

## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

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

**Date:** Wednesday, 20th July, 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 of the previous meeting held on 7th June, 2016. (Pages 1 - 7)
6. Corporate Parenting Performance Report - April 2016. (Pages 8 - 26)
7. Rotherham Looked After Children's Council (LACC) - Corporate Parenting Panel - update report May - June 2016. (Pages 27 - 32)
8. Work programme 2016-2017. (Pages 33 - 36)
9. Date and time of the next meetings: -

Corporate Parenting Panel meeting dates for 2016/2017: -

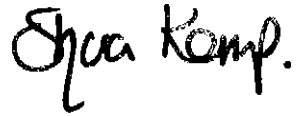
- 27th September;
- 29th November;
- 31st January;
- 28th March.

All 5.00 – 7.00 pm in the Rotherham Town Hall.

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

Councillors G. Watson (Deputy Leader and Children and Young People's Services Portfolio holder), M. Clark (Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission), V.

Cusworth (second representative of the Improving Lives Select Commission), M. Elliott (representative of the Opposition), S. Sansome (Elected Member) and J. Elliot (representative on the Fostering and Adoption Panels).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and a distinct 'K'.

Sharon Kemp,  
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**  
**Tuesday, 7th June, 2016**

Present:- Councillor Watson (in the Chair); Councillors Cusworth and Elliot, Simon (LACC), Abbie (LACC), Lisa DuValle (LACC), Peter Doyle (Consultant), Audra Muxlow (NHS), Collette Bailey (IYSS), Gary Pickles (CIC Service Lead), Rebecca Wall (Safeguarding Manager), Andy Jessop (Primary Headteacher), Ashlea Harvey (Young Inspectors Manager), Sue Wilson (Performance and Quality Manager), Brett Lumley (Residential Care), Emma Darby (Foster Carer Representative), Anne-Marie Banks (Fostering), Lorraine Dale (Virtual Headteacher).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elliott and Sansome.

**D1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

No Declarations of Interest were raised.

**D2. ROTHERHAM LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL (LACC) - CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - UPDATE REPORT MAY - JUNE 2016.**

Councillor Watson welcomed Abbie and Simon, along with Lisa DuValle, representatives of the Looked After Children Council, to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Gary Pickles commended the Looked After Children Council for their continuing output and quality work. The undertakings of the LACC between January and June of 2016 had really been phenomenal. Gary wished to record his thanks to all members of the LACC, and their support workers, for their contributions.

Simon, Treasurer for the LACC, spoke about the Council's voice and influence work on behalf of all looked after children and young people (LAC). The LACC regularly consulted with all LAC on a wide range of things relating to being looked after and being a young person generally.

Simon was concerned to report that the LAC had yet to receive confirmation of their yearly budget as at June 2016. The start of the financial year had been April, 2016. This had the consequence of making it hard to plan meetings and activities for the year ahead. It also made recruiting for new members hard as they would not get an accurate reflection of the LACC and may think that the Council was all work.

Other Children in Care Councils with less looked after children and young people than Rotherham had a bigger budget, meaning that they could do more and meet more. For example, North Lincolnshire had half the number of LAC and yet spent £100k on transport for LAC, including transport to and from meetings. There was no budget for LAC transport to the LACC in Rotherham, which was a real barrier to participation. As

Treasurer Simon asked for confirmation of budget so that the LACC could continue with their important voice and influence work.

Abbie explained the LACC's peer consultation. The Council had devised an innovative and unique questionnaire and had reported on the findings to the Strategic Director with the aim of improving services for children in care.

Rotherham's LACC had been found to be unique and robust in the region for its excellent practice. The annual questionnaire used different questions each year in order to be relevant and the LACC thought carefully when writing the questions.

The Rotherham LACC had created a 'What to Expect LAC and Leaving Care Group'. It was currently available for ages 12-23, but this age range was very wide and it would be good to hold different groups for the 12-23 age-group to be able to differentiate. It would also be good to hold a group for LAC aged from 7 upwards.

Simon and Abbie were asked how the LACC kept in touch with Rotherham looked after young people who were in placements outside of the Borough. They explained the use of the 'Have your say forms', the role of virtual members and social worker links.

Brent Lumley asked whether he could approach the LACC for their views on residential care. Simon and Abbie were receptive to this and asked for Brent to come and meet them. They did refer to the LACC's busy meeting schedule and emphasise the need to plan meetings ahead.

Collette Bailey provided a history of funding for LACC work in Rotherham. Work was required to consider the Council's key objectives and core business.

Simon, Abbie and Lisa were thanked for their attendance, informative presentations and contribution to the discussion.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

### **D3. REVIEW OF ROTHERHAM VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN.**

Peter Doyle was welcomed to the meeting to present his review on Rotherham's Virtual School for Looked After Children. He provided some background information about his career working as a Teacher, Headteacher and Virtual Headteacher.

Peter's presentation covered: -

- Background of Rotherham's Virtual Headteacher;
- The review was undertaken between January – March, 2016. The

Virtual School was in early days in its current format; it had been operating for two school terms;

- Most in-depth review that has been conducted. Met all staff, checked a range of documents, questionnaire responses, foster carers, social workers and IROs.

Strengths of the Virtual School: -

- Staff enthusiastic, experienced and there was a good balance between early years and post- 16;
- Interventionist model had developed to become a challenge and support model – this was a positive move;
- Personal Education Plans – improved markedly with a 97% completion rate;
- Online PEP management and efficient allocation of Pupil Premium Plus funding – very positive;
- Capturing and using data;
- No permanent exclusions.

Areas for development: -

- Job descriptions need to be more specific;
- Budget – core budget is needed, which must be monitored regularly;
- Withdrawal of funding mid-financial year;
- Needed to plan what is happening in the service;
- Attendance and exclusions data is currently unreliable;
- Exclusions – no first day cover. Work sent home – increases pressure for foster carers and safeguarding concerns;
- Pupil Premium Plus applications needed to increase and an analysis of impact needed to be developed;
- Support for the emotional wellbeing and mental health of LAC needs to improve. Educational Psychologist support for LAC needed to be prioritised and it needed to be prioritised with schools;
- Capacity issues - attending meetings, training of designated teachers and network meetings. Specifically in Year 11 and post-16. Administration and IT support is needed to ensure that foster carers can be used to access their child's online PEP;
- Virtual School Governing Body is needed;
- Profile of the Virtual School needed to improve. Networking, training events, Headteacher consortia meetings;
- 88% of Designated Teachers said the Virtual School provided effective support to them;
- 90% of Social Workers agreed;
- 74% of foster carers said that the Virtual School provided effective support to them.

Peter had been asked to commit to a return visit in January, 2017, to

monitor progress.

Foster carers have always been due to have access to the system to access their child's PEP. Lorraine explained that a capacity issue had hampered getting all on stream. From the end of this academic year, all foster carers should have read-only access. Majority of foster carers have accessed on-line training.

Would a foster carer's access always exist? No, only as long as the child was placed with them. Pupil Premium Plus is an issue.

Exclusions issues were discussed including accessing the PRU system and a joint approach around emotional health and wellbeing.

Councillor Watson thanked Peter for his report. He was reassured from the content and looked forward to an update in early 2017.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

#### **D4. 2015/2016 YEAR END PERFORMANCE - CORPORATE PARENTING.**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Sue Wilson relating to the 2015/2016 year end performance, including the month of March, 2016.

The report covered areas of good and improved performance and commentary on the areas for further improvements.

Analysis of childrens' Plans had been a focus for the Strategic Director for Childrens' Services since he started in his role and these were managed on a weekly basis.

Every looked after child had a visit in-line with national standards. and Rotherham's local standards were above the national expectation.

There were 432 LAC as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016. 76.6 of each 10,000 of population are children in care.

Edge of care work: - children potentially coming into care have support packages implemented to try to prevent this. All through the age groups will be supported. If children needed to be looked after they would remain LAC.

Placement stability is monitored – making sure the placement is correct and stable.

Health warning on health and dental – some definitions differed between the two agencies.

PEPs – previous item highlighted how rigorous these are.

SHOPFA – 2013/2014 – average of 661 days between LAC and placed for adoption. Now 338 days as per 2014/2015.

315 days in 2013/2014 to 137 days in 2014/2015.

Councillor Elliot asked how foster to adopt figures were handled?

Sue explained that the figures were worked out in an 'end-to-end' method. Impact and continuity for the child is improved. Packages are already in place, so this helps timeliness.

Councillor Elliot asked about breakdowns in adoptive placements.

This is monitored.

Audra asked about the age-profile and thematic analysis of children taken into care?

This is reported weekly within the internal monitoring scorecards.

60% of children coming into care were between 0-11 years old. Changing picture – 15-17 year olds were currently the most represented group. Large sibling groups were a factor in Rotherham's LAC population.

Agreed: - That the information presented be noted.

#### **D5. HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ANNUAL REPORT.**

Audra Muxlow presented the Health of Looked After Children and Young People Annual Report. She described it as a mixed and challenging picture. Activity had almost doubled over the past two years and additional capacity to meet the appointments was required at the point when children and young people became looked after.

Review Health Assessment – consistently achieving more than 99%. Exception reports predominately down to young people's choice of not wanting to attend at that particular time.

Immunisation and vaccination update for LAC – 83.6% compared to a larger Borough wide attendance. Dental visits are also low. Oral health is a long-term predictor of public health, particularly that within the teenage years.

Work was underway on a joint protocol for notifying when children were brought into care.

CQC Safeguarding Team visit – Spring 2015. Happy with arrangements as a Service. Smart Action Plans were recommended, to include the

voice of the child. Audit completed and submitted to partner agencies and school nursing service.

Improve experience of children accessing the services – records had flags notifying who were LAC. This aimed to encourage holistic support of children by practitioners and avoid duplication of children having to give their stories and experiences multiple times.

Work on voice and influence with the LAC Council.

Aspirations for the Service: -

- IROs had not seen the health passports yet. This started to be used in December, 2015, in the Leaving Care Assessments that had taken place;
- Feedback taken from LAC on the dataset in the Passports to minimise any potential stigma;
- PEPs for 0-2 year olds were required. Currently working on the up to 18 PEPs. Need to include health links;
- Commissioning process undertaken in relation to school nursing. If this went to an outside agency, the Rotherham Service may end up being rated on service not delivering.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

#### **D6. ROTHERHAM'S RIGHT 2 RIGHTS SERVICE.**

Rebecca Wall presented an update on the Right2Rights Service.

She informed the Corporate Parenting Panel: -

- There had been agreement to a significant Right2Rights staffing increase;
- Advocacy – legally required to do;
- Independent visitor – was not statutory, but was provided if requested;
- Number of ongoing advocacy referrals. Negotiation of issues between young people and their social workers;
- Vulnerable children transitioning to adult services. Transition offer being assessed for future improvements;
- Younger age-group service was being considered and developed;
- Number of independent visitors needed to be a focus. The role was unpaid but volunteers did get expenses. A two-year commitment was requested and the Service promoted fortnightly visiting. There had been a drop in the number of volunteers coming forward for training. The Service needed to recruit more to match more.

The Improving Lives Select Commission as due to look at the transition



issues, in particular the different thresholds between Children and Adult Services.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

**D7. OFSTED ACTIVITY REPORT - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES.**

Brent Lumley presented a report that outlined recent Ofsted activity in Rotherham's Residential Children Homes.

- Silverwood – risk assessments, safeguarding issues. Focus on consultation;
- Cherry Tree – additional resources, enhanced management visits. Focus on consultation;
- Liberty House – positive feedback from parents about service quality. Ofsted found it to be Good in January. Interim visit in March found sustained effectiveness. Aspiring to be Outstanding.

Agreed: - That the information shared be noted.

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**Council Report** Corporate Parenting Panel – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Title** Corporate Parenting Performance Report – April 2016

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

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

- Mel Meggs (Deputy Strategic Director)

**Report Author(s)**

- Deborah Johnson (Performance Assurance Manager)
- Sue Wilson (Head of Service, Performance & Planning)

**Ward(s) Affected** All

**Summary**

This report provides a summary of performance in relation to services for Looked After Children (and is a subset of the broader Children's Social Care Services performance report) at the end of April 2016. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.

**Recommendations**

- That the Corporate Parenting Panel receive the report and accompanying dataset and consider and comment on any issues arising

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix A – Corporate Parenting Performance Report (April 2016)

**Background Papers**

*none*

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

**None**

**Council Approval Required**      No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**      No

**Title** Corporate Parenting Performance Report – April 2016

## **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Corporate Parenting Panel receive the report and accompanying dataset and consider and comment on any issues arising

## **2. Background**

- 2.1. This report provides a summary of performance under key themes for services for looked after children at the end of the April 2016 and is a subset of the Children's Social Care Services report. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 2.2. Targets, including associated 'RAG' (red, amber, green rating) tolerances, were introduced in September 2015 against appropriate measures. These have been set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, recent performance levels and, importantly, the known improvement journey.

## **3. Key Issues**

### **3.1. Key Performance Headlines**

The table in 3.1.1 highlights some of the achievements in relation to services for looked after children and areas for further improvement. The Head of Service, Children in Care is working with the service to ensure that improvements are made, not only to performance but to ensure sustained improvements in the quality of the provision.

3.1.1. Table 1: 2015/16 highlights

<b>Good &amp; improved performance in the last 12 months</b>	<b>Areas for further Improvement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caseloads continue to be consistently at manageable levels for workers across the service.</li> <li>▪ Although further improvement work is needed on Health and Dental assessments, performance for April 2016 for Health Assessments was 90.9% and Dental was 90.5% which for Dental is a further improvement since last month.</li> <li>▪ In April 99% of Looked After Children had their review undertaken in timescale.</li> <li>▪ 99% of eligible looked after children have a pathway plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is a shortage of adopters which is impacting on the number of completed adoptions, with 2 taking place in April.</li> <li>▪ Although Looked After Children (LAC) visits against local standards was 77.2% in April this does not reach the local target of 90%. Performance against national minimum standards for April was good at 97.7%.</li> <li>▪ The number of looked after children (LAC) who have had three or more placement moves is still far too high. Although the percentages are in line with national averages, the numbers are inconsistent with the aspirations for all children in care to benefit from a stable placement.</li> <li>▪ There are too many care leavers who are not yet engaged in education, employment or training so there will be renewed focus on this over the next 12 months.</li> <li>▪ Audits show that the quality of practice for looked after children needs to improve.</li> </ul>

3.2. Plans

3.2.1. The rate of Looked After Children (LAC) with plans has been consistently good. In April 96% of LAC had an upto date plan. Pathway plans have continued to improve with 99% of eligible LAC having a pathway plan.

3.2.2. It is well understood that the quality of plans is crucial in terms of securing good outcomes for children and this will continue to be the focus of the 'Beyond Auditing' work that is underway across the localities. The new LAC management team in the Children in Care service is renewing the focus on both the completion of plans and their quality. All exceptions are reviewed at least a fortnightly basis by senior managers and more frequently by operational managers to understand, at an individual child level, the reasons for any absence of a plan to enable appropriate action. Work is underway to make the children in care plans more young person friendly and this work will be undertaken in consultation with children and young people.

### 3.3. Visits

- 3.3.1. Improvements in visiting rates also clearly demonstrate the effectiveness of the weekly performance management processes.
- 3.3.2. In relation to children in care, performance in relation to LAC visits within the National Minimum Standards has improved with 97.7% being visited in April. This improvement needs to continue as this is still not considered good enough so it will remain an area of focus and sustained management attention. It is worth noting that there are some children in care who, due to their individual needs, are visited more frequently than the Rotherham local standard.
- 3.3.3. Each week, any child who does not have an up-to-date visit, is examined on an individual basis to ensure that they have been visited and to ensure the reason for the lateness is understood and to take appropriate remedial action where necessary.

### 3.4. Looked After Children (also known as children in care)

- 3.4.1. At the end of April there were 437 children in care which equates to 77.5 per 10,000 population. Although this still places us broadly in line with statistical neighbours we are far higher than the national average and there is an upward trajectory as admissions to care have increased.
- 3.4.2. 'Edge of care' arrangements need to be strengthened over time to prevent the need for children to come into care and developing this service forms a key strand of the Children In Care Sufficiency 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 has now commenced to develop a service specifically to work with this group. The use of Family Group Conferences is being explored to ensure that we can utilise any opportunities for children to remain within their families.
- 3.4.3. Of the eligible children in care 99% ( 95 out of 96) LAC had their reviews completed in time in April. The reasons for any late reviews are fed back to managers and action taken to address any practice issues.

### 3.5. Looked After Children - Placement Stability

- 3.5.1. At the end of April, 72.5% ( 103 out of 142) long term LAC have been in the same placement for at least two years. This placement stability is better than the national average of 67% however it is important to be confident that what appears to be stability is not in fact masking drift in planning for children. The sufficiency strategy identifies that there are too many children placed in residential care, work is underway to address this.
- 3.5.2. 11.6% ( 51 out of 439) LAC have been in three or more placements in the last 12 months, this is broadly in line with national average of 11.0%.

- 3.5.3. Although placement stability measures compare well against statistical neighbours and national averages, performance in relation to children who have had 3 or more placement moves in a year is still of concern and in particular in relation to the numbers of children in care who have had missing episodes which count against this indicator. All children who have been missing or who are identified as being in 'unstable' placements are now subject to particular focus by way of regular 'Team Around the Placement' meetings. In the future they will also be considered as 'exceptions' in the fortnightly performance meetings. There remains much to do in order to strengthen the quality of practice in the children in care service across the board.

3.6. Looked After Children – Health & Dental

- 3.6.1. Performance in relation to health and dental assessments was very poor in previous years and has been the focus of concerted joint effort resulting in improvement in the last 12 months. In April performance was 90.9% Health Assessments and 90.5% for Dental Assessments.
- 3.6.2. Work is now underway to ensure that initial health assessments are undertaken routinely, this was a piece of work that the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board have been involved in, at the end of March 2016 10.2% of initial health assessments had been undertaken.
- 3.6.3. Quality Assurance processes of assessments within Health, following completion, can create time lags between the assessment occurring and showing on the system as complete but is underway with health colleagues to reduce this.
- 3.6.4. From child level reviews of exceptions it is known that, in the main, those not having health or dental checks are the older young people who are recorded as 'refusers'. This is now being actively explored with health colleagues, regarding how the reviews can be promoted as something useful and young person friendly. Encouragement will be focused with young people on the things that interest most young people such as weight, hair and skin as well as other aspects of health.

3.7. Looked After Children – Personal Education Plans

- 3.7.1. Previously, education of Looked After Children was supported by The Get Real Team. This team ceased to exist from the 1st of April 2015 and was replaced by a new Virtual School. The completion of the Personal Education Plan (PEP) moved to an E-PEP system in September 2015 (start of Autumn term). A revised PEP process is now in place with termly PEPs attended by a minimum of school, social worker and virtual school as well as LAC, carers, and other professionals. Extensive training has been provided to professionals on SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-scaled) targets for PEPs to improve effectiveness in driving outcomes. A rigorous quality assurance (QA) process is in place with evidence of quality of PEPs improving. There is also an increase in the number of PEPs reflecting Pupil Voice. Prior to

September 2015 PEPs were in place for compulsory school-age children only. PEPs are now in place for LAC aged 2 to 18th birthday.

- 3.7.2. In April 95.1% ( 274 out of 288) LAC who are eligible for a PEP had in one place. 90.3% ( 260 out of 288) had an upto date PEP. The virtual head continues to monitor this position.

### 3.8. Care Leavers

- 3.8.1. The number of care leavers is relatively stable throughout the year at between 190 and 200 young people. At the end of April this was 192.
- 3.8.2. 97.9% of young people are in suitable accommodation. It is understood that more needs to be done to enhance the quality of the accommodation available as well as increasing the range of choices for young people. The Service Managers and Head of Service are working with commissioning colleagues to ensure that action is taken to ensure the best provision is available to Rotherham young people and increased planning will take place via a 16+ accommodation panel.
- 3.8.3. 68.9% of young people are in education employment or training, above the national average (45%) but this is still very disappointing in terms of the aspirations for Rotherham young people. Work is underway to strengthen the offer to care leavers generally and tackling the need to support young people to be engaged in further education, training or employment will be given priority.

### 3.9. Adoptions

- 3.9.1. Performance each month can vary significantly given the size of the cohort which is always very small. There have been 2 adoptions in April.
- 3.9.2. Given the small numbers it is most useful to look at a rolling 12 months than a month snapshot. The new national measures relating to days between 'becoming LAC and adoption placement (A1)' and 'days between placement order and match with the adoptive family (A2)' demonstrate an improving trend over the last 3 years. In respect of A1 we are better than the government benchmark at 362.5 days at the end of April. Similarly for measure A2 was 145.5 days at the end of April; however the government benchmark has not been met.
- 3.9.3. In April only 1 out of the 2 children adopted had the order made within 12 months of the 'should be adopted decision'.



3.10. Additional measures to be monitored

3.10.1. As part of the development of the Children in Care Strategy additional measures will be reported in the Corporate Parenting Panel Performance Report which will provide elected members as corporate parents additional assurance about the performance of a wider range of services for looked after children, examples of which include performance around:

- Effective care planning
- Placement stability and range of high quality placement provision
- Health issues of children and young people in care
- Educational attainment and achievement
- Being part of a community

**4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

4.1. The full corporate parenting performance report attached at Appendix A represents a summary of performance across a range of key national and local indicators with detailed commentary provided by the service.

**5. Consultation**

5.1. Not applicable

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

6.1. Not applicable

**7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

7.1. There are no direct financial implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Budget Holder will identify any implications arising from associated improvement actions and members will be consulted where appropriate.

**8. Legal Implications**

8.1. There are no direct legal implications to this report.

**9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1. There are no direct human resource implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Managers will identify any implications arising from associated improvement actions and members will be consulted where appropriate.

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

- 10.1. The performance report relates to services for looked after children and young people.

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

- 11.1. There are no direct implications within this report

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

- 12.1. Partners and other directorates are engaged in improving the performance and quality of services to children, young people and their families via the Rotherham Local Children's Safeguarding Board (RLSCB). The RLSCB Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group receive this performance report on a regular basis.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1. Inability and lack of engagement in performance management arrangements by managers and staff could lead to poor and deteriorating services for children and young people. Strong management oversight by Directorship Leadership Team and the ongoing weekly performance meetings mitigate this risk by holding managers and workers to account for any dips in performance both at a team and at an individual child level.

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

Mel Meggs, Deputy Strategic Director of CYPS  
Mel.meggs@rotherham.gov.uk

Gary Pickles, Head of Service, Children in Care,  
Gary.pickles@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- N/A

Director of Legal Services:- N/A

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

*Name and Job Title.*

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# Safeguarding Children & Families Monthly Performance Report

## As at Month End: April 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:** 16/05/2016

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

# Performance Summary

As at Month End: April 2016

"DOT" - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' since the previous month with reference to the polarity of 'good' performance for that measure. Colours have been added to help distinguish better and worse performance. Key Below:-

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| ↑ - increase in numbers (no good/bad performance)    | ↑ - improvement in performance                               | → - no movement but within limits of target |
| → - stable with last month (no good/bad performance) | → - decline in performance but still within limits of target | → - no movement, not on target              |
| ↓ - decrease in numbers (no good/bad performance)    | ↓ - decline in performance, not on target                    |   |

	NO.	INDICATOR	GOOD PERF IS	DATA NOTE (Monthly)	LAST 3 MONTHS (2015/16)			2016/17		DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND			LATEST BENCHMARKING - 2014/15			
					Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	YTD			Red	Amber	Target Green	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	STAT NEIGH AVE	STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOLD
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	6.1	Number of Looked After Children	Info	Count	430	422	432	437		↑				n/a		407	432				
	6.2	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18	Info	Rate per 10,000	76.2	74.8	76.6	77.5		↑		more than +5	+/-5	up to +/-2 of 73.5	70	70	76.6	73.4	49.0	60.0	-
	6.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Info	Count	10	19	20	16	16	Financial Year	↓			n/a	147	175	208				
	6.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	15	9	13	10	10	Financial Year	↓			n/a	136	160	192				
	6.5	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Adoption)	High	Percentage	53.3%	66.7%	46.2%	40.0%	40.0%	Financial Year	↓			n/a	40.4%	37.5%	40.1%				
	6.6	LAC cases reviewed within timescales	High	Percentage	89.2%	98.3%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	Financial Year	→			n/a	98.6%	94.9%	83.3%				
	6.7	Percentage of children adopted	High	Percentage	13.3%	22.2%	30.8%	20.0%	20.0%	Financial Year	↓			n/a	26.5%	26.3%	22.9%	25.1%	35.0%	17.0%	37.0%
	6.8	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments	High	Percentage	93.8%	93.1%	92.8%	90.9%		↓				n/a	82.7%	81.4%	92.8%				
	6.9	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	High	Percentage	93.2%	95.8%	94.5%	90.5%		↓				n/a	42.5%	58.8%	94.5%				
	6.10	% of LAC with a PEP	High	Percentage		96.7%	97.8%	95.1%		↓				n/a	65.7%	68.7%	97.8%				
	6.11	% of LAC with up to date PEPs	High	Percentage	90.7%	92.8%	96.0%	90.3%		↓				n/a	72.9%	71.4%	95.0%				
	6.12	% of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	High	Percentage	98.6%	97.7%	98.4%	96.0%		↓				n/a	67.0%	98.8%	98.4%				
	6.13	% of completed LAC visits which were completed within timescale - National Minimum standard	High	Percentage	96.8%	95.3%	98.1%	97.7%		↓				n/a	94.9%	98.1%					
	6.14	% of completed LAC visits which were completed within timescale - Rotherham standard	High	Percentage	80.2%	77.8%	80.2%	77.2%		↓				n/a	64.0%	80.2%					
CARE LEAVERS	7.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	198	196	197	192		↓				n/a		183	197				
	7.2	% of eligible LAC with an up to date pathway plan	High	Percentage	93.9%	95.9%	97.5%	99.0%		↑				n/a	69.8%	97.5%					
	7.3	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	98.5%	96.4%	96.5%	97.9%		↑				n/a	96.3%	97.8%	96.5%	74.2%	100.0%	77.8%	90.0%
	7.4	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	High	Percentage	63.1%	65.8%	68.0%	68.9%		↑				n/a	52.3%	71.0%	68.0%	40.8%	65.0%	45.0%	55.8%
PLACEMENTS	8.1	% of long term LAC in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years	High	Percentage	74.5%	72.5%	72.7%	72.5%		↓				n/a	68.8%	71.9%	72.7%	67.6%	79.0%	67.0%	71.1%
	8.2	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	Low	Percentage	11.3%	12.1%	11.9%	11.6%		↑				n/a	11.2%	12.0%	11.9%	9.6%	7.0%	11.0%	9.0%
ADOPTIONS	9.1	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	100.0%	100.0%	80.0%	50.0%	50.0%	Financial Year	↓	YTD		n/a	55.6%	84.6%	53.5%				
	9.2	Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A1) (Rolling 12 months)	Low	Rolling year - ave count	368	348.4	338.4	362.5	362.5	Rolling Year	↓	YTD		n/a	661	417.5	338.5	507.3	328.0	525.0	468.0
	9.3	Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2) (Rolling 12 months)	Low	Rolling year - ave count	159.5	141.7	137.9	145.5	145.5	Rolling Year	↓	YTD		n/a	315	177.3	137.9	217.1	45.0	217.0	163.0

## PLANS - IN DATE

### DEFINITION

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. It is well understood that the quality of plans is crucial in terms of securing good outcomes for children and this will continue to be the focus of the 'Beyond Auditing' work that is underway across the services.

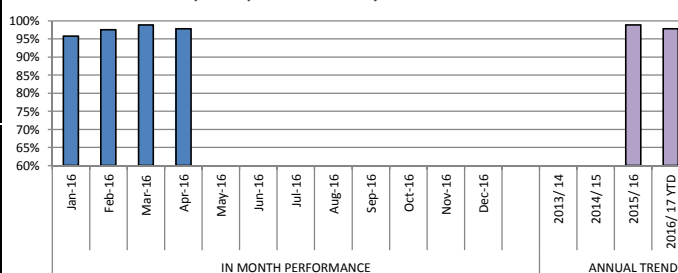
The new management team in the Children in Care (LAC) service is renewing the focus on both the completion of plans and their quality. All exceptions are reviewed on at least a fortnightly basis by senior managers and more frequently by operational managers. exceptions now tend to be about delay in inputting rather than absence of a plan. Work is under way to make the children in care plans more young person friendly and this work will be undertaken in consultation with children and young people. The Beyond Auditing programme is starting in the children in care teams later during May and quality of plans will be a particular focus.

		4.4	4.5	5.13	6.12	7.2
		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	Jan-16	95.8%	93.3%	98.9%	98.6%	93.9%
	Feb-16	97.6%	94.6%	98.5%	97.7%	95.9%
	Mar-16	98.9%	98.6%	100.0%	98.4%	97.5%
	Apr-16	97.8%	96.7%	99.4%	96.0%	99.0%
	May-16					
	Jun-16					
	Jul-16					
	Aug-16					
	Sep-16					
	Oct-16					
	Nov-16					
	Dec-16					

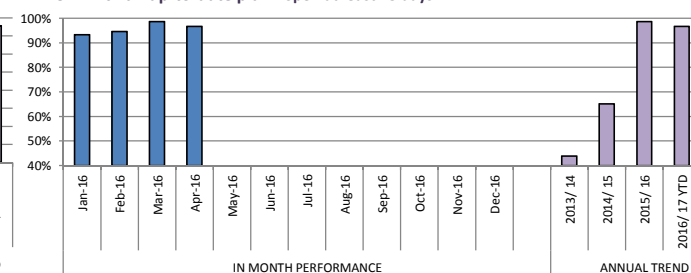
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14		43.8%	82.8%	67.0%	
	2014/ 15		65.1%	97.6%	98.8%	69.8%
	2015/ 16	98.9%	98.6%	100.0%	98.4%	97.5%
	2016/ 17 YTD	97.8%	96.7%	99.4%	96.0%	99.0%

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE					
	BEST SN					
	NAT AVE					
	NAT TOP QTILE					

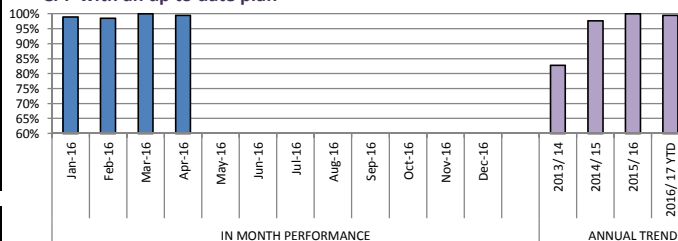
CIN with a recorded plan - open at least 45 days



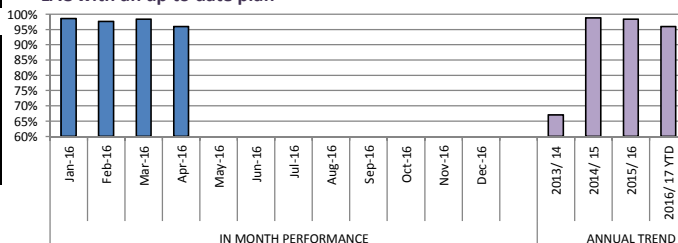
CIN with an up-to-date plan - open at least 45 days



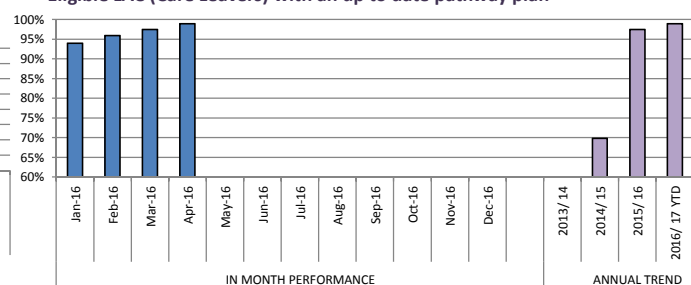
CPP with an up to date plan



LAC with an up to date plan



Eligible LAC (Care Leavers) with an up to date pathway plan



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

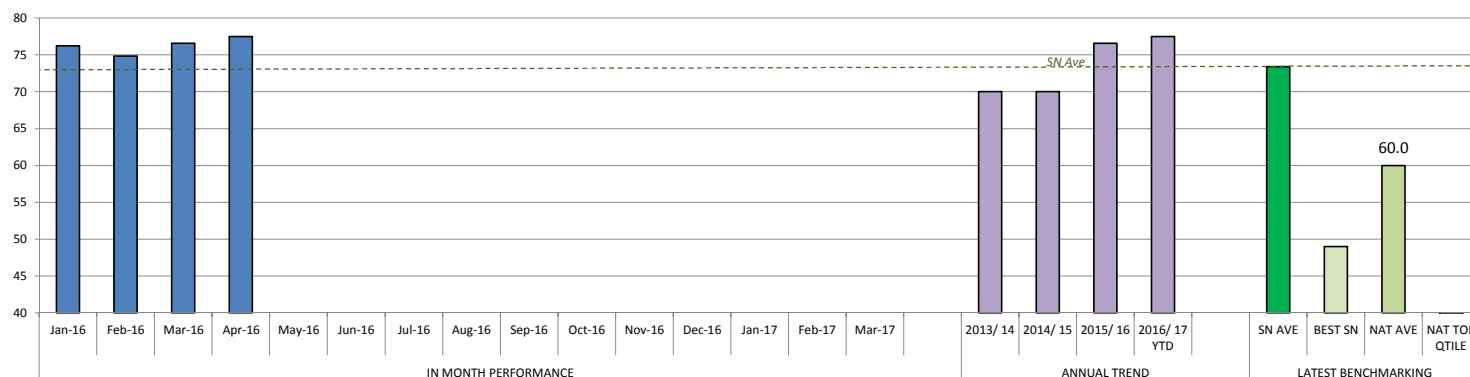
**DEFINITION** Children in care or 'looked after children' are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority. This can happen voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

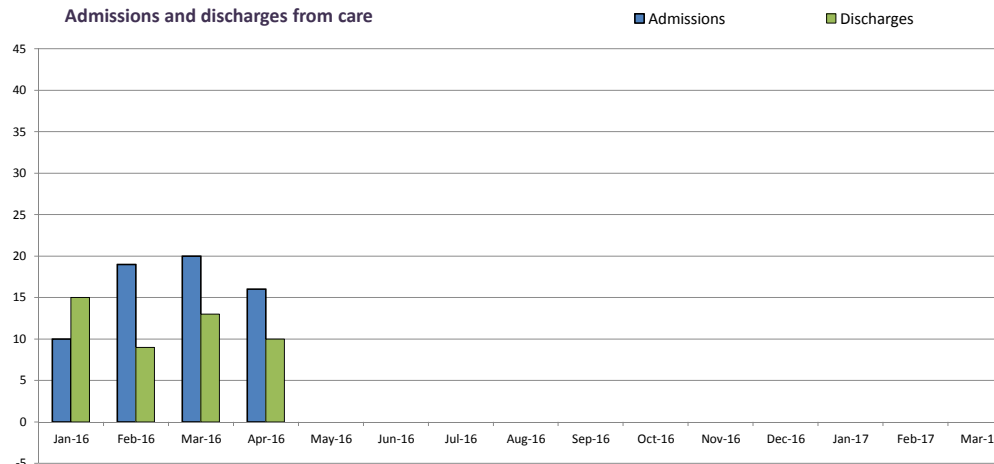
Admissions to care have been rising recently. We have had one or two large sibling groups and a number of babies born where proceedings have had to be issued at birth. 'Edge of care' arrangements need to be strengthened over time to prevent the need for children to come into care and developing this service forms a key strand of the Children in Care Sufficiency 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. It is not unusual for numbers of LAC in an authority in intervention to rise as action is taken to address cases which have been drifting previously. The rise in the numbers of care proceedings in Rotherham is testimony to this happening locally. There is nothing coming back from the courts to suggest that any children are being brought before them unnecessarily. Over the next 12 months it would be expected for the position to plateau and then start to reduce gradually.

		6.2	6.1	6.3	6.4
		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	Jan-16	76.2	430	10	15
	Feb-16	74.8	422	19	9
	Mar-16	76.6	432	20	13
	Apr-16	77.5	437	16	10
	May-16				
	Jun-16				
	Jul-16				
	Aug-16				
	Sep-16				
	Oct-16				
	Nov-16				
	Dec-16				
	Jan-17				
	Feb-17				
	Mar-17				
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14	70.0		147	136
	2014/ 15	70.0		175	160
	2015/ 16	76.6	432	208	192
	2016/ 17 YTD	77.5	437	16	10
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	73.4			
	BEST SN	49.0			
	NAT AVE	60.0			
	NAT TOP Q TILE	-			

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



Admissions and discharges from care



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PLACEMENTS

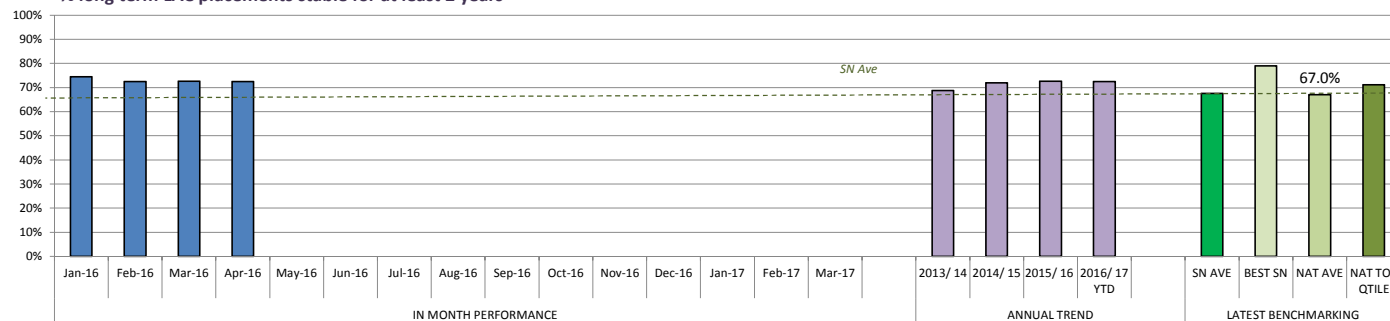
**DEFINITION** A LAC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (LAC) and is placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

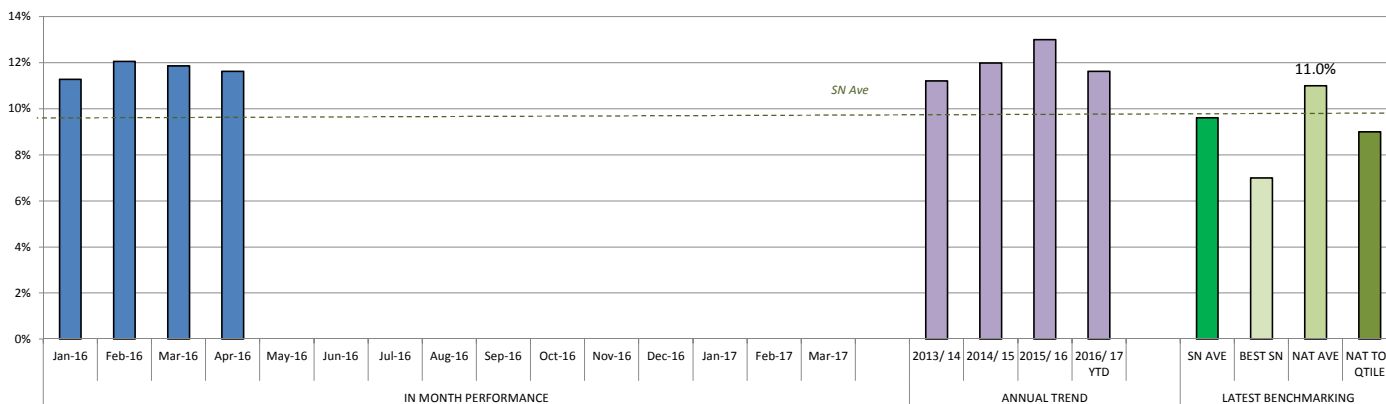
The performance in relation to children who have had 3 or more placement moves in a year is of concern particularly in relation to the numbers of children in care who have missing episodes which count against this indicator. All children who have been missing or who are identified as being in 'unstable' placements are now subject to particular focus by way of regular 'Team Around the Placement' meetings. In future they will also be considered as 'exceptions' in the fortnightly performance meetings. Officers must watch the numbers in this cohort as the percentage may appear to improve as the overall numbers of children in care increases. There remains much to do in order to strengthen the quality of practice in the children in care service across the board. In addition the 'Beyond Auditing' programme which begins in the children in care service in May is going to pay particular attention to the children in this cohort. There is good progress being made in reducing the numbers of children placed in residential care. While the change for them signifies a disruption they are only being moved if the new arrangement is demonstrably in their best long term interests.

		8.1		8.2	
		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
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-16	108 of 145	74.5%	47 of 417	11.3%
	Feb-16	108 of 149	72.5%	51 of 423	12.1%
	Mar-16	109 of 150	72.7%	51 of 430	11.9%
	Apr-16	103 of 142	72.5%	51 of 439	11.6%
	May-16				
	Jun-16				
	Jul-16				
	Aug-16				
	Sep-16				
	Oct-16				
	Nov-16				
	Dec-16				
	Jan-17				
	Feb-17				
	Mar-17				
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14	108 of 157	68.8%	44 of 393	11.2%
	2014/ 15	110 of 153	71.9%	49 of 409	12.0%
	2015/ 16	109 of 150	72.7%	56 of 431	13.0%
	2016/ 17 YTD	103 of 142	72.5%	51 of 439	11.6%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		67.6%		9.6%
	BEST SN		79.0%		7.0%
	NAT AVE		67.0%		11.0%
	NAT TOP QTILE		71.1%		9.0%

% 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)

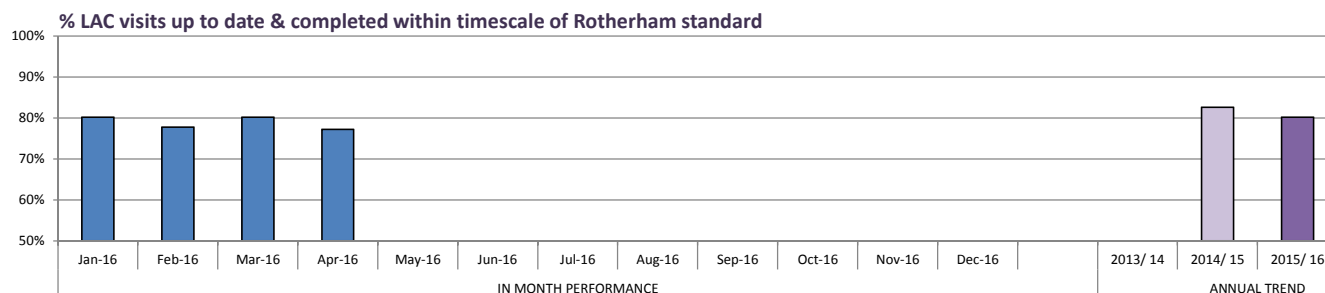
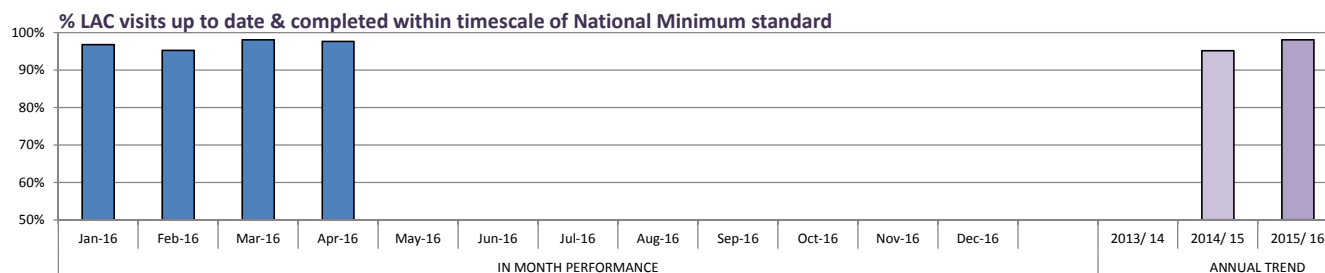
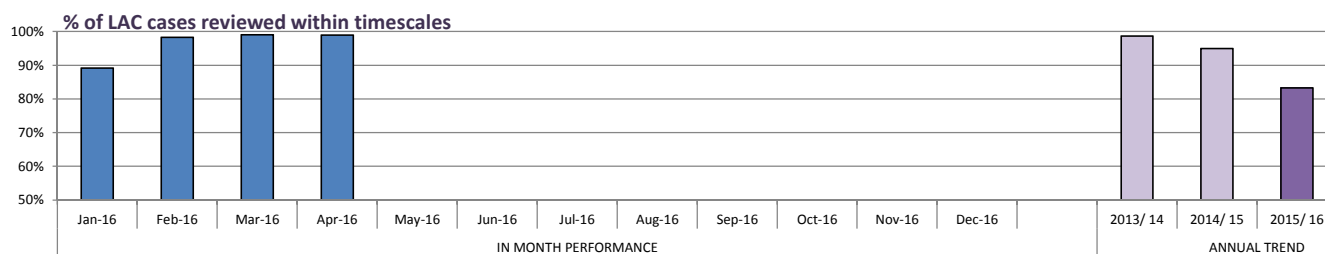
The LA is also responsible for appointing a representative to visit the child wherever he or she is living to ensure that his/her welfare continues to be safeguarded and promoted. The minimum national timescales for visits is within one week of placement, then 6 weekly until the child has been in placement 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

Timeliness of LAC reviews remains good. There was one LAC review not completed within timescales due to a late report and poor communication from the social worker, this has been raised with the team manager to stop reoccurrence.

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 standards 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. There are some children in care however who are visited more often than the Rotherham standard according to their need at any particular time.

		6.6		6.13	6.14
		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	Jan-16	74 of 83	89.2%	96.8%	80.2%
	Feb-16	114 of 116	98.3%	95.3%	77.8%
	Mar-16	104 of 105	99.0%	98.1%	80.2%
	Apr-16	95 of 96	99.0%	97.7%	77.2%
	May-16				
	Jun-16				
	Jul-16				
	Aug-16				
	Sep-16				
	Oct-16				
	Nov-16				
	Dec-16				
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14		98.6%		
	2014/ 15		94.9%	95.2%	82.6%
	2015/ 16		83.3%	98.1%	80.2%
	2016/ 17		99.0%	97.7%	77.2%





## 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

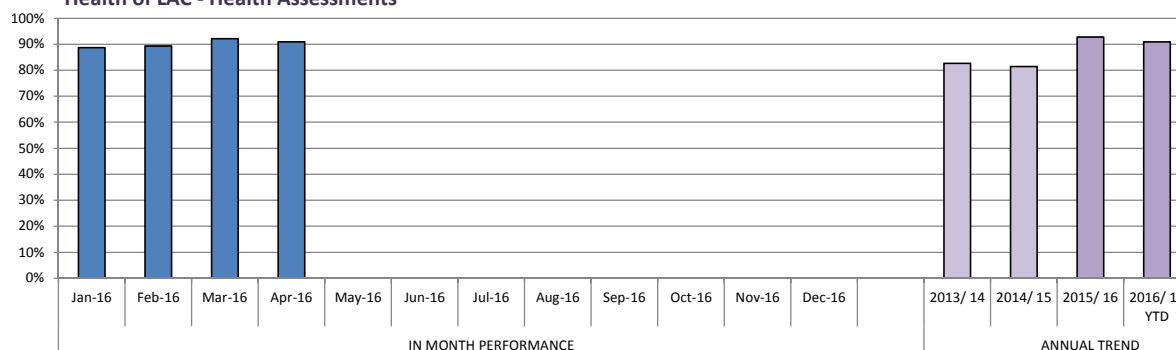
Performance in relation to health and dental assessments was poor and has been the focus of concerted joint effort and has shown previous improvement. Close monitoring means that any dips in performance are understood. Due to the process for health QA checks of assessments following completion there is a time lag between the assessment occurring and showing on the system as completed. From our reviews we know that in the main those not having health or dental checks are the older young people who are recorded as 'refusers'. This is no longer going to be accepted on face value and will be actively exploring with health colleagues how we can promote the reviews as something useful and young person friendly. This will focus on the things that interest most young people such as weight, hair and skin as well as other aspects of health. We will also make sure that we are creative in thinking about how we can actively engage young people and 'reach out' to them rather than expecting them to attend a standard clinic appointment. Performance will continue to be very closely monitored.

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		6.8 Health of LAC - Health Assessments	6.9 Health of LAC - Dental Assessments
	Jan-16	88.7%	70.5%
	Feb-16	89.3%	64.7%
	Mar-16	92.1%	86.6%
	Apr-16	90.9%	90.5%
	May-16		
	Jun-16		
	Jul-16		
	Aug-16		
	Sep-16		
	Oct-16		
	Nov-16		
	Dec-16		

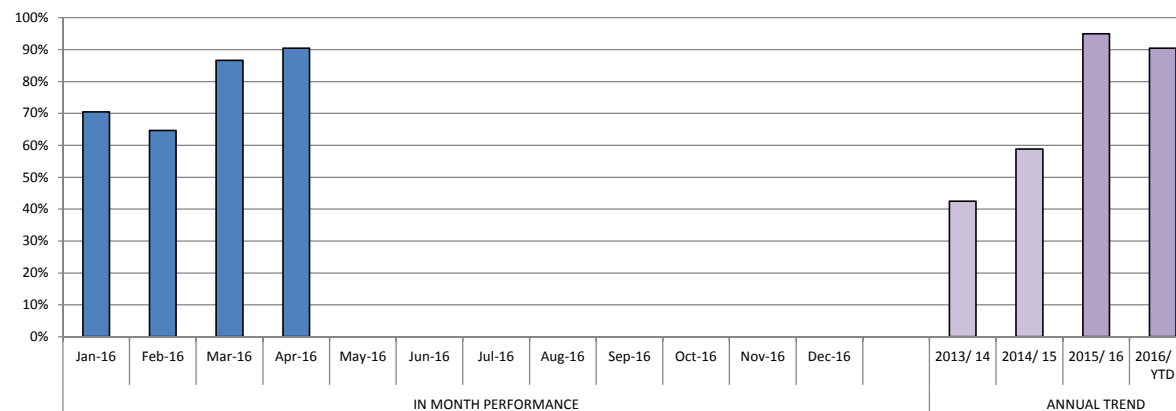
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14	82.7%	42.5%
	2014/ 15	81.4%	58.8%
	2015/ 16	92.8%	95.0%
	2016/ 17 YTD	90.9%	90.5%

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		
	BEST SN		
	NAT AVE		
	NAT TOP QTILE		

Health of LAC - Health Assessments



Health of LAC - Dental Assessments



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS

### DEFINITION

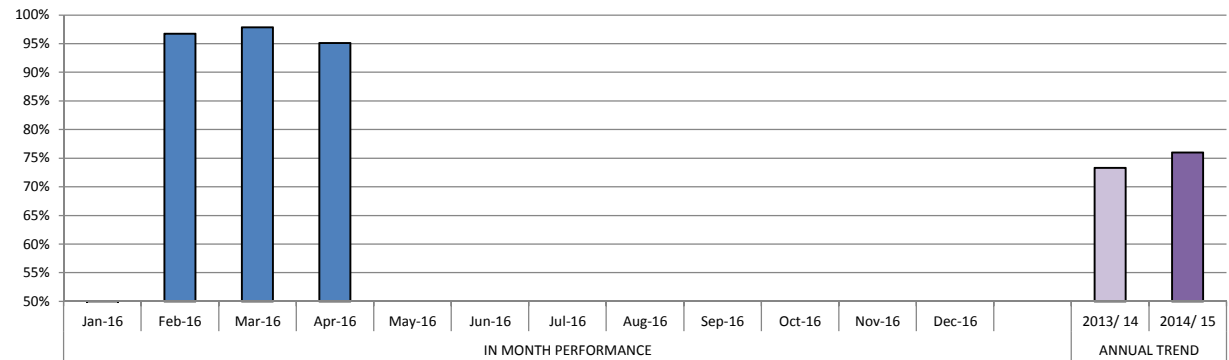
A personal education plan (PEP) is a school based meeting to plan for the education of a child in care. The government have made PEPs a statutory requirement for children in care to help track and promote their achievements.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

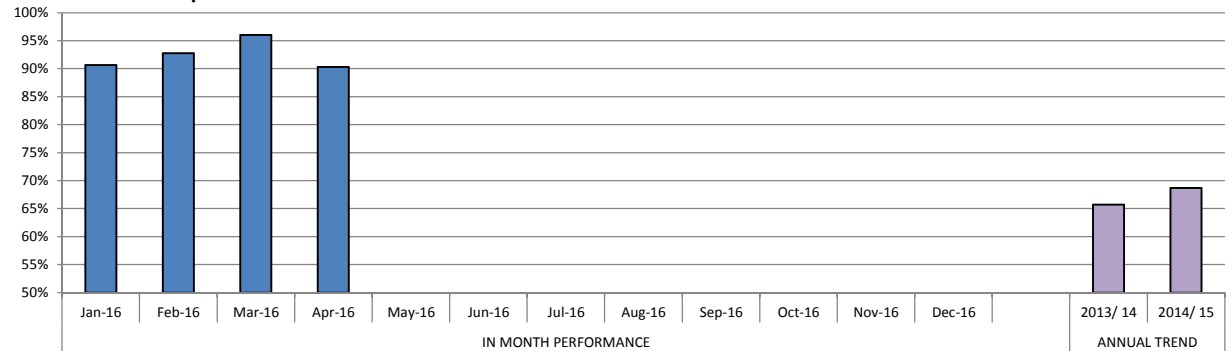
There is also an increase in the number of PEPs reflecting Pupil Voice. Prior to September 2015 PEPs were in place for compulsory school-age children only. PEPs are now in place for LAC aged 2 to their 18th birthday. There has been good improvement within the year for children and young people having an up to date plan but there is more to do to ensure that every child and young person has a plan in place. The focus on quality is now shifting to address the numbers of children and young people who are not in full time education and those whose school place is known to be fragile. There will be an education steering group convened in order to ensure that these matters are given the attention they require and the Corporate Parenting Panel may wish to scrutinise the progress that is made in this regard.

		6.10		6.11	
		Number of Eligible LAC with a Personal Education Plan	% LAC with a Personal Education Plan	% LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan	% LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-16	260 of 268		243 of 268	90.7%
	Feb-16	267 of 276	96.7%	256 of 276	92.8%
	Mar-16	272 of 278	97.8%	267 of 278	96.0%
	Apr-16	274 of 288	95.1%	260 of 288	90.3%
	May-16				
	Jun-16				
	Jul-16				
	Aug-16				
	Sep-16				
	Oct-16				
	Nov-16				
	Dec-16				
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14		73.3%		65.7%
	2014/ 15		76.0%		68.7%
	2015/ 16		97.8%		95.0%
	2016/ 17 YTD		95.1%		90.3%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				
	BEST SN				
	NAT AVE				
	NAT TOP Q TILE				

% LAC with a Personal Education Plan



% LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan



## 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. Suitable accommodation is defined as any that is not prison or bed and breakfast.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

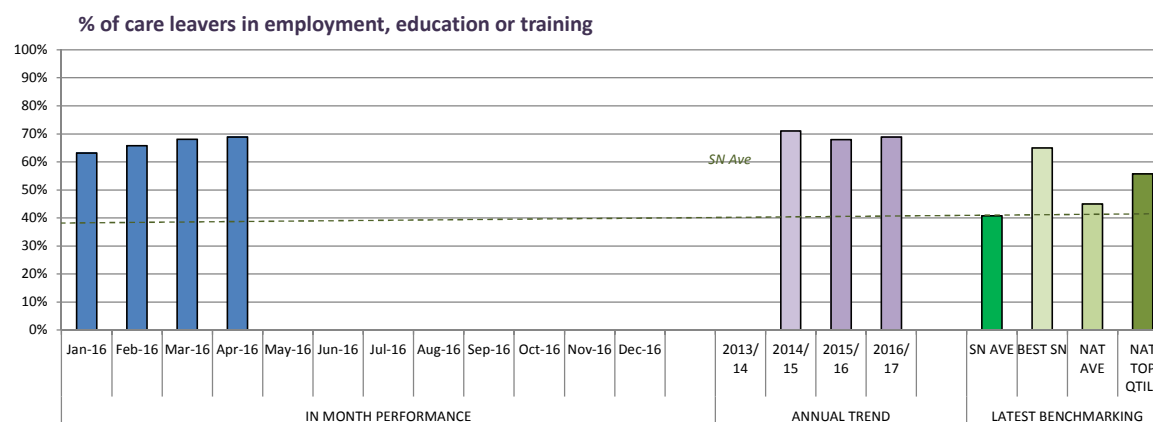
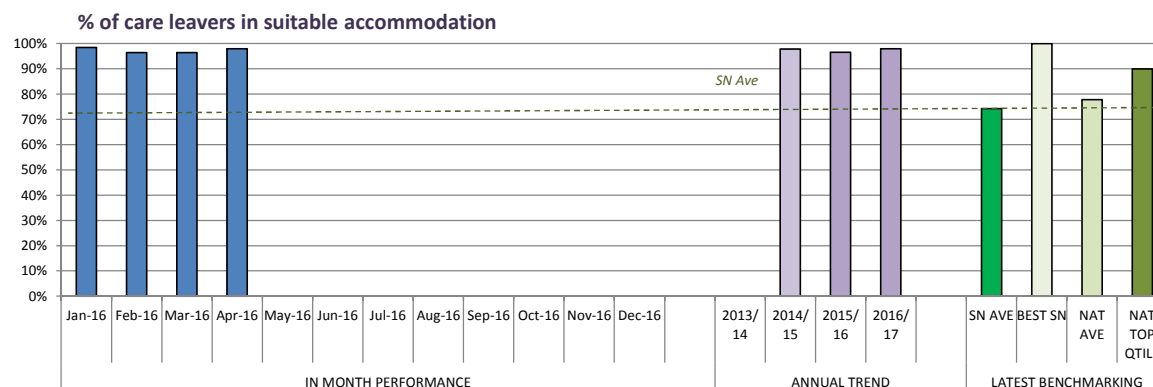
It is understood that more needs to be done to enhance the quality of the accommodation available as well as increasing the range of choices for young people. The service managers and Head of Service are working with commissioning colleagues to ensure that action is taken to ensure the best provision is available to Rotherham young people and increased planning will take place via a 16+ accommodation panel.

The percentage of care leavers in education employment or training, is above the national average (45%) but still very disappointing in terms of the aspirations for Rotherham young people. 60 young people identified as not being in education, employment or training (NEET). Work is underway to strengthen the offer to care leavers generally and tackling the need to support young people to be engaged in further education, training or employment will be given priority.

		7.1	7.3	7.4
		Number of care leavers	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	% of care leavers in employment, education or training
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-16	198	98.5%	63.1%
	Feb-16	196	96.4%	65.8%
	Mar-16	197	96.5%	68.0%
	Apr-16	192	97.9%	68.9%
	May-16			
	Jun-16			
	Jul-16			
	Aug-16			
	Sep-16			
	Oct-16			
	Nov-16			
	Dec-16			

ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14			
	2014/ 15	183	97.8%	71.0%
	2015/ 16	197	96.5%	68.0%
	2016/ 17	192	97.9%	68.9%

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		74.2%	40.8%
	BEST SN		100.0%	65.0%
	NAT AVE		77.8%	45.0%
	NAT TOP Q TILE		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.

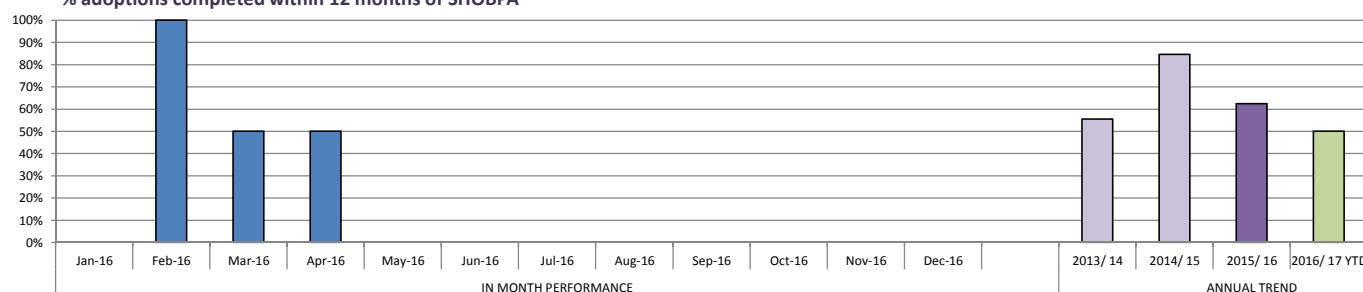
### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance each month can vary significantly given the size of the cohort which is always very small. There have been 2 adoptions in April. The adoption of one of these children was delayed as it took time to make a good and appropriate cultural match, the child is now doing well with his new family.

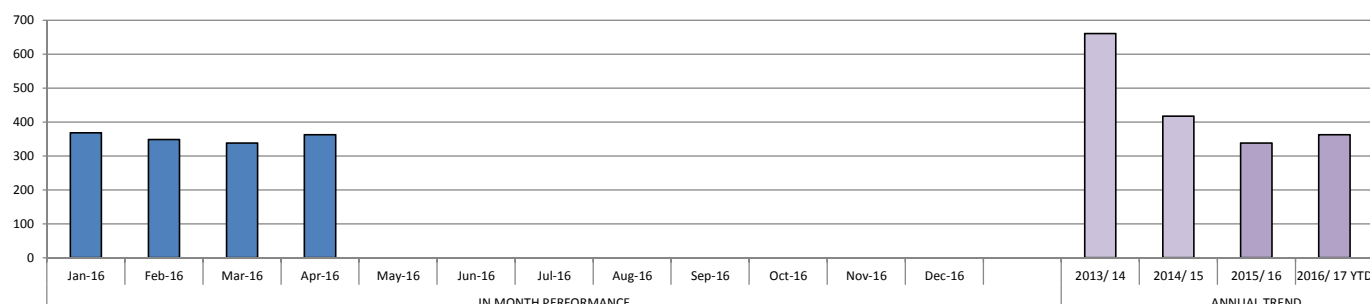
Given the small numbers it is most useful to look at a rolling 12 months than a month snapshot and overall performance in this area over the last 3 years has shown an improving trend. Importantly all children awaiting adoption are reviewed in the fortnightly performance meeting and the reasons for delay examined and understood. The work of the new 'permanence' team which has been in place since January is really starting to show impact in terms of both reducing the length of care proceedings and ensuring timely matching and placing of younger children with perspective adopters. The good quality of the work of this team is attracting regular positive feedback from the courts and the impact on outcomes for children is tangible.

				9.1	9.2	9.3
		Number of adoptions	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	% 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	Jan-16	3	0	0%	368.0	159.5
	Feb-16	7	7	100%	348.4	141.7
	Mar-16	4	2	50%	338.4	137.9
	Apr-16	2	1	50%	362.5	145.5
	May-16					
	Jun-16					
	Jul-16					
	Aug-16					
	Sep-16					
	Oct-16					
	Nov-16					
	Dec-16					
ANNUAL TREND	2013/ 14			55.6%	661.0	315.0
	2014/ 15			84.6%	417.5	177.3
	2015/ 16	16	10	62.5%	338.4	137.9
	2016/ 17 YTD	2	1	50.0%	362.5	145.5
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE					
	BEST SN					
	NAT AVE					
	NAT TOP Q TILE					

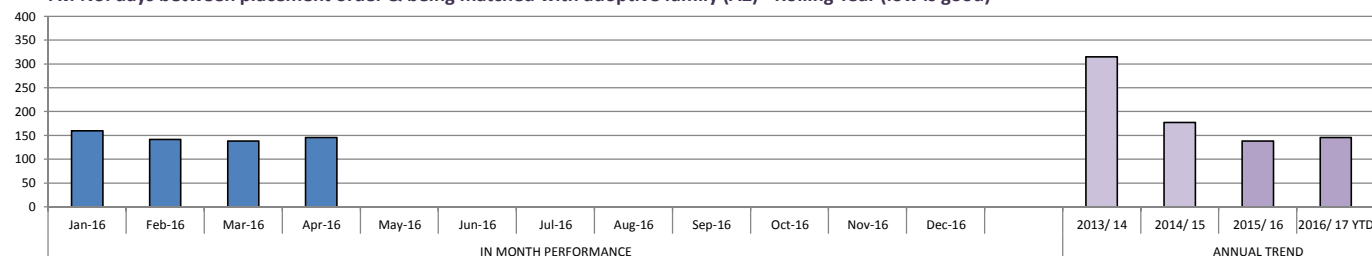
% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA



Av. No. days between a child becoming LAC & having a adoption placement (A1) - Rolling Year (low is good)



Av. No. days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family (A2) - Rolling Year (low is good)



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

\*\*adoptions have a 28 day appeal period so any children adopted in the last 28 days are still subject to appeal

## Rotherham Looked After Children's Council (LACC) – Corporate Parenting Panel - Update Report MAY – JUNE 2016

This has been another exciting, busy and productive period for the Looked After Children's Council (LACC). The LACC has positively impacted and given their voices in consultations to support the Children in Care Strategy 2016, Libraries & Customer Services Survey, and developed the Have Your Say Children in Care Annual Peer Consultation. The group have worked together to host a careers event at the LAC Council and supported our local Armed Forces Day community event. The myriad of experiences offered at the LAC Council for our Children in Care are designed to increase social capital, self-awareness and self-esteem to foster resilience and support better outcomes for our young people. Here are some of the things we have been up to:-

**Rotherham's Got Talent 2016** – We are excited to say that two of our LAC Council members Nicky and Manny were entered into the Rotherham's Got Talent Contest this year. They had their auditions on 23<sup>rd</sup> May where Nicky (17) sang a song in a cappella and Manny (13) delivered a contemporary piece of dance. Unfortunately, as the quality and quantity of auditions was so high this year neither got through to the finals, however, both boys were asked to apply again next year. We look forward to participating again in 2017 ☺



**Rotherham Military Community Veterans** – The LAC Council held an open evening in June for any Rotherham young person in Care who was interested in a career in the Armed Forces. Our special guests for the evening were two Armed Forces Veterans named Mac and Paul and an Armed Forces Trainer called Geoff who prepared young people for a life in the military. These three men belonged to the Rotherham Military Community Veterans Centre and spoke to the group about their experiences and benefits and drawbacks of a life in the military. This was a fun, informative and at times emotional evening as the men spoke about their personal experiences across the world. Young people felt a great sense of respect for the men and took opportunities to ask practical questions that could help them decide if a career in the forces was right for them.





**Armed Forces Day** - Upon invite from our Mayor Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June the LAC Council participated in Armed Forces Day in Rotherham. The group had a fabulous and varied day as they were treated to refreshments in the Town Hall, followed by a private meeting with the Mayor in her parlour.



The group had a great time having their pictures taken at the Mayors large desk as they pretended to be in charge of Rotherham. The LACC watched the Yorkshire Regiment Freedom Parade assemble and march from the Town Hall to All Saints Square and listened to the Christian and Muslim Blessings, this was another first for the vast majority of the group who had never heard any readings from the Koran before.



Later the LACC were taken by coach with other invited guests to have lunch at the McKay VC Barracks. Here young people sat amongst the soldiers and were treated to meat pie and mushy peas followed by chocolate pudding which was gratefully enjoyed and devoured – some of our young people joked with the soldiers that they wanted to join the forces right now if this was the type of food that was on offer!!

Young people had wonderful opportunities to speak with veterans and serving members of the Yorkshire Regiment who were assigned our group for the afternoon. We spent time with our Assistant Chief Executive Shokat Lal, who was very welcoming and complimentary about the LAC Council commenting on their enthusiasm and interest during the day. Here is what some of our young people fed back to us:-



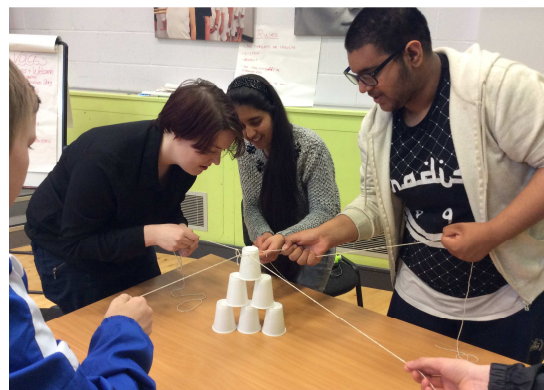
Hey, Lisa I really enjoyed Saturday it was amazing and meeting the Veterans was just the best, and getting to know their service in the army and getting to eat with the soldiers was really awsome. And to top it off was the man at the end with the card tricks. Kelsie aged 17

Hi Lisa, I would like to say that I got the experience and privilege of meeting and talking to the soldiers and learning more about a Career that I may go into. Nicky aged 17

*Yeah, I liked listening to all the soldiers stories, especially that veteran who we met at the end. Some of the*

**Children in Care Strategy 2016** – The LACC was visited by Gary Pickles (*Head of Children in Care*) again in May who came to consult with the young people about the 6 themes running within the Children In Care Strategy. It was a productive evening as young people fed back what they thought on each theme and gave their Voices to the development of the Children in Care Strategy. We look forward to reading the finished article.

**Youth Voice Training Day** – During the half term break young people from the LAC Council came together with the Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament to form the Youth Voice Group for a training day. Together the group engaged in team building activities, problem solving activities and were supported in working together to plan their joint residential for a three day trip to Habersham House, Filey. The group also explored ideas to work with the Fixers 'one voice' project and started to develop their plan. Young people had a fun day 😊



**Have Your Say – Children in Care Annual Peer Consultation** – LAC Council young people have engaged in developing their annual Children in Care Peer Consultation feedback process 2016 by choosing the questions for their 'Have Your Say' survey they believe are the most important to them. (see appendix A) With the support of Social Care and Early Help Managers this Peer Consultation Tool will be sent out to all children and young people aged 10+ living in Foster Care and Residential Homes from Rotherham. The closing date for completed surveys is 25<sup>th</sup> July. We are hoping to reach as many young people as possible and the LAC Council will analyse the feedback data and make recommendations to improve the Service based on their collective voices which will go to Ian Thomas our Strategic Director to inform future planning. At the recent Regional Children in Care Council Staff meeting in Leeds, the group asked for Rotherham's Annual Have Your Say Peer Consultation Survey and Voice & Influence Process that accompanies it to be distributed across our regions CiCC's to share Rotherham's good practice.

**Libraries & Customer Services Consultation** – The LAC Council was visited by Elenore Fisher and Zoe Oxley to engage the group in discussions around perceptions of Rotherham Libraries and engage our young people in the Libraries Consultation. This was an exciting visit with the group getting on board and putting forward suggestions for increasing the interest in Libraries by the Children in Care Community. Some of the ideas included having an online book club, older Children in Care being reading mentors and reading books for the younger children and having a Children in Care Book Day at Riverside Library.

**Pride of Rotherham Awards** – Young people have been busily putting forward their ideas and giving their VOICES to support the Children in Care Celebration event that will take place at New York Stadium on 29th September. Supporting this aspirational

evening is an exciting opportunity for our young people to help shape their own event for Children in Care which will recognise the personal achievements of our children and young people living in care. The LAC Council have chosen a golden 'shooting star trophy' to be awarded at the event to all awardees. This trophy choice generated much discussion and the final vote went to this Trophy as it was a positive symbol for Children in Care who are all stars already and can also reach for the stars in the future life journey.

**LAC Council Guests** - The young people would like to thank all of our guests who have visited the LAC Council over the past 2 months asking for our young people's Voices to Influence RMBC Services, these are:-

Gary Pickles – Head of Children in Care  
Samantha Perrins – Head of Service First Response  
Kelly White - Service Manager CYPS  
Zoe Oxley – Manager Planning & Regeneration  
Elenore Fisher – Customer & Cultural Services Manager  
Rowan Greaves – University Student  
Lynne Thompson – University Student  
Geoff Smales – Rotherham Military Community Veteran Centre  
Paul Burrows – Rotherham Military Community Veteran Centre  
Mac Mckenny – Chair Rotherham Military Community Veteran Centre

**Thank You All 😊**

**Contact Name:** Lisa Du-Valle  
Looked After Children's Council  
Voice & Influence Team  
Early Help & Family Engagement  
Tel: 07748143388 or (01709) 822130  
Email: [Lisa.duvalle@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.duvalle@rotherham.gov.uk)



@LACCRotherham



LACC Rotherham



## APPENDIX A

If you are a looked after child aged 10—21 years, please complete this form and give us your feedback. Your voice is very important to us! The LAC Council will analyse this information in confidence alongside other 'Have Your Say' forms from other young people in care. We will let you know what happens as a result of your VOICE. ☺



**Have Your Say**

Please hand/post this completed form back to:  
**Lisa Du-Valle at the LAC Council or**  
 Eric Manns Building  
 Opposite Town Hall  
 Moorgate, Rotherham

Tel: 01709 822130 or Mob: 07748143388  
 Or hand in to your social worker to give to Lisa.

Du-Valle LACC Update July 2016



LACC Rotherham



@LACCRotherham



**LOOKED AFTER  
CHILDREN'S COUNCIL**



Name:	Age
Address: (optional)	
Ethnicity:	Male      Female Or      Gender Neutral

Q1. What thing do you like best about being in care?  
Please explain 😊

Q2. Do you feel that you are part of your foster family?  
Yes No Don't Know?

Please explain😊

Q3. Does your Social Worker listen to you and then act  
on what you have told them? Yes No Don't Know?

Please give an example 😊

Q5. Who in the care system has made the biggest difference  
to YOU and WHY? Eg, foster carer, social worker, etc

Q6. Is there anything else you would like to say?

THANK  
YOU! 😊

# **Corporate Parenting Panel Work Programme 2016/17**

Meeting date	Venue	Agenda item	Lead Officer	Papers circulated	Deadline for papers
<b>May (held 7 June)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LACC 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>Update on Independent Visitors / Advocacy Service</li> </ul>	Lisa Duvalle Sue Wilson Catherine Hall  Brent Lumley Rebecca Wall	1 June	
<b>12 July</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LACC agenda items</li> <li>Children in Care Performance Report</li> </ul>	Lisa Duvalle  Sue Wilson	19 July	
<b>From September a Standard Agenda has been set</b>					
<b>27 September</b>		<u><b>Standard Agenda</b></u> LACC agenda Items Children in Care Performance Report Virtual Head Update CiC Health Update Placement Sufficiency  <u><b>Additional Reports</b></u> Corporate Parenting Training Report Ofsted Summary Report – Residential Rotherham Therapeutic Service Report Adoption Annual Report Care Leavers Annual Report	Lisa Duvalle Deb Johnson Lorraine Dale Catherine Hall Gary Pickles  Gary Pickles Brent Lumley Sara Whittaker Anne-Marie Banks Janet Simon	20 September	

Meeting date	Venue	Agenda item	Lead Officer	Papers circulated	Deadline for papers
<b>29 November</b>		<u><b>Standard Agenda</b></u> LACC agenda Items Children in Care Performance Report Virtual Head Update CiC Health Update Placement Sufficiency  <u><b>Additional Reports</b></u> Missing Children Annual Report Ofsted Summary Report - Residential IRO Annual Report Fostering Annual Report Reg 44 Summary Report	Lisa Duvalle Deb Johnson Lorraine Dale Catherine Hall Gary Pickles   Brent Lumley Rebecca Wall Anne-Marie Banks Brent Lumley	22 November	
<b>31 January</b>		<u><b>Standard Agenda</b></u> LACC agenda Items Children in Care Performance Report Virtual Head Update CiC Health Update Placement Sufficiency  <u><b>Additional Reports</b></u> Children in Care Celebration Event report GCSE/exam results overview Virtual School Annual Report	Lisa Duvalle Deb Johnson Lorraine Dale Catherine Hall Gary Pickles   Ian Walker Lorraine Dale Lorraine Dale	24 January	
<b>28 March</b>		<u><b>Standard Agenda</b></u> LACC agenda Items Children in Care Performance Report Virtual Head Update CiC Health Update Placement Sufficiency <u><b>Additional Reports</b></u> Corporate Parenting Panel Work Plan 17/18 Sufficiency Strategy update	Lisa Duvalle Deb Johnson Lorraine Dale Catherine Hall Gary Pickles  Gary Pickles Gary Pickles	21 March	

