Big Local, LGBT Rotherham, Rotherham Faith Leaders Council, and the Rotherham Town Hall Open Day.

Monthly Drop-ins have been organised to facilitate face to face discussions with members of the public interested in becoming foster carers. The Marketing & Recruitment Steering Group are planning a mini-campaign called “Fostering on The Move” capitalizing on the Local Hero marketing platform using a Routemaster Bus to promote Rotherham Fostering and engage local communities across the super-output areas. Foster carers have volunteered their time to support fostering across the four wards.

In addition to the local campaign work, we will be advertising fostering recruitment on 252,000 Pay & Display Parking Tickets and 109,000 Local Hero leaflets will be distributed with the next Annual Council Tax mail out. We have also secured bus shelter poster advertising in three of the super output areas.

The mini campaign initiatives and local engagement will be supported through our online activities e.g. council website, facebook/twitter social media platforms and through press & radio coverage.

#### **Online Activities**

The Steering Group looked at ways in which to improving online presence & increase public awareness. The marketing techniques identified as providing the most effective method for promoting our campaign were:

- HTML Banners/Sponsored Links
- Online Subscribers & Newsletters
- Google Re-targeting/Pay Per Click
- Social Media Platforms – Twitter/Facebook
- Radio/Local Press
- Electronic Bill Boards

### **HTML Publicity Banners**

HTML banners have been created to enable key partners to upload our Local Hero logo on business websites. There has been some take up and utilization of online promotional banners on key sites e.g. Rother FM, Rotherham Advertiser, Unison and Swinton AFC. We will continue to target partner agencies and increase take up of banners on multiple sites.

### **Online Subscribers & Newsletter**

We currently have 750 subscribers via council website who have at some point browsed our Local Hero micro site or have linked onto the main RMBC fostering site. Subscribers have since received further emails with promotional/marketing materials and the Steering Group have created an electronic newsletter & blog to engage subscribers and those interested in becoming carers.

### **Google Pay Per Click & Re-Targeting**

This method involves running banner ads which specifically targets members of the public who previously visited our Local Hero or main council website. Visitors who leave these sites will then see Rotherham Local Hero banner ads elsewhere as a “pop up” on their smartphone, laptop or desktop computer when initiating alternative web searches. We are currently trialling this method and a review will be undertaken later in the year to determine its success in increasing no’s of carers and whether we continue this approach as part of our recruitment strategy.

### **Social Media Platforms**

Both twitter, youtube and facebook accounts are maintained and kept updated by the Adoption & Fostering Marketing Officer. It is a powerful tool for promoting campaign messages and influencing/directing public interests towards our corporate website and marketing/recruitment events. The social media work informs & drives key activities set within the annual event calendar e.g drop-ins, open days, gala’s and fostering on the move.

### **Radio & Local Press**

We currently have rolling advertising on Rother FM publicising the Local Hero Campaign. We have weekly adverts in the local press for supporting online and offline recruitment.

### **Electronic Billboards**

We have commissioned eight weeks advertising space on the electronic billboard at Meadowhall Shopping Centre commencing March 2016. This is a prime location with significant passing trade enabling us to target prospective foster carers at peak shopping hours.

### Impact & Outcomes: November 2015 – January 2016

Since launching the Fostering Hero Campaign in November 2015 the fostering recruitment team have received 60 enquiries. There were previously 40 enquiries received during the corresponding 2014/15 period.

Sources of Information	Number of enquiries
Rotherham Hero website	12
RMBC website	9
Rotherham Advertiser/Dearne Valley Weekender and Rotherham Record	9
Google search	8
Word of mouth	8
Drop in sessions held at Riverside House	5
Facebook	2
Rother FM radio	1
Big Local community event	1
Rotherham Show	1
Previous enquiries	6
<b>The actual making of the 60 enquiries:</b>	
Direct contact	25
RMBC website enquiry form	18
Rotherham Hero website enquiry form	17

In addition, out of the 60 enquiries, 25 have come via direct contact (telephone or information events), 18 came through completing RMBC on-line enquiry forms and 17 via the Fostering Heroes site. So far 58% of all enquiries were generated online during this period.

The “Making of a Hero” video has had 637 views on YouTube and over 700 people, have logged onto the [www.rotherhamhero.co.uk](http://www.rotherhamhero.co.uk) website, to register for our monthly newsletter.

The period since the launch includes the Christmas and New Year holiday period and this is a notoriously slow time of year for recruitment however it is clear that the efforts made thus far must be further enhanced and the momentum then maintained.

#### 4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1 The recent increase in LAC population places additional pressures on limited resources. In the short term we will need to be both creative and resourceful in maximising our in-house provision as we continue to identify appropriate placement options for looked after children. The campaign is critical in enabling us to deliver against the sufficiency strategy and increase the numbers of available foster placements to cope with supply and demand.

The recruitment of foster carers is not just about numbers of new carers , it's also about ensuring we have sufficient numbers to replace households/ placements lost sometimes for positive reasons e.g. transition to staying put arrangement, conversion from short to long term placement, EPP/foster to adopt, retirement or in some cases negative reasons e.g. de-registration. We are currently projecting a loss of 13 placements at year end. Therefore consideration needs to be given concerning stretched targets to reflect both target set within the sufficiency plan and placements required to replace those lost in 2015/16.

Both IFA's and neighbouring authorities are facing recruitment challenges and seeking ways to increase their fostering pool. Anecdotally IFAs are finding Rotherham the most challenging borough in the region to recruit within. In order for RMBC to remain competitive, attract new carers away from our competitors and become the agency of choice, we are looking to review and recommend increases to current fostering rates/allowance to enable us to further develop the pool and significantly increase numbers of specialist placements for children with complex needs.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 There is ongoing dialogue/consultation with the Communication Team who provide technical expertise and input for informing direction of the campaign e.g. improving our impact via social media platform and work on twitter/facebook accounts.

## **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

6.1 There is a 3 year timetable linked to the sufficiency plan e.g. 20 placements per annum.

## **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

7.1 The original marketing & recruitment strategy outlined budget/expenditure costs for meeting targets set within the sufficiency plan. The introduction of stretched targets for carer recruitment and the review of fostering allowances will have future implications in terms of fostering budget. Detailed work is currently being undertaken with the finance team to inform costings and business case with the intention of managing future spend within agreed budget allocation.

**8. Legal Implications**

8.1 None

**9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 None

**10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

10.1 The marketing & recruitment campaign has significant implications in terms of our ability to ensure those recruited are able to meet the needs of Rotherham's children and successfully address requirements set out within the sufficiency plan for supporting children close to their local communities.

**11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 None

**12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

12.1 The Local Hero campaign will require ongoing high level engagement from the Communication Team to support this work and help us deliver against agreed targets.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 RMBC will have to counter any future negative publicity in coming years impacting on number of enquiries and new approvals. The Local Hero Campaign will need to be responsive and creative in applying online & offline marketing solutions for overcoming potential barriers to recruitment.

**14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Darren Johnson, Service Manager, CYPS, Adoption & Fostering

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Lead/Joanne Robertson (Finance) & Luke Ricketts (HR)

Director of Legal Services:- Lead/Robin Williams (Childcare Solicitor)

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- N/A

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>

# Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2016/17

Meeting date	Venue	Agenda item	Lead Officer	Papers circulated	Deadline for papers
<b>May</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Care Council agenda items</li> <li>• Children in Care Performance Report</li> <li>• Virtual School Annual Report</li> <li>• Ofsted Activity Report - Residential</li> <li>• Update on Independent Visitors / Advocacy Service</li> <li>• Reg 44 Summary Report</li> </ul>			
<b>July</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Care Council agenda items</li> <li>• Children in Care Performance Report</li> <li>• Children in Care Annual Health Report</li> <li>• Ofsted Activity Report - Residential</li> <li>• LAACT Emotional Wellbeing Report</li> <li>• Care Leavers Annual Report</li> </ul>			
<b>September</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Care Council agenda items</li> <li>• Children in Care Performance Report</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Training Report</li> <li>• Ofsted Summary Report - Residential</li> <li>• Fostering Annual Report</li> </ul>			

Meeting date	Venue	Agenda item	Lead Officer	Papers circulated	Deadline for papers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption Annual Report</li> </ul>			
<b>November</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Care Council agenda items</li> <li>• Children in Care Performance Report</li> <li>• Missing Children Annual Report</li> <li>• Reg 44 summary report</li> <li>• Ofsted Summary Report</li> <li>• IRO Annual Report</li> </ul>			
<b>January</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in care agenda items</li> <li>• Children in Care Performance Report</li> <li>• Ofsted Activity Report - Residential</li> <li>• GCSE/exam results overview</li> <li>• Children in Care Celebration Event report</li> </ul>			
<b>March</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Care Council agenda items</li> <li>• Children in Care Performance Report</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Panel Work Plan 17/18</li> <li>• Ofsted Activity Report – Residential</li> <li>• Sufficiency Strategy update</li> </ul>			