

## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

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

**Date: Tuesday, 6th March, 2018**

**Time: 5.00 p.m.**

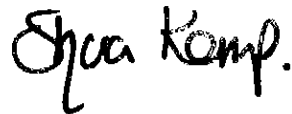
### **A G E N D A**

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 Chair 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 19th December 2017 (Pages 1 - 11)
6. LACC Update (Pages 12 - 16)  
Bin Liners Are Not Suitcases – Video to be shown
7. Assistant Chief Executive - Looked After Children Promises  
Shokat Lal to present
8. Corporate Parenting Performance Report - January 2018 (Pages 17 - 41)
9. Muslim Foster Carers Project (report herewith) (Pages 42 - 45)
10. Right Child, Right Care - First Update (herewith) (Pages 46 - 59)
11. Elected Member Champions Update
12. Review of Membership

13. 2018/19 Meeting Dates  
To be reported at the meeting
  
14. Date of Next Meeting  
Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018, commencing at 5.00 p.m.

**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. S. Elliott (Minority Party representative) 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, flowing style.

Sharon Kemp,  
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**  
**Tuesday, 19th December, 2017**

Present:- Councillor Watson (in the Chair); Councillors Cusworth, Elliot and M. Elliott.

Also present were Catherine Hall, Peter McNamara, Janet Russell and Ian Walker.

Damien Wilson was in attendance for Minute No. 42 (Looked After Children Promises) and Vicky Schofield for Minute No. 43 (CSE and Missing Children).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clark, Lisa DuValle, Karen Holgate, Mary Jarrett, Deborah Johnson, Mel Meggs and Audra Muxlow.

**40.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to report.

**41.           MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER, 2017**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

Arising from Minute No. 28 (Corporate Parenting Panel Revised Terms of Reference), it was clarified that representation was sought from a Mental Health provider.

Catherine Hall undertook to contact Barbara Murray at RDaSH with a view to attendance at future meetings.

Arising from Minute No. 30 (Looked After Children Promises), it was noted that those Elected Members present at the Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, had signed the Promise. The Chairman would contact those who had not been present.

Arising from Minute No. 31 (LACC CPP Update July to September 2017), all Panel members had been invited to a fashion show on 16<sup>th</sup> February at RCAT from 12.30–2.00p.m. to celebrate their achievements in changing Policy and Practice in the Council to replace bin liners with Suitcases for our children and young people.

Ian Walker, Head of Service Children in Care, reported that the LAC Council had made a presentation at a regional event at which the Children's Commissioner had been in attendance. The Commissioner had been blown away by the young people and had tweeted a photograph that was had been taken with them. This had led to a debate on social media with a split of 75%-25% of local authorities with regard to the This is NOT a Suitcase Campaign with 75% of authorities saying that it was a nation-wide experience.

A social entrepreneur had made contact and offered to provide 100 free bags; he had sent a sample bag for the LAC to look at and approve. A local businessman had also made a commitment to provide 200 suitcases/sports holdalls.

Flat pack boxes had been purchased for those items that would not fit in a suitcase/holdall.

#### **42. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROMISES**

Damien Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment, gave the following powerpoint presentation on the work of his Directorate and how it impacted on the lives of children and young people:-

Regeneration and Environment Directorate included

- Asset Management Service – what it did, what it had done and what it was going to do
- In the last 4 years, over 1,300 additional school places had been delivered contributing to the 94% of parents being given their first choice school for their children
- Business links through RiDO
  - LEAF (Local Employment Advisory Forum)
  - GUTS (Get Up to Speed)
  - Looked After Children (LAC) Business Tour
  - Apprenticeship recruitment support to local employers
  - University Campus at Doncaster Gate
  - Gallery Town
  - Heart of Steel
- Road Safety Activity
  - Road Safety Education and Training
    - Road safety lessons and assemblies at primary schools
    - Pedestrian training
    - Walking buses
    - Drive for Life young driver initiative
  - Road Safety Engineering
    - Part-time advisory 20 mph speed limits outside schools
    - Introduced Traffic Regulation Orders on School Keep Clear markings
    - Working with schools, parents, the Council's Parking Services and local Policing teams to address school parking problems
- Facilities and Catering
  - Cleaning for 68 schools
  - School meals to 90 schools = average of 17,815 meals per day
  - 64 established points for school crossings, 53 paid for by the Council (meeting national criteria) and 11 under a Service Level

Agreement with the respective school = potential crossing of 17,400 primary school children on a daily basis

- Local Plan
  - Provides a long term plan for future prosperity
  - Provides certainty for developers and investors
  - Ensures everyone has the opportunity of a decent home and a job – boosts housing delivery
  - Attracts investment, people and jobs to Rotherham
  - Ensures planning for infrastructure to support development
  - Protecting the environment
- Sites and Policies
  - Over 14,000 good quality new homes including affordable options between 2013 and 2018 – 99 sites for new homes
  - 235 hectares of employment land – 40 employment sites
- Community Safety and StreetScene
  - Taxi Licensing
  - Food Hygiene Inspections
  - Trading Standards
  - Private Sector Housing enforcement and Selective Licensing
  - Air Quality
  - Home to School Transport
- Culture, Sport and Tourism
 

Libraries and Neighbourhood Hubs –Services for Children and Young People

  - From birth to School (age 0-4)
  - At Primary School (age 4-11)
  - Teenagers (age 11-18)
- School Loans Service
 

Subscription service for Primary and Special schools and academies:-

  - Museum artefacts
  - Non-fiction topic loans
  - Fiction exchange
  - Story-reading and targeted reader development
  - Interactive classroom sessions
  - Support for school events and staff training
- Rotherham Heritage Services
  - Fun for younger children
  - Informal learning activities
  - Pay per use service for primary schools
  - Schools workshops for Foundation Key Stages 1 and 2
- Rotherham Theatres

- Work with schools, children's performance groups and organisations to help them achieve their ambitions in dance, musical theatre and drama
  - Provide work experience, shadowing and volunteering opportunities for school and college students
  - Over 25,000 children and families enjoy the annual pantomime
  - Annual Shakespeare Festival with Open Minds Theatre Company and 40 schools and will see its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018
- Leisure and Green Spaces – Active Rotherham
    - Promotes increased levels of physical activity amongst all sections of the community including children and young people
    - The Team also manages Herringthorpe Athletics Stadium which is highly valued as a venue for school sports events and for clubs offering young people opportunities to develop sports skills
    - Mega Active holiday activities
    - In2Athletics
  - Rother Valley Country Park
    - Offers a wide range of activities aimed at children of all ages and abilities
  - Clifton Park
    - Offers an exceptional range of activities for children in the heart of Rotherham
  - Play and Green Spaces Events
  - Environmental Education and Projects
  - Why It Matters: Benefits of Participation
    - Students who are physically active tend to have better grades, school attendance, cognitive performance and classroom behaviours
    - Children are smarter, better able to get along with others, healthier and happier when they have regular opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out of doors
    - People who take part in the arts are 38% more likely to report good health
    - Students from low income families who take part in the arts at school are 3 times more likely to get a degree
    - 16 year olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs in later life

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- A willingness to discuss the possibility of reduced cost/free access to leisure facilities for Looked after Children and their carers, however,

there were cost implications as it was a Leisure PFI

- There would be apprenticeship opportunities within the Directorate for care experienced youngsters
- There were 34 care leavers who were NEET and available for work which equated to approximately 37% of the overall care leavers. Half were not available for work and most would require nurturing and handholding.
- Often an apprenticeship broke down because of the complex issues the young person had in their background which did not allow them to sustain a 9.00-5.00 job and had had to have a degree of flexibility balanced against the business needs. The Directorate's support could extend beyond the Council; it worked with employers and a range of employment opportunities where, with careful selection, work could be done in advance of any employer coming into the area when it was known what skills were required and match to a suitable young person

The Chairman thanked Damien for his attendance and presentation.

Resolved:- That Ian Walker, Head of Service Leaving Care, be invited to a future Regeneration and Development DLT meeting to discuss opportunities for LAC children.

#### **43. CSE AND MISSING CHILDREN**

Vicky Schofield, Head of First Response, presented a report which set out the process, practice and current activity in relation to CSE and Missing issues for children in care:-

##### Operational Arrangements

- Evolve included representatives from the Police, RMBC Social Workers, Barnardos Social Care Worker, CSE Nurse and RMBC Return Home Interviewers
- The Team was jointly managed on a day-to-day basis by the Detective Sergeant and Social Work Team Manager
- Missing Children were referred in accordance with the Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure by South Yorkshire Police through the Children's MASH
- CSE was identified by the use of indicators and screening tools across Social Care Services and the partnership
- The Team provided direct support to children and advice to the broader service aimed at reducing risk and achieving disruption/prosecution of offenders

##### Current Position

- Data and qualitative knowledge of Rotherham's Children in Care indicated that there was a complex cohort of older young people some

of whom had very significant entrenched needs that had arisen over a long period of time

- Current practice appeared to be successful in identifying risks and in reducing missing episodes
- During a recent inspection the practice had received positive comments

#### Missing Children

- Work had been carried out with case holding Social Workers recently with regard to the impact of children being missing and the potential for this to be reflective of other risks for them
- A review of practice had shown that practice was improving and a better understanding of the reasons why children went missing
- Children's overarching assessment and care plans now routinely included information about the risks presented from children going missing
- Current data showed a declining number of missing episodes for some of the most vulnerable children
- The vast majority of Return Home interviews were carried out in line with statutory guidance i.e. 72 hours of the child being found. This far exceeded the performance of most other local authorities

#### Child Sexual Exploitation

- There had been an increasing number of children for whom CSE was thought to be a likelihood in recent months; this was understood to be linked to better practice around identification
- The work of the Evolve Team was helping others to develop their practice in this regard
- Direct work with children was helping to develop services' resilience and confidence in talking about what had happened to the children or who they were spending time with

Both CSE and Missing children functions had action plans in place in relation to future work. Data sets were in place as well as quality arrangements. There were plans to embed a multi-agency quality assurance process, in addition to the current single agency audits, to inform how to more effectively address the issues across the partnership.

There were also plans to embed joint supervision at regular intervals between CSE Social Workers and case holding Social Workers across the organisation.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Reduction in the numbers of children missing in recent months
- Rotherham was doing something different from other local authorities. Some young people were being taken out of the regimented children's home environment and put into their own tenancy, with high levels of



support. This has reduced the number of missing episodes

- The CSE risk assessment was a multi-agency process conducted at EVOLVE involving the Police, Social Care, Health practitioner, Barnardos, CAMHS, allocated Social Worker and an invitation to the school. The formulated plan was led by the SCE Social Worker and allocated Social Worker and very much aimed at risk reduction and prosecution of offenders
- The low number of Return to Home interviews referred to children out of Authority where Rotherham commissioned others to conduct the interviews on its behalf

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

#### **44. LACC UPDATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2017**

The Panel noted the Rotherham Looked After Children's Council and LAC Club update for October to December, 2017 which included:-

- The LAC Council had successfully met the core 3 aims of their Voice and Influence Project
- The young people engaged in the local community Remembrance Sunday parade and had successfully participated in an OFSTED Inspection
- Delivered a presentation to the Regional Children in Care Council Conference at Leeds University
- Continued work to design and deliver the 'Bin Liners are **NOT** Suitcases' Campaign and fashion show
- Launch of the newest LAC participation group, the LAC Club, which was growing in numbers
- The young people had embraced the ethos of ethical participation
- The second Pride of Rotherham Awards held at new York Stadium in October
- The LACC now had 32 young people actively engaged on a regular basis with 17 engaged with the formal LAC Council

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

#### **45. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE - OCTOBER 2017**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Ian Walker, Service Manager, on behalf of Deborah Johnson, Performance Assurance Manager, Social Care, and which provided a summary of performance for key performance indicators across Looked After Children Services for October 2017. This was read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report at Appendix A detailing trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

A Service overview and context was provided which indicated a continual increase in the Looked After Children profile (572) and reasons for the increases, significant improvement in the timeliness of LAC reviews, improvement on 2016/17 outturn position with regard to Personal Education Plan and the quality of which, together with education planning, was beginning to have an impact on educational planning with Key Stage 2 outcomes improving in 2017 compared to 2016.

However, compliance on plans had declined slightly on the previous month to 91% compared to 92.3% of children having an up-to-date plan at the end of September. Performance had since improved to 96% as at 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

Following management investigation of poor performance, discrepancies had been identified between the 'plan cycle' within systems reports and the LAC review timescales to which it should be linked. This was recalibrated and 2016/17 monthly data re-profiled.

Compliance against national minimum visiting standards had improved and was currently 94.8%.

Rotherham's policy was to persevere in seeking adoptive placements for all children. However, 55% of children in the adoptive pathway process had been assessed as "hard to place". As a result, 1 adoption completed this year 1,624 days after the child became Looked After demonstrating the determination and perseverance of the Adoption Team. Although there had only been 16 adoptions in the first 6 months of 2017/18, a number were on stream to complete before the end of April and the Service was hopeful to surpass the 31 achieved in 2016/17.

The Panel sought clarification on a number of points including:-

- Monitoring of Social Workers visits to young people
- Support for foster carers
- Counselling process for pre-adoptive parents
- Activity days held to enable prospective adoptive parents to see the children and form an emotional attachment

Resolved:- That the contents of the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) be received and noted.

#### **46. CORPORATE PARENTING RESOURCE PACK**

The Panel noted the Local Government Association Corporate Parenting resource pack.

#### **47. OFSTED FEEDBACK - LAC SERVICE**

Ian Walker, Head of Service Children in Care, presented a report giving a

brief overview of the formal feedback received from Inspectors who had conducted the recent Ofsted inspection.

An All Member seminar had been arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 9.00 a.m.; the inspection report would be published that morning.

#### **48. MENTORING SCHEME FOR CARE LEAVERS**

Ian Walker, Head of Service Leaving Care, presented a report on the above scheme being developed by the Learning Care Service.

The aim was to develop a scheme whereby the most disengaged and vulnerable looked after young people and care leavers were provided bespoke one-to-one support from a senior manager or Elected Member in the Council to assist them in accessing employment, education and training opportunities.

A mentor could be defined as being “a more experienced individual willing to share knowledge with someone less experienced in a relationship of mutual trust”. A mentor would share their experience and give advice and guidance as part of a development path which would open doors and widen the mentee’s networking systems i.e. supporting progress to EET opportunities.

There would be 3 main people involved in the process – the young person (mentee), the mentor and the mentee’s key adult (Social Worker or personal adviser).

It was expected that the mentor would provide at least 90 minutes per month for their matched care leaver and would be for at least 6 months but no longer than 18 months.

The EET Action Group would identify young people who it was felt would benefit from a mentor and would be part of the process of matching although the ultimate decision would be made by the young person themselves.

The invitation to be a mentor would also be extended to members of the Panel.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

#### **49. CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE - UPDATE**

##### **Housing/Educational Attainment and Access to Higher Education**

The Chair had no update.

##### **Employment and Training Opportunities within Council Departments and with Partner Agencies**

Councillor M. Elliott and Sharon Sandell, Service Manager Leaving Care,

had met with Fortums and was in the process of arranging a similar meeting with Morrisons.

Fortums had explained their work experience opportunities and mentoring experiences.

A meeting had also been held with Mears to discuss their apprenticeships. Their training facilities were incorporated into the Rotherham United Football Club building which he would visit in the New Year.

Mears was also heavily involved in the domiciliary world and would provide job opportunities.

The next aim was to meet with Liberty Steel at Aldwarke.

### **Foster Care Recruitment and Retention**

Councillor Cusworth had met with Diane Clark earlier that day. The Fostering Service had had a stall at Wentworth Show recently with a display of metallic balloons with "500" on them aiming for a more proactive response from the people passing by. It had not achieved the engagement from adults as hoped but had had lots of children asking what the 500 was. However, some enquiries had been received with a couple looking quite positive.

42 names had been captured since the summer, 4 of which had progressed, 2 were still progressing and another 4 that were being worked on as solid leads. There was a push now to link the Service back to Rotherham Council.

Arrangements were to be made to hold an All Member seminar.

There were currently 161 foster families in Rotherham. An annual foster carer survey would now be carried out in May in the lead up to Foster Carer fortnight in an attempt to ascertain why people were leaving the Fostering Service as a foster carer.

The resignations being reported to Fostering Panel at the moment were foster families that had not had a child in placement for a long time. The prospective foster carers coming before the Panel recently seemed to have more confidence in dealing with the Fostering Service and knew what they could ask for.

Resolved:- That Brent Lumley be invited to the next meeting.

### **Health (including Mental Health)**

Councillor J. Elliot had nothing to report.

**50. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -**

Resolved:- (1) That a further meeting be held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, commencing at 5.00 p.m.

(2) That an item be included on the next agenda relating to the Child Protection Information System.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

**Council Report**

Corporate Parenting Performance

**Title**

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – January 2018

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

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report****Report Author(s)**

Deborah Johnson (Performance Assurance Manager – Social Care)  
Ian Walker (Head of Service Children in Care)

**Ward(s) Affected**

All

**Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of performance for key performance indicators across Looked After Children services. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report at Appendix A which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

**Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to receive the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) and consider issues arising.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix A – Corporate Parenting Performance Report (January 2018)

**Background Papers**

Ofsted Improvement Letter  
Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Reports

**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 – January 2018

## **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to receive the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) and consider issues arising.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 This report provides evidence to the council's commitment to improvement and providing performance information to enable scrutiny of the improvements and the impact on the outcomes for children and young people in care. 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, are included. These have been set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, recent performance levels and, importantly, Rotherham's improvement journey.
- 2.3 Please note that new benchmarking data has recently been released by the DfE (relating to 2016/17 outturn) and where applicable this report reflects the new data position.
- 2.3 The narrative supplied within the report has been written by the Deputy Director for Children's Services and Head of Looked After Children Services.

## **3. Key Issues**

### **3.1 Service Overview and Context**

- 3.1.1 There continues to be an increasing Looked After Children (LAC) profile. Between March 2016 and March 2017 the number of LAC increased by 13% from 432 to 488. Since this time, until the end of January there were a further 266 admissions to care and 151 children discharged resulting in an overall cohort figure of 602 (a further 23% increase on March 2017).
- 3.1.2 This increase in LAC numbers and the consequential shortage in available placements has in an increase in young people being placed outside of the local area, this in turn has negative impact on social work capacity. However despite the additional capacity pressures, in general, performance remains sustained across a number of areas.



### 3.2 Looked After Children Profile

3.2.1 Rotherham continues to have an increasing Looked After Children (LAC) profile. There were 488 LAC at the end of 2016/17, this has risen further to 602 at the end of January 2018 which equates to a rate of 106.4 per 10,000 population this is high when compared to the statistical neighbour average of 81.3.

3.2.2 An underlying factor for this increase is that whilst the average number of admissions to care has increased from 23 over the first 6 months of 2017/18 to an average of 30 over the most recent 4 months the discharges from care have also dropped from an average of 18 to only 7 over the same period. This significant decline in discharge activity can be attributed to increased average caseloads, greater travelling times to placements due to market saturation and a lack of contact service capacity. This in turn reduces social worker resources needed to progress children out of care.

3.2.3 As a result the LAC Service has established a 'Right Children, Right Care' project which will review the ongoing need for up to 400+ children to remain looked after on a long-term basis. This review has grouped the LAC into eight distinct work-streams;

- Adoption Pathway
- Placement with Parents Regs
- Rehabilitation of 14+
- Rehabilitation of 15+
- Rehabilitation of 16+
- Regulation 24 Placements - family and friends carers
- Move to permanence for children in same placement for 2+ years
- Move to permanence for children in same placement for 18 months

3.2.4 Each work-stream has been allocated a LAC team manager and service manager lead who will report progress at alternate Performance Clinics over the course of 2018. The first stage in the project will be to eliminate those children/placements unsuitable for step-down and so within the next few weeks there will be a confirmed cohort that can then be performance managed through the process. Given the legal processes involved it is not anticipated that any significant impact will be noticeable until the latter months of the year.

3.2.5 Table 1 provides a breakdown by age of the LAC population at the month end by age group against the latest national comparator data. This shows that overall Rotherham's LAC age profile follows a similar distribution to the National. The most notable differences being the higher rate of children aged 1-4 years (16.4% compared to 13%) and a lower proportion aged over sixteen (17.3% compared to 24%).

Table 1 – Age distribution of Looked After Children at the end of the month

Age Band	Number	% of total	Latest National comparative data (Mar-17)
Under 1	38	6.3%	5%
1 – 4	99	16.5%	13%
5 - 9	123	20.4%	19%
10 - 15	238	39.5%	39%
16+	104	17.3%	24%
Total	602		

3.2.6 There has been no change in the distribution rates of current legal status of Looked After Children. At the end of October; 50% of children were subject to full care orders, 34% are on an Interim Care Orders, 10% are on Placement Orders with Care Order and 6% are under Section 20. Unfortunately there is no clear national data to benchmark this distribution against.

### 3.3 Plans

3.3.1 Compliance on plans has declined slightly on the previous month to 89.7% compared to 92.2% of children having an up-to-date plan at the end of September. The level of change is not statistically significant but still is under management scrutiny in the performance meetings. The performance dip is likely to be as a consequence of a number of factors including the increase in caseloads in locality and LAC.

### 3.4 Reviews

3.4.1 After the excellent performance achieved in previous months, consistently above 90%, there was a significant decline in the proportion of reviews completed in time to 77.2%.

3.4.2 At the time of this report (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018) 93% of children had up-to-date reviews and the service will be exploring why there has been a decline in performance for those completed in January. Performance will need to be carefully monitored as the rise in the care population works its way through the system.

3.4.3 Performance for the 2017/18 year to date is 88.8% and improvements will need to be made if we are equal or better the 91.3% achieved in 2016/17.

### 3.5 Visits

3.5.1 Performance on LAC visits has been reviewed and on reflecting on the significant performance improvements overall and increased

stability in the core LAC teams that supports good relationship development with children, agreement has been given to move to the nationally required visiting pattern where this is appropriate for the child. This approach continues to be monitored by the Head of Service at fortnightly performance meetings. 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.

- 3.5.2 There is a correlation between the number of cases held by the team and performance (higher cases lower performance). Compliance against National Minimum visiting standards was 97% which is excellent given the current service context.
- 3.5.3 Although, due to the high demand levels, workers have been directed to prioritise the national minimum standard over the harder local target performance against this measure is 84% which is still higher than performance levels from January 2017.
- 3.5.4 The Head of Service (HOS) LAC and Care Leavers continues to dip sample visits to assess their quality. The HOS reports that overall this has been positive with little requirement to challenge the social worker regarding the inadequacy of the case recording and immediate remedial action. There is also increasing evidence of direct work and life-story work being undertaken during visits.

### 3.6 Placements

- 3.6.1 Despite the overall increase in numbers the proportion of children placed in a family based setting remains above 83%. (Family based settings include internal fostering, independent fostering, pre-adoption placements and those placed with parent/family/friends).
- 3.6.2 Although some placement moves are in the best interests of the child the provision of a good stable home is known to be essential for children to achieve good outcomes. Placement performance statistics demonstrate that we need to improve our preventative work to reduce placement disruption.
- 3.6.3 At the end of the January the number of children who have had three or more placements, (two moves in the previous 12 months), has decreased to 67 from highs of 73 earlier in the year, this equates to 11.1%. Our target of reducing to less than 10%, which is also the National average, remains and it is felt achievable over the next financial year.
- 3.6.4 The number of Long Term LAC in a stable placement has shown month on month improvements since August. At the end of January 63% of our long term LAC had been in the same placement for at least two years, compared to less than 60% in August. However

this still places Rotherham below latest statistical neighbours and the national averages of 68%.

- 3.6.5 However after each child has 'moved' it takes at least 2 years to improve this outcome measure therefore our improvement plan will take time to see full fruition. An analysis of the child level placement/duration data behind the performance figures is projecting a more significant improvement by next July/August.
- 3.6.6 A Permanence Oversight Group has been established to ensure every child has a clear plan to establish a secure home. This can be via adoption, SGO, return home or if none of these are suitable for the child a long-term/permanent family based placement. The group has prioritised children by their length in care with Long Term LAC being addressed first.

### 3.7 Looked After Children Health and Dental

- 3.7.1 Please note there are known delays in the data input for both Health and Dental information therefore it is likely that performance may change when statistics are rerun in future reports.
- 3.7.2 Performance in relation to health and dental assessments has seen month on month reductions. January data shows that health and dental assessments have reduced on the previous improved performance to 74.2% health and 68.4% dental.
- 3.7.3 Overall Initial health assessments compliance is improving. Figures for the year to date has improved from the 53% reported at last corporate parenting panel to 58%. Performance in January was relatively low at 44.4% but this is likely to improve once all data has been entered to levels achieved in previous four months (between 75-91%)
- 3.7.4 Although much improved it is clear that the data validation and process development, in partnership with health colleagues, will need to continue to ensure improved and ensure more consistent performance. A further joint agency meeting was held in February with the CCG to ascertain what further actions could be taken to continue the improvement journey and the following was agreed :-
- The LAC Health Team to revisit all Duty and Assessment and Locality teams to highlight the IHA process.
  - The PLO Panel to be the point at which IHA paperwork is shared with the social worker thus giving them an extended timescale to complete their referral and for parental consent/ health histories to be obtained.
  - Reminders to be sent by the LAC Health Team to social workers at the 5 day timescale.
  - Unfortunately despite an issue being identified in respect of late arrivals at clinic sessions meaning several IHAs have had to be

cancelled the Paediatrician has expressed that he is not in a position to offer more community based interventions.

### 3.8 LAC Education

- 3.8.1 At the end of January 91.4% of eligible LAC population had a Personal Education Plan.
- 3.8.2 Rotherham has a local standard to ensure that each PEP is of good quality and refreshed every term (rather than the annual minimum standard). Provisional data shows that at the end of the Autumn term 89.9% had a PEP from within the term. This is a decline on the 98.9% achieved at the end of Summer however there has been an increase of 104 eligible children within this time. With a large number entering care too late in the term to organise a PEP.
- 3.8.3 Attendance for the whole LAC cohort currently stands at 94% but there are 26 young people who are currently receiving less than their 25 hours statutory entitlement. Some of these young people do not have the emotional resilience to manage any more than their current access but the multi-agency group, including Early Help, continues to meet on a monthly basis to support more of these young people towards their full entitlement.
- 3.8.4 There is some data that indicates that LAC experience a disproportionate rate of fixed term exclusions. A deeper dive analysis will be undertaken and plans agreed between the LAC Service and the Virtual School as to how best to address this issue.

### 3.9 Care Leavers

- 3.9.1 Care Leavers performance has been impacted by at least one of the team managers being either on annual leave or sick leave since December. In addition there are currently 3 personal advisors on long-term sick leave although back-fill arrangements have recently been agreed.
- 3.9.2 The number of young people receiving a Care Leavers service at month end was 239 which an increase of two since the last corporate parenting report and a 7% increase on 2016/17 position of 223.
- 3.9.3 87% of Care Leavers have had meaningful contact with their personal adviser in the last eight weeks.
- 3.9.4 Pathway Plan performance remains consistently good with 98% of eligible young people have a plan with 85% being less than 6 months old. A revised Pathway Plan template is now in operation and it is anticipated that this will assist in addressing the issues of variable quality of plans as identified in the Ofsted Monitoring Visit.

- 3.9.5 The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains strong at 95%, which represents top quartile performance nationally. This has however dipped from the 99% achieved earlier in the year due largely to six young people being in custody. There are currently 24 young people in Staying Put arrangements. Tenancy stability also appears strong as 86.5% of care leavers had only one primary address over the course of the previous 12 months.
- 3.9.6 Due to the tenacity shown to support a care leaver who has had two periods of street homelessness the young person has now moved suitable accommodation. By working in partnership with Street pastors in Doncaster and Sheffield, Sheffield Housing and voluntary sector partners the Personal Advisor was able to maintain reasonably regular contact with the young adult. Even though he repeatedly declined offers of accommodation they were at least able to ensure he was fed and that his washing was done for him. Their perseverance eventually paid off and the care leaver has recently accepted and moved into a supported tenancy. He has stated that he really likes his new home though his behaviours will mean that this will remain a fragile tenancy for the foreseeable future.
- 3.9.7 In respect of care leavers who are in Education, Employment or training (EET) this currently stands at 56.3%. The trend is downwards from a high of 65% in April and means Rotherham has dropped out of the top quartile. Early indications from performance review are that this may be due to time lags in data entry but a deeper dive analysis will take place to ensure any issues of greater significance are identified and addressed.
- 3.9.8 Whilst the Leaving Care Team was successful in securing 6 Modern Apprenticeships for care leavers within RMBC in 2017, sustaining these has been more of a challenge with only one apprentice still in his placement some 6 months after commencing, his being within the Transport Department. As a result, there will be a review of the pre-apprenticeship preparation programme given that many of attendees reported that it was 'pitched' at the wrong level for them. Future programmes may have to be split in terms of capability of the young person to enable more of them to sustain their placement.
- 3.9.9 However, in addition to this there is one H.E. Student currently on a work placement within the Finance Department which looks likely to progress to full employment and a further care leaver about to embark on an internship with the Media and Communications department.
- 3.9.10 Securing and sustaining more apprenticeships is a key priority objective for the LCT over the course of 2018.

### 3.10 Fostering

- 3.10.1 As at the end of 13th February were 196 in-house foster placements (down from 210 in November) in 163 foster families as opposed to 231 IFA placements, an increase of 32 since September. This worsening trend can be attributed almost entirely to the ongoing increase in LAC numbers.
- 3.10.2 Between 1<sup>st</sup> April '17 and 31<sup>st</sup> January '18 there have now been 13 new foster families approved by Panel. Fourteen foster families have de-registered resulting in a net decrease of one.
- 3.10.3 By the end of the financial year the service are projecting and increase to 19 new foster families (30 placements) approved which exceeds the target set of 25 new placements over the course of the year. The target for next year has therefore been set for 35 new placements
- 3.10.4 There are currently 25 fostering families on hold due to safeguarding issues/allegations. On the positive side this is evidencing a far greater safeguarding awareness within the Fostering Teams.
- 3.10.5 There are a further 31 placements on hold due to holidays, illness, house refurbishment, lack of bedroom space or having a break from fostering. The Fostering Team has been tasked to support 25% of these placements to be back on stream by the end of March.
- 3.10.6 At the end of January there were four privately fostered with a further two children recorded as 'becoming Privately Fostered'.
- 3.10.7 The Fostering Supervisory Team are now performance managing their visits to foster carers. Since the last corporate parenting report supervisory visits remain at 81% within the last 6 weeks and unannounced visits have improved 77% to 80%, (as at 22<sup>nd</sup> February).

### 3.11 Adoptions

- 3.11.1 It is a key issue that 55% of children in the adoption pathway process have been assessed as being 'hard to place'. That means they are either:
- Children older than 5 years of age
  - Sibling groups of 2 or more
  - Children with challenging behaviours, enduring health conditions or learning/physical disabilities.
- 3.11.2 Rotherham's policy is to persevere in seeking adoptive placements for these and all children for as long as it is reasonable to do so. Whilst this can impact on performance figures, this practice does give the necessary reassurance that the adoption service is 'doing the right thing' by its children by doing everything it can to secure

permanent family placements for its children. As a result one adoption completed this year 1,624 days after the child became looked after this demonstrates the determination and perseverance of the adoption team.

- 3.11.3 There have been 20 adoptions so far in 2017/18. Unfortunately, due to changes in court practice following a recent case law, the service no longer are predicting 32 adoptions by the end of the year. The forecast is now 27 by the end of March, (this does not mean that the five remaining children will not be adopted).
- 3.11.4 'In year' performance against the two key national is good and improving when compared to 2016/17. For the period April-January the average time between entering care and moving to the adoptive placement (measure A1) was 315.0 days as set against the statistical neighbour average of 511.6 days and the England average of 558.0 days. The average time between the Placement Order being obtained and an adoptive match being identified (measure A2) also remains good at 137.0 days compared to 214.7 for statistical neighbours and 226.0 nationally.
- 3.11.5 In respect of recruitment there are currently 15 adoptive parents within the assessment process. Given that only 13 adopters were approved throughout 2016/17 the team is once again well placed to improve on recent performance.

### 3.12 Caseloads

- 3.12.1 The data report now provides the average caseload split to show the difference in caseloads between Teams 1-3 and LAC team 4 (Court) & 5 (Permanence). This in turn has shown that LAC 1-3 have a higher average caseload, however this is still an eminently manageable caseload. The span of control for managers is 6 social workers and 1 advanced practitioner which is also highly appropriate and should facilitate good management oversight.

## **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 director. Commissioners are therefore recommended to consider and review this information.

## **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 and Commissioners 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 and Commissioners will be consulted where appropriate.

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

10.1 The performance report relates to services and outcomes for children in care.

## **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 within the wider social care 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 (CYPS)  
mel.meggs@rotherham.gov.uk

# Corporate Parenting Monthly Performance Report

## As at Month End: January 2018

*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. **In addition the data migration undertaken to facilitate the implementation of the new social care (LCS) and early help (EHM) systems at the end of October 2016 will have impacted on the data validity and recording processes. Therefore there may be data discrepancies present when comparing this report to that of the previous month.***

### Document Details

**Status:** Issue 1

**Date Created:** 6th February 2018

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

Performance Summary

As at Month End: January 2018

\*'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:-

- ↑ - improvement in performance / increase in numbers
- - no movement - numbers stable with last month
- ↓ - decline in performance, not on target / decrease in numbers

NO.	INDICATOR	GOOD PERF IS	DATA NOTE (Monthly)	2017 / 18							DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND			LATEST BENCHMARKING					
				Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	YTD 2017/18	DATA NOTE			Red	Amber	Target Green	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOL		
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	6.1	Number of Looked After Children	Info	Count	518	530	563	586	602		As at mth end	↑			n/a	407	432	488						
	6.2	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Rate per 10,000	91.5	93.7	99.5	103.5	106.4		As at mth end	↓			75	70	76.6	86.6	81.3	58.0	62.0	-		
	6.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Info	Count	35	21	39	37	26	266	Financial Year	↓			n/a	175	208	262						
	6.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	28	9	6	13	10	151	Financial Year	↓			n/a	160	192	215						
	6.5	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Adoption)	High	Percentage	21.4%	33.3%	66.7%	69.2%	0.0%	26.0%	Financial Year	↓			<33%	33%>	35%+	37.5%	40.1%	27.9%				
	6.6	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order	High	Percentage	7.1%	0.0%	16.7%	7.7%	0.0%	7.1%	Financial Year	↓			range to be set			9.8%	12.9%	26.0%	12.0%	16.0%		
	6.7	LAC cases reviewed within timescales	High	Percentage	98.5%	91.3%	92.6%	95.3%	77.2%	88.0%	Financial Year	↓			<90%	90%>	95%+	94.9%	83.3%	91.3%				
	6.8	% of children adopted	High	Percentage	14.3%	33.3%	16.7%	23.1%	0.0%	13.2%	Financial Year	↑		YTD	<20%	20%>	22.7%+	26.3%	22.9%	14.4%	18.9%	30.0%	14.0%	20.0%
	6.9	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments	High	Percentage	89.9%	86.7%	87.5%	79.3%	74.2%		As at mth end	↓			<90%	90%>	95%+	81.4%	92.8%	89.5%				
	6.10	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	High	Percentage	75.6%	72.1%	69.0%	68.6%	68.4%		As at mth end	↓			<90%	90%>	95%+	58.8%	94.5%	57.3%				
	6.11	Health of Looked After Children - Initial Health Assessments carried out within 20 working days	High	Percentage	90.9%	75.0%	82.4%	75.0%	44.4%	57.8%	Financial Year	↓			range to be set			20.0%	8.4%	18.2%				
	6.12	% of LAC with a PEP	High	Percentage	93.5%	93.5%	95.3%	94.0%	91.4%		As at mth end	↓			<90%	90%>	95%+	68.7%	97.8%	96.9%				
	6.13	% of LAC with up to date PEPs (Report Termly - End Jul, Dec, Mar)	High	Percentage				89.9%			As at mth end	→			<90%	90%>	95%+	71.4%	95.0%	87.9%				
	6.14	% of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	High	Percentage	92.5%	91.3%	96.4%	92.2%	89.7%		As at mth end	↓			<93%	93%>	95%+	98.8%	98.4%	79.1%				
	6.15	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of National Minimum standard	High	Percentage	97.3%	99.1%	99.6%	97.8%	96.8%		As at mth end	↓			<95%	95%>	98%+	94.9%	98.1%	94.7%				
	6.16	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of Rotherham standard	High	Percentage	91.7%	94.2%	95.8%	84.9%	84.1%		As at mth end	↓			<85%	85%>	90%+	64.0%	80.2%	88.3%				
CARE LEAVERS	7.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	230	237	237	237	239		As at mth end	↑			n/a	183	197	223						
	7.2	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan	High	Percentage	100.0%	98.6%	98.6%	97.5%	98.2%		As at mth end	↑			<93%	93%>	95%+	69.8%	97.5%	99.3%				
	7.3	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan	High	Percentage	79.2%	77.6%	68.9%	81.6%	84.7%		As at mth end	↑												
	7.4	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	96.3%	99.6%	99.2%	98.3%	95.0%		As at mth end	↓			<95%	95%>	98%+	97.8%	96.5%	97.8%	91.0%	100.0%	84.0%	91.0%
	7.5	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	High	Percentage	63.5%	61.5%	59.1%	59.5%	56.3%		As at mth end	↓			<70%	70%>	72%+	71.0%	68.0%	62.9%	52.2%	65.0%	50.0%	57.0%
PLACEMENTS	8.1	% of long term LAC in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years	High	Percentage	63.0%	62.7%	59.2%	60.3%	63.0%		As at mth end	↑			<68%	68%>	70%+	71.9%	72.7%	66.2%	68.8%	86.0%	68.0%	74.0%
	8.2	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Percentage	13.7%	13.8%	13.0%	11.6%	11.1%		Rolling Year	↑			12%+	12%<	9.6%<	12.0%	11.9%	11.9%	9.2%	6.0%	10.0%	8.0%
	8.3	% of LAC in a family Based setting	High	Percentage	82.8%	81.7%	82.2%	83.3%	83.1%		As at mth end	↑			range to be set	87.5%>							81.1%	
	8.4	% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	Low	Percentage	4.8%	4.5%	5.3%	4.4%	5.1%		As at mth end	↑			range to be set								5.3%	
	8.5	% of LAC in a Commissioned Placement (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Percentage	50.8%	50.4%	48.0%	49.3%	47.8%		As at mth end	↓			range to be set								43.2%	
FOSTERING	9.1	Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Count	391	363	377	396	406		As at mth end	↑			range to be set			180	353					
	9.2	% of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Percentage	75.5%	68.5%	67.0%	67.6%	67.4%		As at mth end	↓			range to be set			41.7%	72.3%					
	9.3	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	High	Count	153	151	151	154	153		As at mth end	↓			range to be set								168	
	9.4	Number of Foster Carers Recruited	High	Count	3	1	1	4	0	13	Financial Year	↓			range to be set								77	
	9.5	Number of Foster Carers Deregistered	Info	Count	2	3	1	1	1	15	Financial Year	→			range to be set								24	

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NO.	INDICATOR	GOOD PERF IS	DATA NOTE (Monthly)	2017 / 18							DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND			LATEST BENCHMARKING				
				Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	YTD 2017/18	DATA NOTE			Red	Amber	Target Green	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOL	
ADOPTIONS	10.1	Number of adoptions	High	Count	4	3	1	3	0	20	Financial Year	↓				n/a	43	43	31				
	10.2	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Count	2	1	1	1	0	11	Financial Year	→				n/a	16	23	12				
	10.3	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	50.0%	33.3%	100.0%	33.3%	-	55.0%	Financial Year	↓		<83%	83%>	85%+	37.2%	53.5%	38.7%				
	10.4	Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A1)	Low	YTD Average	289.5	307.6	307.8	315.0	315.0		Rolling Year	→		511+	511<	487<	393.0	296.0	404.0	511.6	337.0	558.0	501.1
	10.5	Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)	Low	YTD Average	122.5	138.5	134.1	137.0	137.0		Rolling Year	→		127+	127<	121<	169	136	232.9	214.7	73.0	226.0	183.6
Caseload	11.3	Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC	Low	Average count	18	17	17	17	17		As at mth end	→		21+	20<	18<		19.2	17.0				
	11.4	Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 1-3	Within Limits	Average count	13.3	13.2	12.9	13.3	11.6		As at mth end	↓		over 1% above range	1% above range	14-20		14.1	11.6				
		Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 4 - 5	Within Limits	Average count	10.9	11.4	11.5	11.0	9.7		As at mth end	↓		over 1% above range	1% above range	14-20		-	-				

# 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

Looked after Children (LAC) numbers have continued to rise with current numbers being 602 compared to 471 in January 2017. This appears to be as a result of a combination of factors, an improvement in social work assessments identifying and responding to risk, the complex abuse enquiry and the upward trend nationally. The overall rate for Rotherham remains significantly higher than that of our statistical neighbours (81.3) and national averages (62.0).

Outcomes are rarely improved for young people coming into care in adolescence who make up a significant proportion of our care population. Work is underway to develop a range of services that will address this such as an Edge of Care intervention team, Family Group Conferencing, expanded Therapeutic Team and the right child right care strategy. This will enable more adolescents to remain and/or return home.

The Edge of Care Panel is now operational and all Section 20 requests (for which they are the smallest category) have to go through the EofC process prior to a young person becoming LAC, but this is not anticipated to have any discernible impact on the numbers of LAC in the short term. It should be noted that there has been a decrease in the number of children discharged from care in over the last few months. A good proportion of those discharged from care over the course of 2017/18 are as a result of a permanence plan being implemented and via SGO. This will be a key area for improvement activity if we are to significantly reduce the LAC rate per 10k population.

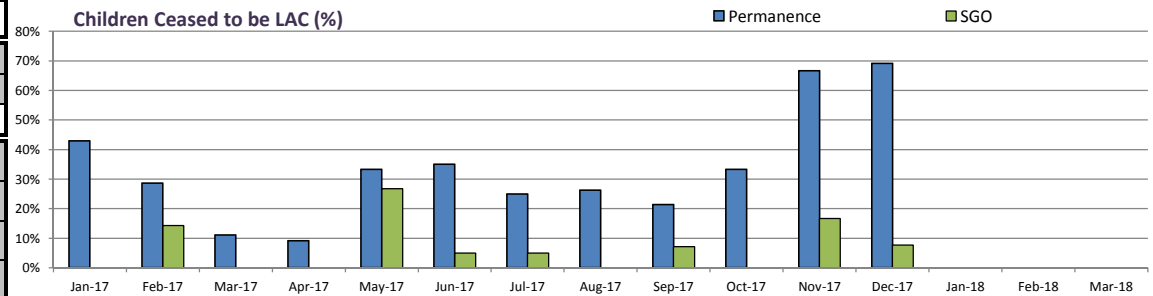
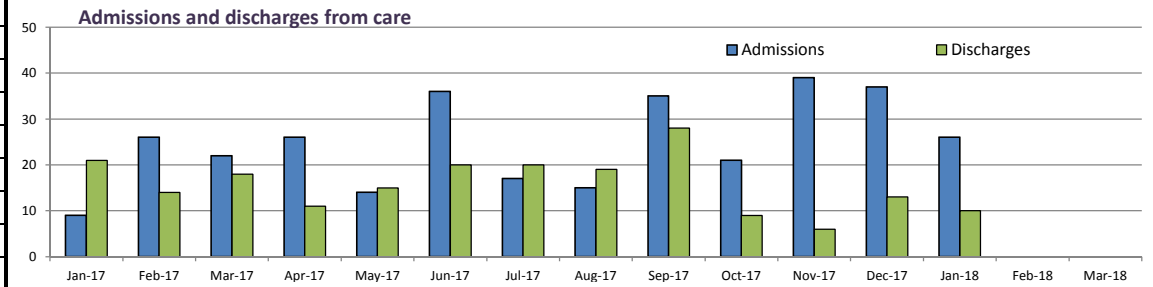
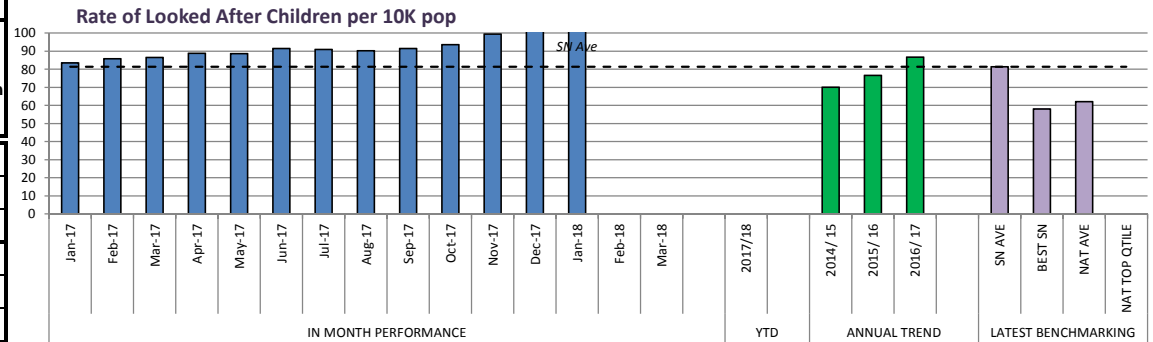
6.2	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6
Rate of children looked after per 10K pop	Number of LAC	Admissions of children looked after	No. of children who have ceased to be LAC	% of children ceased to be LAC due to permanence	% of children ceased to be LAC due to an SGO

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	83.6	471	9	21	42.9%	0.0%
	Feb-17	85.7	483	26	14	28.6%	14.3%
	Mar-17	86.4	487	22	18	11.1%	0.0%
	Apr-17	88.9	503	26	11	9.1%	0.0%
	May-17	88.7	502	14	15	33.3%	26.7%
	Jun-17	91.5	518	36	20	35.0%	5.0%
	Jul-17	91.0	515	17	20	25.0%	5.0%
	Aug-17	90.3	511	15	19	26.3%	0.0%
	Sep-17	91.5	518	35	28	21.4%	7.1%
	Oct-17	93.7	530	21	9	33.3%	0.0%
	Nov-17	99.5	563	39	6	66.7%	16.7%
	Dec-17	103.5	586	37	13	69.2%	7.7%
	Jan-18	106.4	602	26	10	0.0%	0.0%
	Feb-18						
Mar-18							

YTD	2017/18			266	151	26.0%	7.1%
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ANNUAL TREND	2014/ 15	70.0		175	160	37.5%	
	2015/ 16	76.6		208	192	40.1%	
	2016/ 17	86.6		262	215	27.9%	9.8%

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	81.3					
	BEST SN	58.0					
	NAT AVE	62.0					
	NAT TOP QTILE	-					



# 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 their plan changes to 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

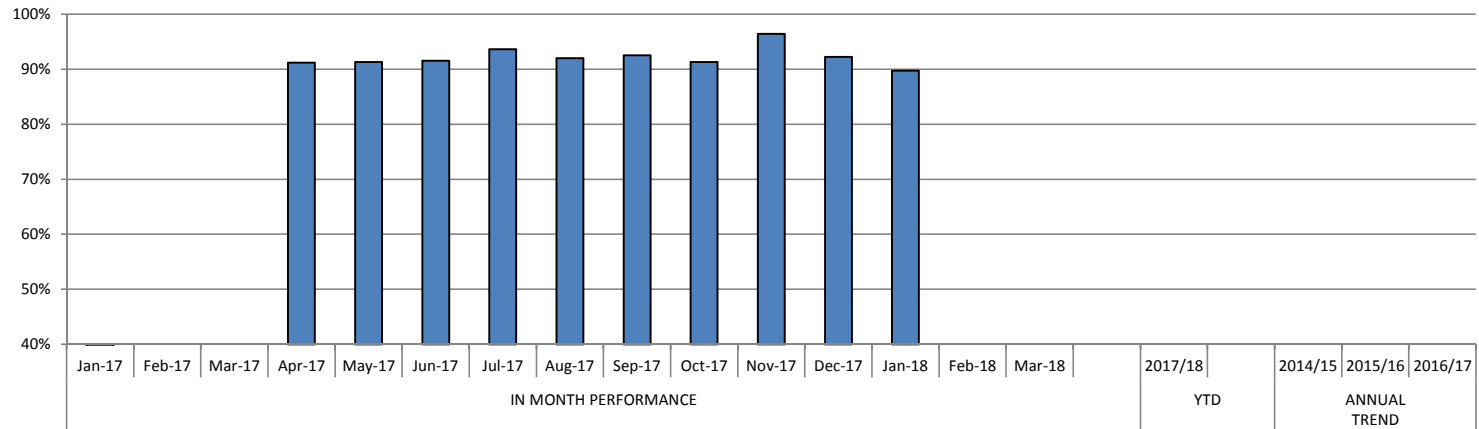
If a child has an out of date plan it may mean that there risks and needs are not being addressed effectively. January sees a small decrease in performance for all plans when compared to previous months. The level of change is are not statistically significant but are subject to management scrutiny in the performance meetings. The performance dip is likely to be as a consequence of a number of factors including the increase in caseloads in locality and LAC.

6.14

LAC with an up to date plan

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	Indicator definition changed from Apr 17	
	Feb-17		
	Mar-17		
	Apr-17	91.2%	
	May-17	91.3%	
	Jun-17	91.5%	
	Jul-17	93.6%	
	Aug-17	92.0%	
	Sep-17	92.5%	
	Oct-17	91.3%	
	Nov-17	96.4%	
	Dec-17	92.2%	
	Jan-18	89.7%	
	Feb-18		
	Mar-18		
	YTD	2017/18	
	ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	
2015/16			
2016/17			

LAC with an up to date plan



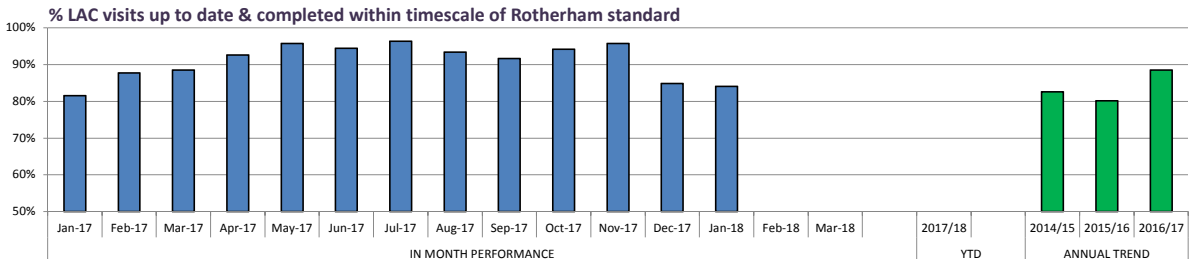
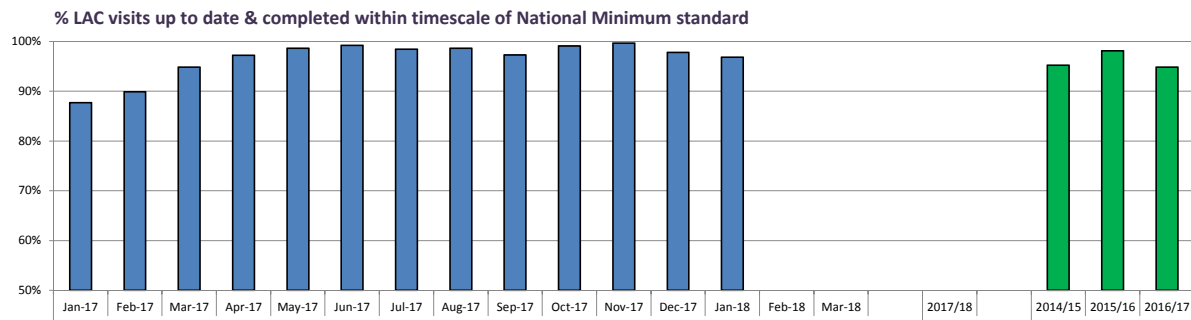
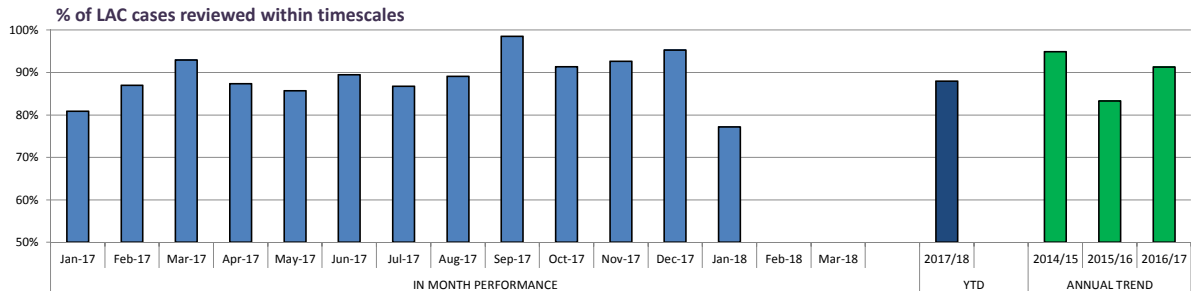
# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - REVIEWS & VISITS

<b>DEFINITION</b>	<p>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)</p> <p>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 six 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 four weekly thereafter until the child has been permanently matched to the placement.</p>
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<b>PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS</b>	<p>Performance in respect of statutory reviews has declined in January. As of today (14.02.18) 90% LAC have an up to date review and the service will be exploring why there has been a decline in performance for those completed in January. Performance will need to be carefully monitored as the rise in the care population works its way through the system. Visits under the Rotherham standard of 4 weekly visits is at 84.1% but at the national minimum standard this increases to 96.8%. There is a correlation between the number of cases held by the team and performance (higher cases lower performance). There is also increasing evidence of direct work and life-story work being undertaken during these visits.</p> <p>Performance on LAC visits has been reviewed and on reflecting on the significant performance improvements overall and increased stability in the core LAC teams that supports good relationship development with children, agreement has been given to move to the nationally required visiting pattern where this is appropriate for the child. This approach continues to be monitored by the Head of Service at fortnightly performance meetings. 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.</p> <p>Social workers whose performance is poor can mostly evidence that the visits have taken place but there is some delay in inputting the details of the visit.</p>
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Data Note: Following validation work carried out by the Performance & Quality Team, the data for both of the visits measures (6.15 & 6.16) has been refreshed going back to April.

		6.7		6.15		6.16	
		% 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	
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Jan-17	72 of 89	80.9%	413 of 471	87.7%	384 of 471	81.5%
	Feb-17	80 of 92	87.0%	434 of 483	89.9%	424 of 483	87.8%
	Mar-17	132 of 142	93.0%	462 of 487	94.9%	431 of 487	88.5%
	Apr-17	76 of 87	87.4%	487 of 501	97.2%	464 of 501	92.6%
	May-17	108 of 126	85.7%	494 of 501	98.6%	480 of 501	95.8%
	Jun-17	102 of 114	89.5%	516 of 520	99.2%	491 of 520	94.4%
	Jul-17	105 of 121	86.8%	511 of 519	98.5%	500 of 519	96.3%
	Aug-17	90 of 101	89.1%	512 of 519	98.7%	485 of 519	93.4%
	Sep-17	133 of 135	98.5%	505 of 519	97.3%	476 of 519	91.7%
	Oct-17	137 of 150	91.3%	531 of 536	99.1%	504 of 535	94.2%
	Nov-17	126 of 136	92.6%	568 of 570	99.6%	546 of 570	95.8%
	Dec-17	101 of 106	95.3%	576 of 589	97.8%	500 of 589	84.9%
	Jan-18	98 of 127	77.2%	584 of 603	96.8%	507 of 603	84.1%
Feb-18							
Mar-18							
<b>YTD</b>	2017/18		88.0%				
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15		94.9%		95.2%		82.6%
	2015/16		83.3%		98.1%		80.2%
	2016/17		91.3%		94.9%		88.5%





# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - HEALTH

## DEFINITION

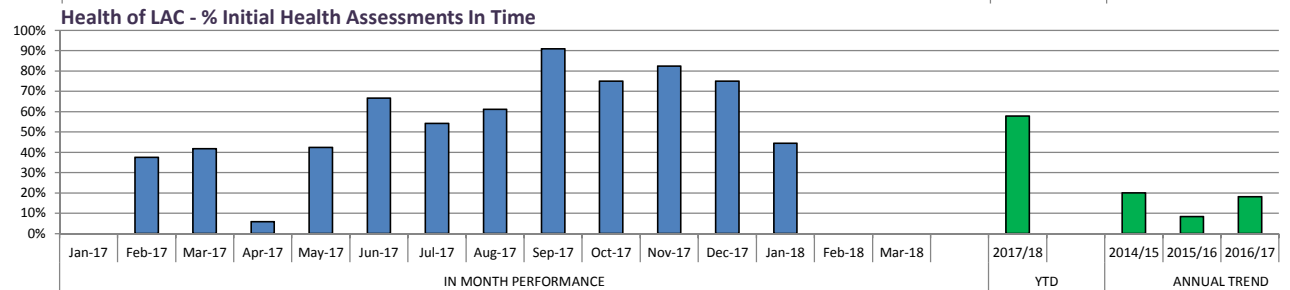
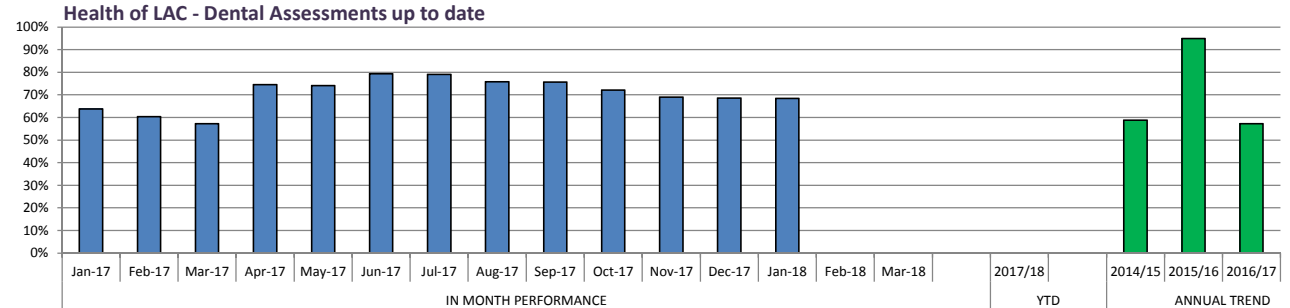
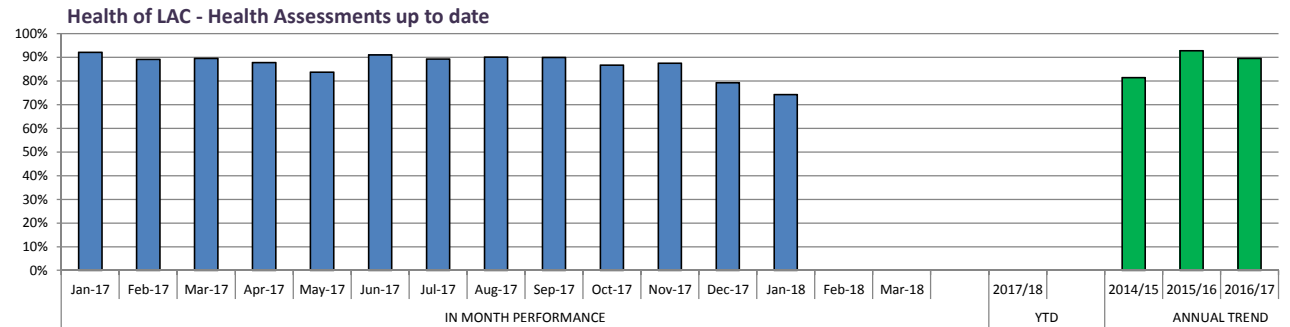
Local authorities have a duty to safeguard and to promote the welfare of the children they look after, therefore the local authority should make arrangements to ensure that every child who is looked after has his/her health needs fully assessed and a health plan clearly set out.

## PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance in relation to health and dental assessments has been poor, but in recent months has showed improvement. January data shows that health assessments have further reduced slightly to 74.2% whilst dental performance has remained consistent at 68.4%. The service will be exploring why there has been a decline in performance this month in relation to health assessments. The LAC nurse team data contradicts this figure, recording higher levels of performance.

Further refinements to the process continue to be made, whereby the Placements Team and Fostering Team Duty desk ensure Liquid Logic is updated to reflect all new admissions to care should further enhance this performance.

		6.9	6.10	6.11	
		Health of LAC - Health Assessments up to date	Health of LAC - Dental Assessments up to date	Health of LAC - No. Initial Health Assessments In Time	Health of LAC - % Initial Health Assessments In Time
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	92.1%	63.8%	0 of 28	0.0%
	Feb-17	89.1%	60.3%	6 of 16	37.5%
	Mar-17	89.5%	57.3%	5 of 12	41.7%
	Apr-17	87.8%	74.6%	1 of 17	5.9%
	May-17	83.7%	74.1%	14 of 33	42.4%
	Jun-17	91.0%	79.3%	16 of 24	66.7%
	Jul-17	89.3%	79.0%	13 of 24	54.2%
	Aug-17	90.1%	75.8%	11 of 18	61.1%
	Sep-17	89.9%	75.6%	10 of 11	90.9%
	Oct-17	86.7%	72.1%	18 of 24	75.0%
	Nov-17	87.5%	69.0%	14 of 17	82.4%
	Dec-17	79.3%	68.6%	6 of 8	75.0%
	Jan-18	74.2%	68.4%	4 of 9	44.4%
	Feb-18				
Mar-18					
YTD	2017/18				57.8%
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	81.4%	58.8%		20.0%
	2015/16	92.8%	95.0%		8.4%
	2016/17	89.5%	57.3%		18.2%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	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.  
Prior to September 2015 PEPs were in place for compulsory school-age children only. PEPs are now in place for LAC aged two to their 18th birthday.

### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

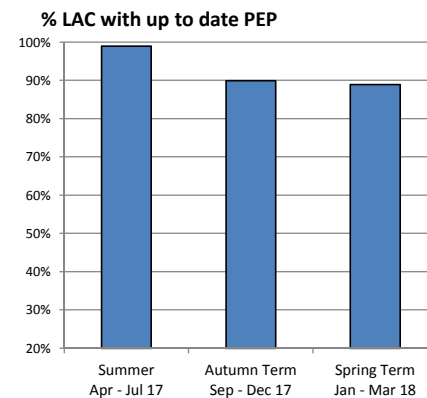
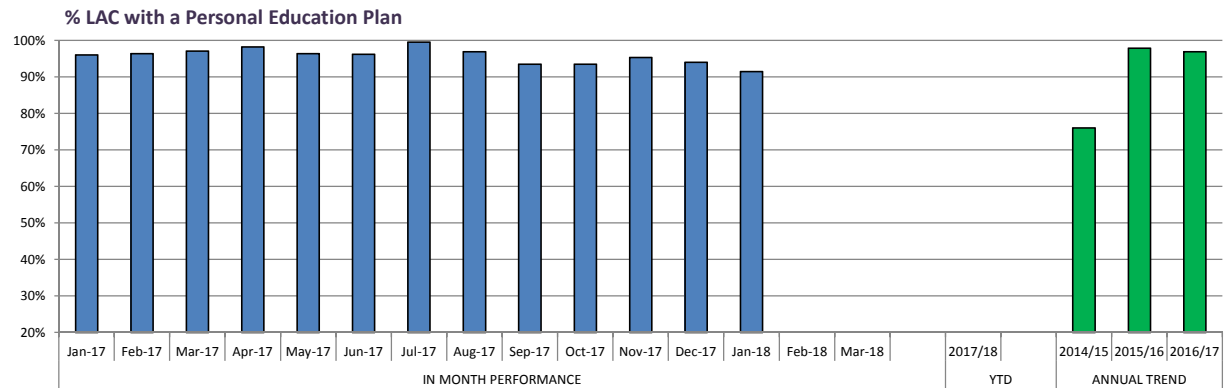
As explained in previous performance reports it has been agreed that the proxy measure for 'termly' PEPs ('no older than 4 months') will no longer be included each month but will be reviewed at the end of each term with regular narrative will be provided by the virtual school.

At the end of the 2017 summer term (i.e. end of July) 98.9% of LAC had a Personal Education Plan (PEP), and 97.9% of LAC had PEPs that were up to date. This is an improvement on 2016/17 outturn position. Furthermore external quality assurance rated 87% of PEPs as "good or better" standard and 83% of children are educated in a school rated either "Good or Outstanding" by Ofsted

The autumn term position (end of December) demonstrates a decrease. The virtual school report that 449 of 463 eligible LAC had their PEP meeting in the Autumn term (97%), however there are a significant number awaiting sign off, hence the reported figure from LCS being much lower. In future reports, once these are approved and on the child's record performance will improve. All of the children that didn't have PEPs came into care towards the end of last term.

The percentage of completed peps has slightly declined but this is against an increase in the care population with all initial peps being required to take place in the spring term.

		6.12		6.13	
		Number of Eligible LAC with a Personal Education Plan	% LAC with a Personal Education Plan	% LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan (Termly)	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	309 of 322	96.0%		
	Feb-17	316 of 328	96.3%		
	Mar-17	324 of 334	97.0%	88.9% (Spring Term)	
	Apr-17	333 of 339	98.2%		
	May-17	343 of 356	96.3%		
	Jun-17	354 of 368	96.2%		
	Jul-17	371 of 373	99.5%	98.9% (Summer Term)	
	Aug-17	371 of 383	96.9%		
	Sep-17	401 of 429	93.5%		
	Oct-17	401 of 429	93.5%		
	Nov-17	424 of 445	95.3%		
	Dec-17	437 of 465	94.0%	89.9% (Autumn Term)	
	Jan-18	436 of 477	91.4%		
	Feb-18				
Mar-18					
YTD	2017/18				
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		76.0%	68.7%	
	2015/16		97.8%	95.0%	
	2016/17		96.9%	87.9%	
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. Suitable accommodation is defined as any that is not prison or bed and breakfast.

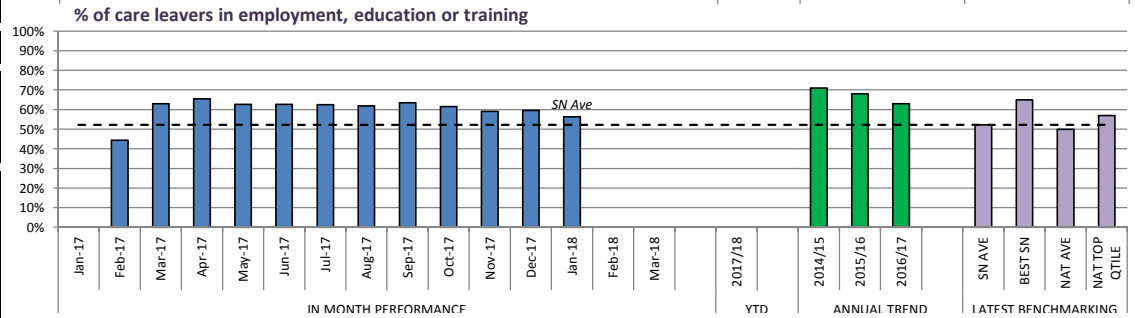
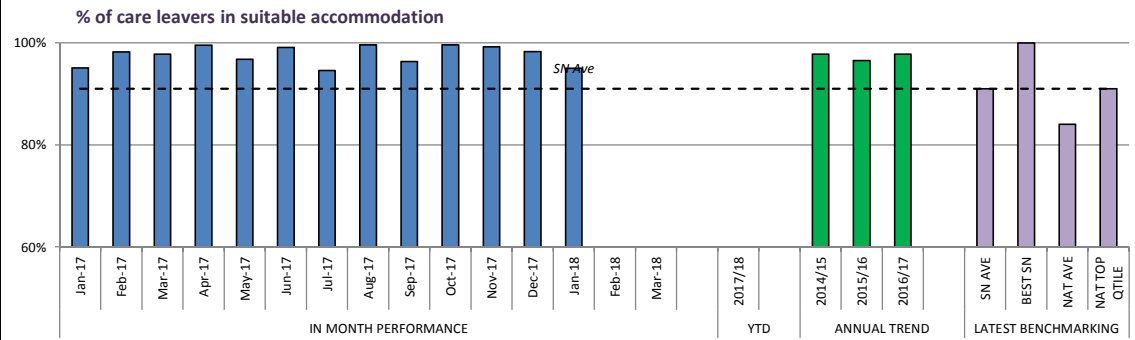
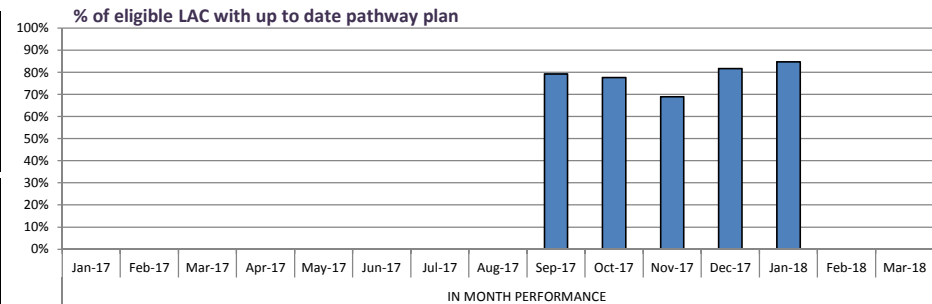
## PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The number of care leavers who have a pathway plan remains at a consistent level. The service continues to focus on improving the quality of the plans so that they are meaningful for young people. The introduction of a new plan template will significantly improve the quality of the plans. As the service continues to drive quality alongside, implementation or signs of safety performance in this area may plateau in coming months.

The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains good, given the national average is 84% performance remains strong and there are currently 24 young people in Staying Put arrangements. Tenancy stability also appears strong as 86.5% of care leavers had only one primary address over the course of the previous 12 months.

In respect of care leavers who are in Education, Employment or training (EET) this currently stands at 56.3%. The trend is slightly downwards from a high of 65% in April but is still above the national average of 50%. There are currently 12 care leavers in Higher Education, including one undertaking a PHD. Staying in touch figures shows 87% of the 230 care leavers had meaningful contact. Service anticipates this will improve over the next reporting period.

	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	
	Number of care leavers	% of eligible Care Leavers with a pathway plan	% of eligible Care Leavers with up to date pathway plan	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	223	Unavailable	Unavailable	95.1%	Unavailable
	Feb-17	223	97.8%		98.2%	44.4%
	Mar-17	223	99.3%		97.8%	62.9%
	Apr-17	220	98.6%	Unavailable	99.5%	65.4%
	May-17	218	98.6%		96.8%	62.7%
	Jun-17	216	99.3%		99.1%	62.7%
	Jul-17	222	100.0%		94.6%	62.5%
	Aug-17	230	100.0%	79.2%	99.6%	61.9%
	Sep-17	230	100.0%	77.6%	96.3%	63.5%
	Oct-17	237	98.6%	81.6%	99.6%	61.5%
	Nov-17	237	98.6%	68.9%	99.2%	59.1%
	Dec-17	237	97.5%	84.7%	98.3%	59.5%
	Jan-18	239	98.2%		95.0%	56.3%
	Feb-18					
Mar-18						
YTD	2017/18					
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	183			97.8%	71.0%
	2015/16	197	69.8%		96.5%	68.0%
	2016/17	223	99.3%		97.8%	62.9%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				91.0%	52.2%
	BEST SN				100.0%	65.0%
	NAT AVE				84.0%	50.0%
	NAT TOP Q/TILE				91.0%	57.0%



# 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

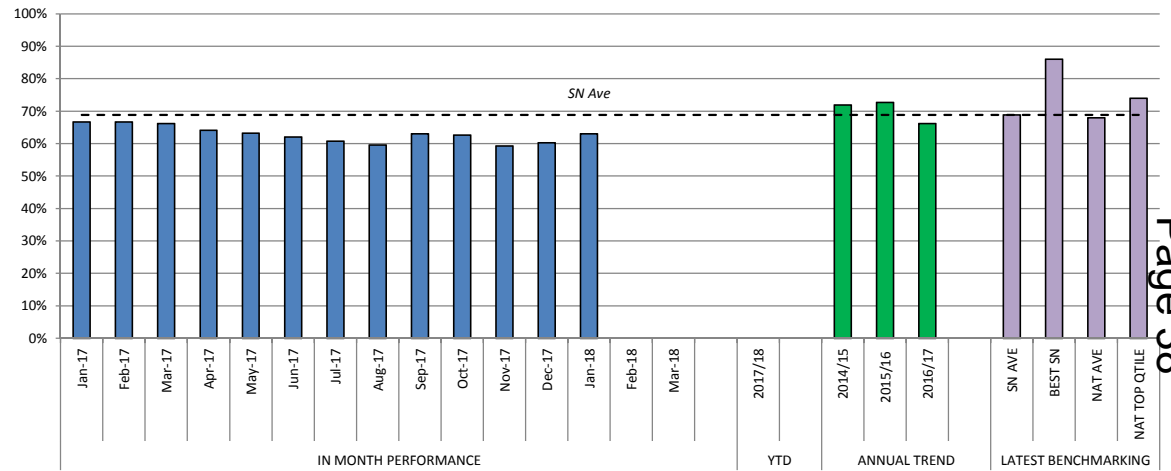
In respect of long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years, performance continues to evidence a continuing improvement, against a backdrop of an increasing care population. This month seeing an increase in the number of children in a stable placement and a reduction in those who have had three or more placements. However, more needs to be done to achieve the national average.

The Intensive Prevention Programme is ongoing whereby the placement stability of 21 young people assessed as being at high risk of a series of placement disruptions receiving this intervention will be compared to a control group of children with a similar need. This is the first time such support has been targeted to this extent and depending on the outcomes achieved the model may be rolled out for wider implementation. So far most children are achieving placement stability and therefore is making a contribution to the reduction in placement disruption.

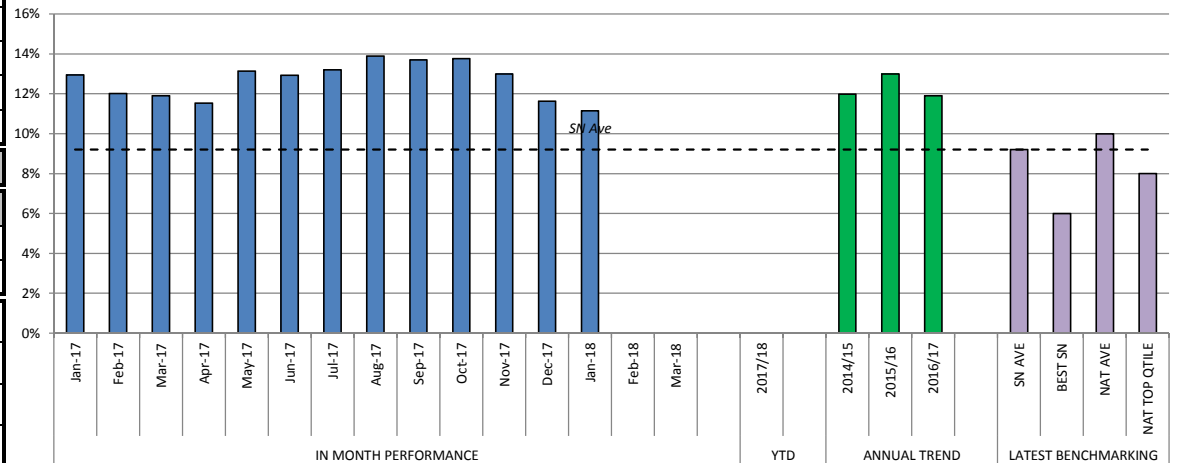
Despite the increase in LAC numbers we have managed to sustain a good percentage of children living in family based placements at 83%.

		8.1		8.2		8.3		8.4		8.5	
		Long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years		LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 mth (Corporate Plan 2016 Indicator)		% of LAC in a family Based setting (includes living with parents)		% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)		LAC in a Commissioned Placement (Fostering & Residential) (Corporate Plan 2016 Indicator)	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	94 of 141	66.7%	61 of 471	13.0%	80.3%	4.9%				
	Feb-17	96 of 144	66.7%	58 of 483	12.0%	79.9%	4.3%				
	Mar-17	96 of 145	66.2%	58 of 487	11.9%	81.1%	5.3%	211 of 487	43.3%		
	Apr-17	93 of 145	64.1%	58 of 503	11.5%	79.6%	5.0%	230 of 503	45.7%		
	May-17	93 of 147	63.3%	66 of 502	13.1%	78.2%	6.2%	233 of 502	46.4%		
	Jun-17	90 of 145	62.1%	67 of 518	12.9%	79.1%	6.0%	243 of 518	46.9%		
	Jul-17	93 of 153	60.8%	68 of 515	13.2%	84.5%	6.4%	245 of 515	47.6%		
	Aug-17	90 of 151	59.6%	71 of 511	13.9%	83.8%	6.0%	251 of 511	49.1%		
	Sep-17	92 of 146	63.0%	71 of 518	13.7%	82.8%	4.8%	263 of 518	50.8%		
	Oct-17	94 of 150	62.7%	73 of 530	13.8%	81.7%	4.5%	267 of 530	50.4%		
	Nov-17	93 of 157	59.2%	73 of 562	13.0%	82.2%	5.3%	270 of 563	48.0%		
	Dec-17	94 of 156	60.3%	68 of 585	11.6%	83.3%	4.4%	289 of 586	49.3%		
	Jan-18	97 of 154	63.0%	67 of 601	11.1%	83.1%	5.1%	288 of 602	47.8%		
Feb-18											
Mar-18											
YTD	2017/18										
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	110 of 153	71.9%	49 of 409	12.0%						
	2015/16	109 of 150	72.7%	56 of 431	13.0%			188 of 431	43.6%		
	2016/17	96 of 145	66.2%	58 of 488	11.9%	81.1%	5.3%	211 of 488	43.2%		
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		68.8%		9.2%						
	BEST SN		86.0%		6.0%						
	NAT AVE		68.0%		10.0%						
	NAT TOP Q TILE		74.0%		8.0%						

% long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years



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



# FOSTERING

**DEFINITION** A foster care family provide the best form of care for most Looked after children. Rotherham would like most of its children to be looked after by its own carers so that they remain part of their families and community .

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

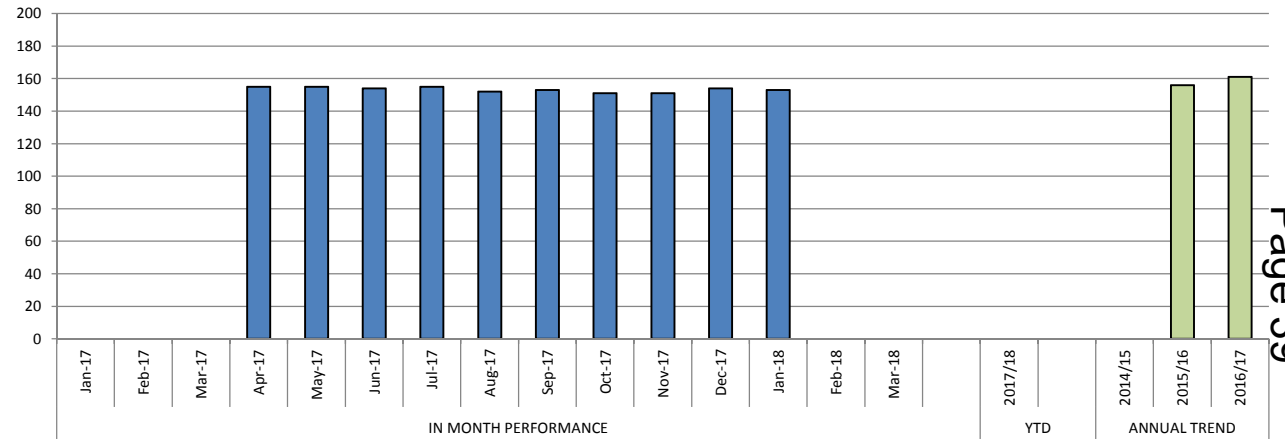
The number of children living in an in-house fostering placement continues to increase, and the number of children who benefit from living in a family based setting remains high at 406. This is in spite of an increase in the number of children needing care and the impact of increasing numbers of children deciding to Stay put post 18.

The service have managed to recruit 1 new family this month but lost one foster carer who left the fostering service.

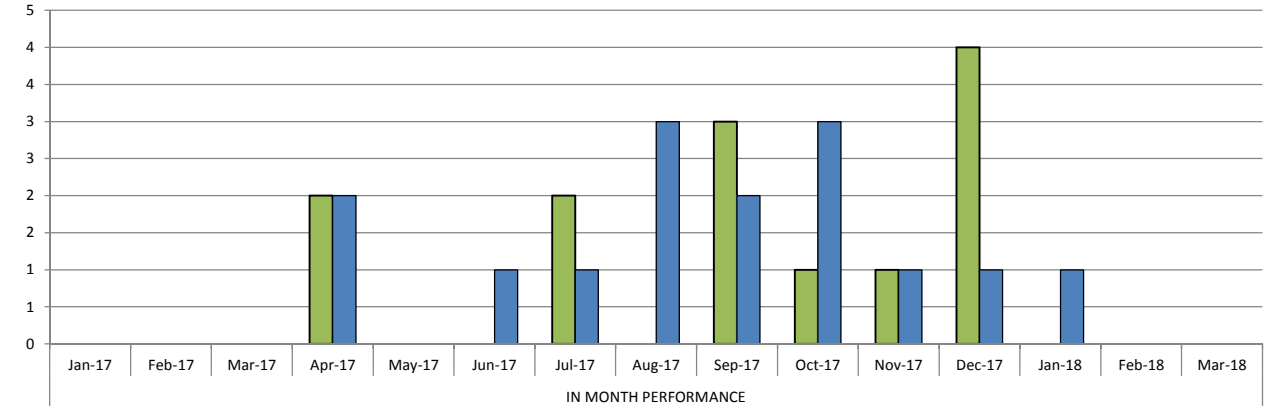
9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5
Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend)	% of total LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend )	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	Number of Foster Carers Recruited (Households)	Number of Foster Carers De-registered (Households)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17					
	Feb-17					
	Mar-17					
	Apr-17	357	71.0%	155	2	2
	May-17	364	72.5%	155	0	0
	Jun-17	356	68.7%	154	0	1
	Jul-17	371	72.0%	155	2	1
	Aug-17	381	74.6%	152	0	3
	Sep-17	391	75.5%	153	3	2
	Oct-17	363	68.5%	151	1	3
	Nov-17	377	67.0%	151	1	1
	Dec-17	396	67.6%	154	4	1
	Jan-18	406	67.4%	153	0	1
	Feb-18					
	Mar-18					
YTD	2017/18			13	15	
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15					
	2015/16			156	13	16
	2016/17	353	72.3%	161	32	22

**Number of Foster Carers**



**Fostering Recruitment & De-registrations**



# 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

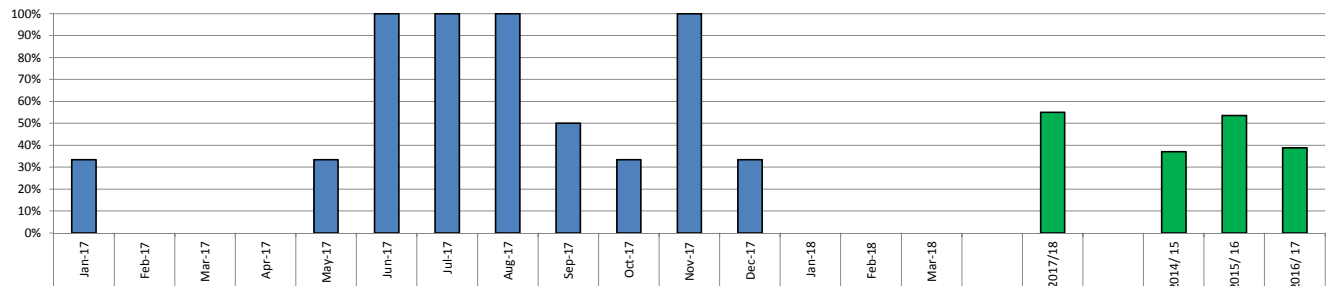
Current performance continues to be outstanding, and places us in the top quartile for both A1 and A2 indicators. However, the priority for Rotherham will always be to find adoptive parents for our children no matter how long that may take, and given the low numbers, wide variance can be seen month on month.

Due to changes in court practice following a recent case law the service no longer are predicting 31 adoptions by the end of the year, the forecast is now 27 by the end of March.

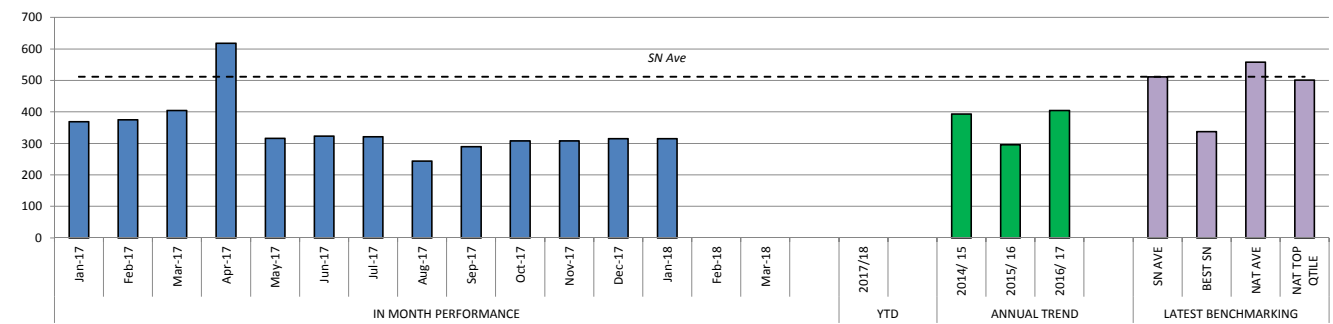
Data Note: Taken from manual tracker. Data requires inputting into LCS

	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5	
	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) (ytd. ave)	Av. No. days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family (A2) (ytd. ave)	
Jan-17	9	3	33.3%	368.8	211.0	
Feb-17	1	0	0.0%	374.7	208.4	
Mar-17	2	0	0.0%	404.0	232.9	
Apr-17	1	0	0.0%	618.0	378.0	
May-17	3	1	33.3%	316.3	149.5	
Jun-17	1	1	100.0%	323.0	131.0	
Jul-17	1	1	100.0%	321.0	115.6	
Aug-17	3	3	100.0%	243.3	87.7	
Sep-17	4	2	50.0%	289.5	122.5	
Oct-17	3	1	33.3%	307.6	138.5	
Nov-17	1	1	100.0%	307.8	134.1	
Dec-17	3	1	33.3%	315.0	137.0	
Jan-18	0	0	-	315.0	137.0	
Feb-18						
Mar-18						
<b>YTD</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>55.0%</b>		
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15			37.0%	393.0	169.0
	2015/16	43	23	53.5%	296.0	136.0
	2016/17	31	12	38.7%	404.0	232.9
<b>LATEST BENCHMARKING</b>	SN AVE			511.6	214.7	
	BEST SN			337.0	73.0	
	NAT AVE			558.0	226.0	
	NAT TOP QTILE			501.1	183.6	

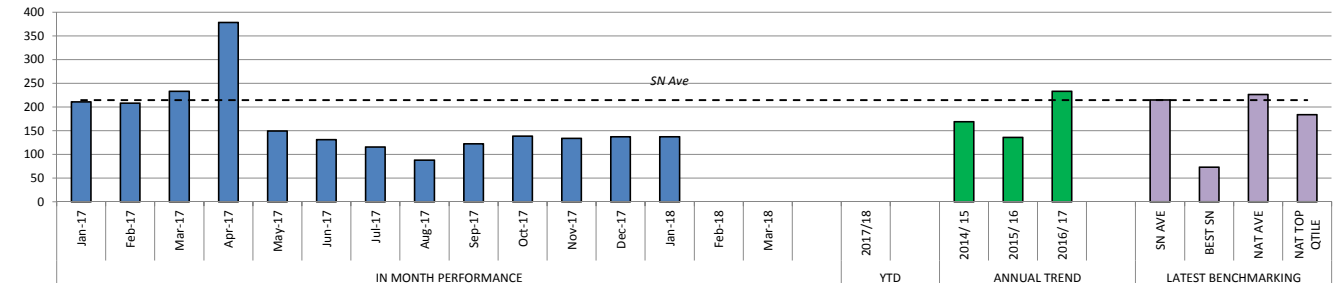
% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA



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

# CASELOADS

**DEFINITION** Caseload figures relate to the number of children the social worker is currently the lead key worker. Fieldwork teams relate to frontline social care services including the four Duty Teams, none Long Term CIN Teams, two LAC teams and the CSE Team. All averages are calculated on a full time equivalency basis, based on the number of hours the worker is contracted to work.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

The 'maximum and average caseload' across the key safeguarding teams continues to be consistent and remains within acceptable limits. This is reviewed weekly and managers are ensuring that cases transfer, close or step down in a timely manner as well as performance meetings continuing to examine caseloads in detail. All those over 18 are examined and the reasons explained. For example, some senior social workers have students allocated to them and the student caseload shows under the supervisor's name. Ensuring that social workers have manageable caseloads was a key priority for Rotherham and the current performance is testimony to what has been achieved in this regard.

The average caseload has been split to show the difference in caseloads between Teams 1-3 and LAC team 4 (Court) & 5 (Permanence). This in turn has shown that LAC 1-3 have a higher average caseload, however this is still an eminently manageable caseload. The span of control for managers is 6 social workers and 1 advanced practitioner which is also highly appropriate and should facilitate good management oversight.

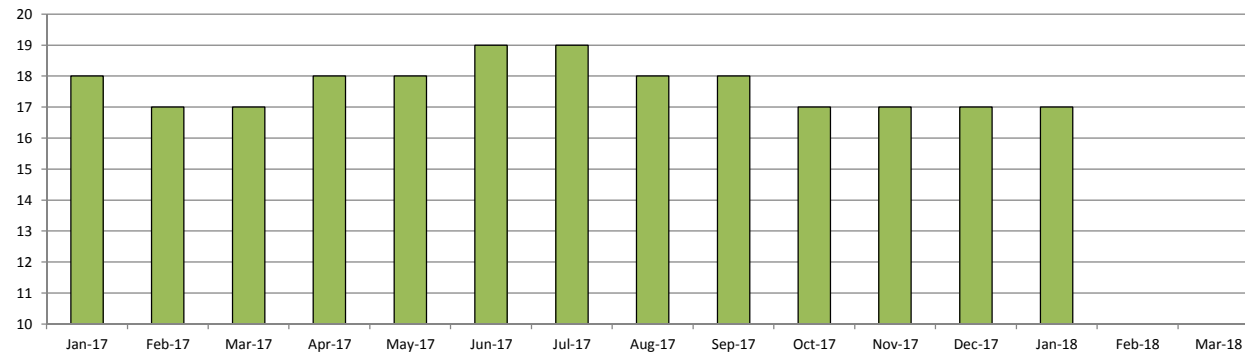
	11.3	11.4	
Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC Teams		Av. no. cases in LAC Teams	
		Teams 1-3	Teams 4 & 5

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	18	12.9	
	Feb-17	17	11.0	
	Mar-17	17	11.6	
	Apr-17	18	10.6	
	May-17	18	11.7	
	Jun-17	19	10.7	
	Jul-17	19	10.9	
	Aug-17	18	12.2	9.7
	Sep-17	18	13.3	10.9
	Oct-17	17	13.2	11.4
	Nov-17	17	12.9	11.5
	Dec-17	17	13.3	11.0
	Jan-18	17	11.6	9.7
	Feb-18			
Mar-18				

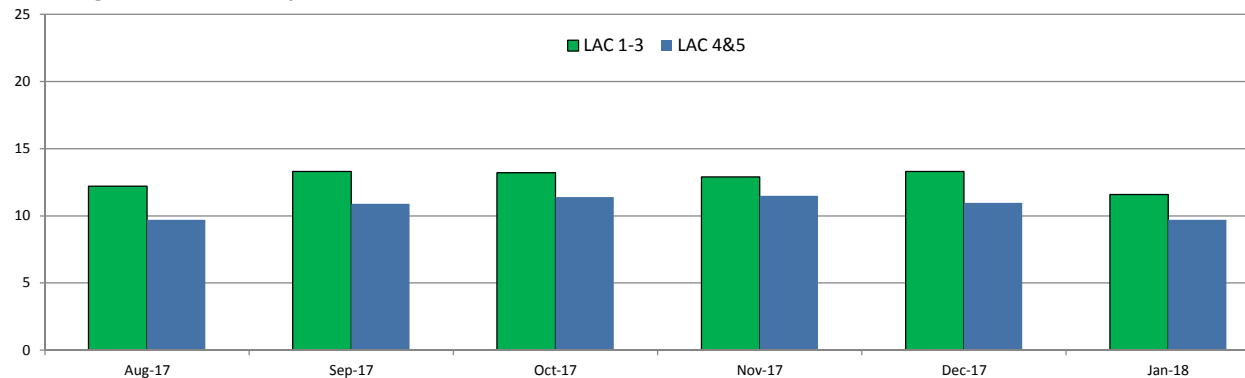
YTD	2017/18			
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ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		
	2015/16	19.2	14.1
	2016/17	17.0	11.6

Maximum caseload of LAC social workers



Average number of cases per team



## Summary Sheet

**Title of Report:** Muslim Foster Carers Project (Update 10 January 2018)

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

This is not a key decision

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services

**Report Author(s)** Cheryl Long, Manager - Fostering

**Ward(s) Affected** All

**Recommendations:** To review the update and make any necessary recommendations

**Background Papers**

None

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

No

**Council Approval Required:** Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public:** No



## **1. Recommendations**

1.1 To review the update and make any necessary recommendations

## **2. Background and update**

2.1 Following approval for Rotherham Fostering Service to be part of the Muslim Fostering Research Project a meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with Fostering Network project lead, Andrew Limbert. Joanne Nutton, Kathryn Maguire and Cheryl Long from Rotherham Fostering Service attended this to share more detail on the research project.

The project aims to gather and analyse data to identify good practice and evaluate how identity is taken into consideration within fostering. The project also aims to explore barriers associated with the recruitment of Muslim families to develop a targeted recruitment campaign focused on the Muslim community to meet the needs of looked after children locally.

In addition to Rotherham's participation, Bristol, Bedfordshire and Surrey Local Authorities are also participating, with one Independent Fostering Agency; Olive Branch Fostering which is based in Lancashire.

RMBC have been tasked to provide the following information for the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

- Data around the last 3 placements made for Muslim children including the matching and placing of these children
- Identify 5 Rotherham foster carers that can be interviewed as part of the research project. The aim of this is to gather information on their experiences of the recruitment process, support, supervision and how they manage the cultural needs of the children in placement. Interviews will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.
- Recruitment and retention data of all Rotherham in-house foster carers in order that we can participate in a short survey to ascertain the views of the wider service.
- Information to be provided on what our current offer is for Diversity training.
- The previous initiatives adopted by Rotherham Fostering regarding the recruitment of foster carers from the Muslim community have been shared as part of this process.

Local information will be gathered as detailed above and will be analysed and measured alongside partner participants to explore themes and issues. This will be utilised to develop a more sophisticated approach to the recruitment process with an overall aim to increase the number of Muslim foster carers and therefore more cultural sensitive matches of Muslim children with Muslim families.

Following the research project completion in March 2018, there will be a launch event of research findings and good practice identified which each involved service will be invited to attend. Involved fostering services will also be given a bespoke training package developed from the practice learning that can be delivered to

prospective foster carers, approved foster carers and staff. Their intention is for the research findings to be published so that the findings can be shared publicly.

Fostering Network will remain involved with Rotherham Fostering Service until July 2018 to assist in embedding the good practice recommendations into the service.

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

- 4.1 "As is" take no action. The outcome of this would be that there would be no development or change within the service regarding this specific recruitment of Muslim carers for Muslim children.
- 4.2 Involvement in this project ( preferred option )This would enable a joint venture with fostering network to develop more sophisticated recruitment initiative for recruiting and retaining Muslim foster carers. An added value of this would be learning could be incorporated within the wider fostering recruitment drive.

#### **5. Consultation**

5.1 Initial discussion took place between Fostering Network, Head of Service, Ian Walker, Fostering Team Service Manager Anne-Marie Banks, Fostering Recruitment Team Manager, Cheryl Long and Fostering Recruitment Social Worker, Joanne Nutton. As a result of which an initial meeting was set up on 29/11/17. A further meeting has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 where Muslim foster carers will be interviewed to ascertain their views about the service and what we could do better.

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

6.1 Initial meeting took place with Fostering Network on 29/11/2018 with a follow up meeting arranged for February. The programme will have concluded by March 2018.

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

7.1 There is no cost associated with this project for RMBC other than Rotherham Fostering Service time and commitment

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

8.1 No legal implications identified

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

9.1 None

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

10.1 The project will promote placement stability for children in care, and therefore improve outcomes and life chances for children moving into adult life. The project will also promote better foster carer experience and therefore support the retention of foster carers, and is likely to attract new foster carers into the Borough, and therefore build on the recruitment campaign.

## 11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 If successful the service will be able to operate a more culturally sensitive for children and foster carers.

## 12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 Not applicable

## 13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Not applicable

## 14. Accountable Officer(s)

Approvals Obtained from:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Colin Allen- No financial implications raised	12/02/2018
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Neil Concannon- No legal implications raised as long as no personal data of Foster Carers is shared with fostering network other than statistical information	12/02/2018
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Theresa Caswell- No HR implications raised.	12/02/2018

Report Author: Cheryl Long Team Manager- Fostering

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

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

## Summary Sheet

### Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel

### Report Title

Right Child, Right Care – First Update

### 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 (Head of Service, LAC)

### Ward(s) Affected

All

## Summary

The existing budget was predicated on a total of 480 Looked After Children (LAC). However, as at the end of January 2018 there were 603 LAC, having increased from a total of 471 as of the end of January 2017, an increase of almost 130 (27%) over the course of 12 months.

It has to be emphasised that RMBC is not significantly out of step with many local authorities in experiencing a significant increase in the numbers of LAC. Although the rate per 10,000 of population in Rotherham currently stands at 101.8 and the statistical neighbour average being 81.3 this latter figure was the position as at March 2017 and the difference is likely to be less than the 20% indicated in this statistic. For example, Tameside, the only statistical neighbour rated as Inadequate, have reported an 18% increase in their LAC numbers over the course of the financial year thus far increasing from 95.4 to 112.7 per 10,000 of population.

It should also be recognised that throughout the recent four week Ofsted Inspection visit there were no children identified as having been inappropriately brought into care indicating that this rise is not as a result of erroneous threshold criteria being applied. However, the Ofsted Inspection outcome may also give practitioners and managers greater confidence in their decision making processes so that they are

better placed to hold the risks rather than managing them by bringing children into care.

On a national level the Government have reported that 2017 brought the biggest annual surge in the numbers of LAC for 7 years and over this period numbers have increased from 65,000 in 2010 to 72,670 last year. However, the rate of increase has accelerated further since then and currently stands at 90 children becoming looked after every day (32,850 gross per year). A corresponding national decline in the number of children leaving care has led to debate on a national level regarding the underlying causes for, and potential responses to, this exponential rise.

As a result of an increasing recognition of this pressure in Rotherham a Looked After Children Summit was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 the outcome of which was the development of the proposals contained in this report (Cf Appendix for the notes and action plan arising from this meeting).

The implications for this increase in LAC numbers extends far beyond the increasing budget pressures arising from increased placement costs. As a result of the national trend the pressure on placement availability is significant. Not only are in-house resources utilised to absolute capacity thus increasing the reliance on the Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) market but also the IFA market is also saturated making it very much a 'seller's market'. It is increasingly apparent that providers are far less willing to offer a placement to any looked after child with any form of risk taking or challenging behaviour as they can afford to 'pick and choose'. In addition, carers and agencies seem increasingly likely to give notice on placements that they may have worked to sustain several months ago. As a result, the national trend is likely to have some ongoing impact on placement stability and to increase the demand for out of authority residential placements although thus far Rotherham has succeeded in managing this pressure.

The increase in LAC numbers will, however, mean that more LAC will have to be placed further away from the RMBC area and this in turn is likely to have only a negative impact on the experience of looked after children due to :-

- Increased travelling times will reduce levels of social worker and IRO support which is likely only to further reduce placement stability.
- Contact with birth families will be far more challenging to organise and supervise thus raising the potential of legal challenges from birth parents.
- Consistency in school placements will be far more difficult to sustain and as the Rees Report evidences this is likely to impact negatively on educational outcomes.
- Our LAC will be far more reliant on local CAMHS provision rather than the in-house Rotherham Therapeutic Team and due to limitations of provision in some areas their mental health and well-being may be adversely affected.

In addition to the budget pressures caused by the need to secure more placements there will also be a significant increase in the invisible costs associated with increased numbers of LAC. For example, the workloads of Independent Reviewing Officers, Social Workers and Supervising Social Workers will significantly increase thus reducing the capacity and quality of interventions provided. The Contact Service which was established on the basis of 480 LAC does not have the capacity to meet the current demand for supervising contact sessions meaning that 10% to 15% of qualified social work capacity is now spent making up this shortfall which is clearly

an inefficient use of resources. This inefficiency is exacerbated by the increased time social workers have to spend travelling to and from placements which is a further drain on their ability to provide high quality social work interventions for their young people.

This report will highlight some of the pressures that have contributed to this increase in the numbers of LAC. It will also attempt to predict as accurately as possible the possible ongoing future growth in LAC numbers if current practice continues unabated. It will then outline the plans already in place or in the process of development that have been designed to ensure that within Rotherham there are in fact the Right Children in the Right Care.

These plans include details of the Edge of Care provision along with some projections of the number of families/children they will work with over the course of 2018 to support more of them to remain living outside of the care system. It will also detail the five work-streams and processes that have been identified to support more existing looked after children into more appropriate care arrangements.

It should be emphasised that this is not a drive to reduce the numbers of children in care in Rotherham but rather a process to ensure we have the right children in our care and in the right placements for their needs.

### **Recommendations**

Panel is recommended to note the contents of this report and endorse the Action Plan formulated to achieve the Right Child Right Care objectives.

### **List of Appendices Included**

The notes and Action Plan arising from the A 'Right Child Right Care Tracker' has been attached as an appendix to this report. In addition the Performance team have developed a Predictor Tool (attached) that forecast the likely impact on the numbers of total LAC if the monthly average increase varies at all from the current levels.

### **Background Papers**

None

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

### **Council Approval Required**

No

### **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Right Child, Right Care.**

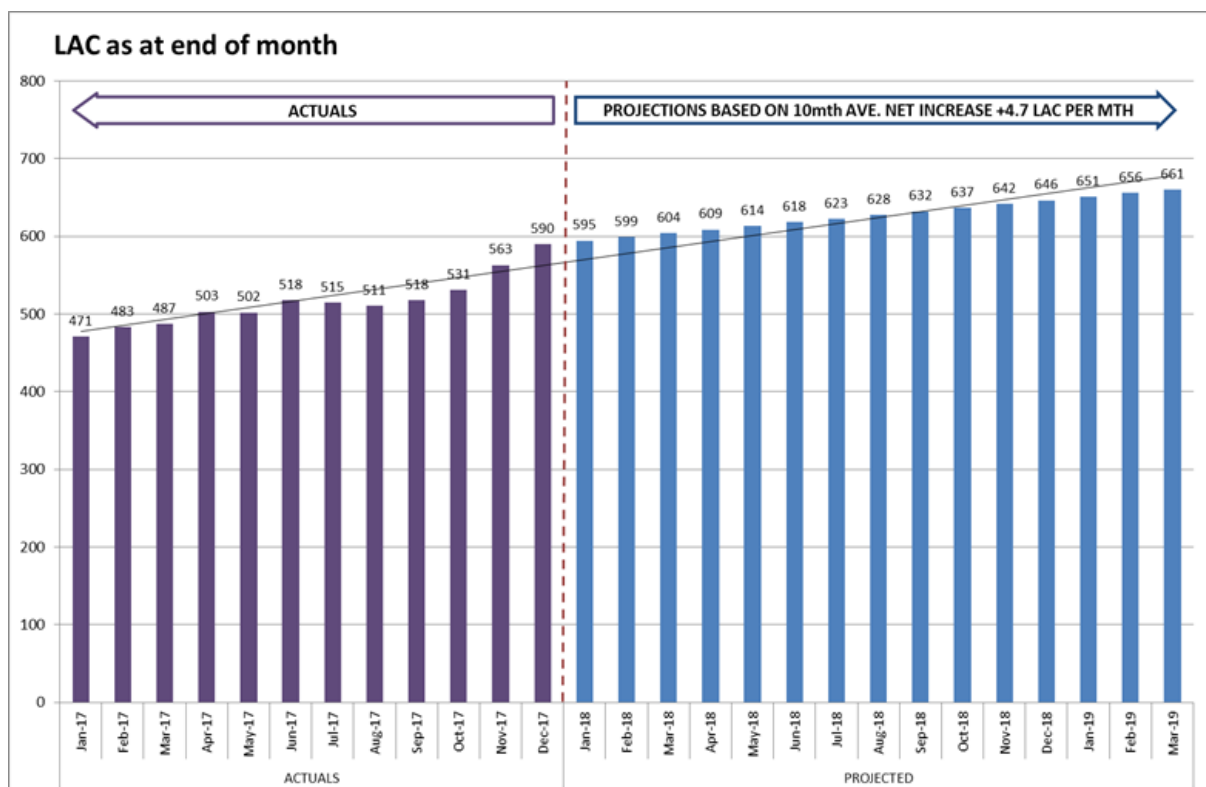
**1. Recommendations**

1.1 DLT is recommended to note the contents of this report and endorse the Action Plan formulated to achieve the Right Child Right Care objectives.

**2. Background**

2.1 Over the course of 2017 there were 321 admissions to care but over the same period there were only 194 young people discharged from care. As a result the total LAC population has increased from 471 January 2017 to 575 as of 12 months later – an increase of 22% over the course of the year. It is significant to note that whilst there was a 13% increase in admissions over the year there was also a 10% decline in discharges. The situation in Rotherham is also somewhat aggravated by a large number of ‘legacy cases’ that should have been progressed through the PLO process some years ago, along with the large family network involved in the Complex Abuse process which has contributed to in 9% (23 children) of the LAC admissions over the course of the previous 12 months being of Roma/Gypsy origin.

2.2 Whilst it is not possible to provide an exact prediction as to the future increases in LAC it is possible to state that on the basis of an average net increase of 4.7 children in care per month over the course of 2017 there will be a total of 661 LAC by March 2019 if this trend continues. However, as can be seen from the table below the projection is already 7 children behind the actual number which, if continued, will bring an added pressure of 91 children bringing the total predicted number of LAC to 752.



- 2.3 Further to this, it is stated by Legal Services that the current rate of Care Proceedings being instigated is 18 cases per month or a projected 216 over the course of the year. Given that over the course of 2016/17 there was an average of 1.85 children per Care Proceedings the projected number of children involved in Care proceedings over the course of 2018 will be 388. However, of these children only 68% (287) were applications for Care Orders or Placements Orders with the remainder being applications for Supervision Orders or No Order applications. Taking into account the fact that for 215 children the outcome of the Care Proceedings is unknown as the Proceedings are ongoing and anticipating no further growth in the numbers of Care Proceedings the intake of LAC via the Court process over the course of a 12 month period will be 263 children.
- 2.4 If the current rate of discharges from care is sustained this will mean that by the end of 2018 there will be 644 LAC and by the end of March 2019 there will be 661 LAC.
- 2.5 Thus by utilising two different projection processes it can be predicted that unless social work practice is reviewed on a strategic basis the overall numbers of LAC will continue to increase throughout 2018/19 to between 661 and 752 children.
- 2.6 As the numbers of Looked After Children continue to grow then the financial pressure on RMBC will become more significant. This is due to the equivalent increased reliance on the Independent Fostering Agency sector but also, as that market becomes increasingly saturated, the Out of Authority (OoA) residential placement sector. The Fostering Recruitment Team surpassed the stretch target set for it in recruiting 30 new placements over the course of 2017 with this having been further stretched to 35 new placements over the course of 2018. There are a range of initiatives being implemented that gives some confidence that this target can be achieved including the Refer a Friend Scheme, Mockingbird, the Muslim Foster Carer project, and the recruitment of a dedicated marketing officer to make better use of social media in the recruitment campaigns. In addition the number of 'void' placements is being better performance managed and the recruitment and assessment process reviewed to improve the current performance of an 11% conversion rate from initial enquiry to approval.
- 2.7 In addition, whilst there are 96 IFA placements within the RMBC area there are actually only 24 of them that have a Rotherham child placed in it. As a result an approach was made to all of the providers to secure those placements for Rotherham children as and when they become available. This should afford them greater placement stability and reduce some of the demand for OoA placements due to the consistency of education provision, better maintenance of family and peer group relationships and easier access to social work and therapeutic support. Following this approach RMBC has already secured 6 of these placements for its own children.



### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 It is clear that to ensure that there is the right child in the right care there will be two broad strands of work needing to be successfully implemented; improved practice to support more children to stay out of care and improved practice to safely support more children to be discharged from care.
- 3.2 In respect of the admissions to care, over the course of 2017 there were 49 young people admitted to care over the age 14 despite the fact that it is recognised that such young people do not as a rule achieve good outcomes. Further to this there were 6 x 17 year olds admitted to care (5 via Section 20) and 10 x 16 year olds admitted (5 via Section 20). Supporting more of these young people to remain at home would make a significant contribution to the Right Child Right Care process.
- 3.3 In respect of the work to support more children to stay out of care the following interventions are now in place:-
- 3.4 Family Group Conferencing is an evidence-based model designed to support families to find solutions to problems that are putting children at risk. The family group conference is facilitated to enable family members to plan and make decisions to keep the child or children safe. The focus of the team is on working on families who have a Child in Need plan, particularly if risks are escalating. However, during the initial six months following the service launch, work has been tested with families with a Child Protection Plan, families who are already in a Public Law Outline process and with Looked After Children where there may be an opportunity for a child or young person to return home.
- 3.5 The team is made up for four practitioners and can work with up to 240 families a year. Whilst it is too soon to measure impact across the cohort, the early indications are that this is a significant part of the 'Right Child, Right Care' offer which will be prevent concerns escalating and an increase in the number of children on a Child Protection Plan.
- 3.6 The Edge of Care Team is a multi-disciplinary team made up of practitioners who have complementary skills and experience developed through working with adults with complex needs as well as with families. The team takes a systemic approach that is able to help and challenge families to change to the extent that they are able to stay together or reunite.
- 3.7 At the end of the November the Edge of Care Team was working with 39 children. All of these children were on a trajectory to enter the care system. To date only one child who has been referred to the team has become Looked After and work to support her to return to the family home is ongoing. The team are also working to reunify three young people from two families.
- 3.8 However, the nature of a specialist team is that it will always have limited capacity. Whilst the team is seeking to manage referrals and caseloads

effectively, the level of demand in Rotherham may be greater than the team's current capacity. As a result it is important that the team also work alongside children's social workers to support an increase in skills and confidence across the system.

- 3.9 Multi-Systemic Therapy is an intervention that works intensively with children aged 11-17 who are at risk of entering the care system or custody. Rotherham and Barnsley have team that works across both local authorities; the annual capacity for Rotherham families is 40. There is a strong body of evidence to support Multi-Systemic Therapy, however, there are some local concerns about the sustainability of outcomes. Work is planned with social work teams to ensure that they are in a position to embed learning from the intensive 20 week intervention by providing ongoing support to families to adhere to the plans in place.
- 3.10 Referrals for both Multi-Systemic Therapy and the Edge of Care Team are made via the Edge of Care panel. The panel started meeting in September 2017 and, at the end of the first quarter, panel chairs are in a position to issue full guidance regarding referrals to panel. These will emphasise the importance of professional judgement when making the referral, and will ask social workers to be clear about their hope for change and why outcomes for the child will be better if they do not become LAC. This increased rigour will support the Right Child, Right Care approach and ensure that resources are allocated appropriately.
- 3.11 In addition to the interventions that are currently operational, development work is underway to introduce:-
- 3.12 Pause, to work with women who have babies removed with a goal of avoiding future pregnancies which would lead to repeat care proceedings. This may be of especial relevance to LAC and Care Leavers who are parents who, according to recent data, have approximately only a 50% chance of being a successful parent:-
- 3.13 MST-FIT, an adaptation of the MST model to apply an evidence based model to support young people to return to their parent's care following a period of being looked after;
- 3.14 An expansion of the Edge of Care team which, as well as increasing current capacity, would seek to use Crowden Outdoor Education Centre to work therapeutically with families in the outdoors;
- 3.15 A pilot to explore use of Crowden Outdoor Education Centre to provide short-term, regular respite care for birth parents, and diversionary activities for young people;
- 3.16 Staff training to provide the workforce across the Therapeutic Team, Edge of Care Team, Social Care and Early Help professionals with skills to deliver Non-

Violent Resistance; this model is particularly effective with children and young people who have experienced trauma.

- 3.17 In respect of the discharges from care there has been some marked decline over the course of the last few months of 2017. This may be at least partly attributable to the pressure on social work caseloads caused by the increase in numbers of LAC. Furthermore, as the numbers of LAC have increased the placement market has become increasingly saturated. This then necessitates LAC being placed at increasing distances from the RMBC area and the resulting travelling time which places further pressure on social work capacity. In addition, the Contact Service in its current structure was based on the demand arising from there being 480 LAC. As evidenced in recent an audit undertaken in the LAC Service, on average 20% of each LAC social worker's capacity is taken transporting children to and from and supervising contact.
- 3.18 This drain on social work capacity is likely only to serve to impede the implementation of the Right Child Right Care programme and as a result it will need to be managed in conjunction with the Review of the Contact Service. This formal review is about to commence as a result of which it is anticipated that a number of recommendations will be made to DLT as to how to address the increasing pressures in the short to medium term to enable the Right Child, Right Care work-plan to begin to have the planned impact
- 3.19 In respect of supporting more looked after children to more appropriate permanence arrangements 5 potential work-streams have been identified. It is proposed that each work-stream is allocated one or more manager within the LAC Service to lead the process and that every alternate Performance Clinic is reconstituted to performance manage as many of the young people in the total cohort towards their identified outcome.
- 3.20 As a result of the scoping exercise already undertaken 406 looked after children have been identified as being appropriate for consideration for a move to more appropriate care arrangements in at least one of the identified work-streams (c.f. appendix 1). It should be noted that some of these children will have been included in more than one work-stream but as these numbers are better correlated within the Performance Clinic Meetings greater accuracy will be reported.
- 3.21 In order to more efficiently manage this process the following work-streams have been identified but in addition to these work-streams there will be 54 LAC who will reach adulthood and therefore be discharged from care over the course of 2018.
- 3.22 The following Work-streams have been identified to facilitate the focussed work required to support as many LAC as possible into more appropriate care arrangements.

### **3.23 Discharge of Placement with Parents Regs (PwP)**

There are currently 30 children subject of PwP or S38/6 Placements whose Care Order needs consideration for discharge. The audit of these cases has already commenced and it would appear that there are 18 children for whom the discharge of the Care Order would seem appropriate with the plan for two further children remaining unclear.

Work-stream Lead – Kay Samuels

30 in scope.

### **3.24 Children on the Adoption Pathway**

There are currently 25 children already in an adoptive placement with 15 more with a match identified and 22 more children awaiting a match. There can be no guarantee that even those children with a match identified will be adopted by the end of the calendar year as birth parents are increasingly entering appeals against Adoption Order applications. Although these are rarely successful they do have the impact of significantly adding to the delay in adoptions being finalised. Given that the current A1 Adoption Scorecard performance (timescale between a child becoming looked after and moving to their adoptive placement) is 314 days and it is a further 70 days before adoptive parents can apply for the Adoption Order there are unlikely to be any more children who fall into scope of this Work-stream. However, given that the current A2 performance (dates between Placement Order being obtained and Placement Match identified) is 132 days and therefore an average of 202 days before the Adoption Order can be applied for it is likely that some of the 22 children waiting a match will be adopted by the end of 2018. As a result in the adoption work-stream there is a potential of somewhere between 35 and 45 children who will be discharged from care via the adoption process over the course of 1018.

Work-stream lead – Helen Mangham/Jill Stanley

40 children in scope

### **3.25 Supporting LAC to Permanence.**

There are currently 135 children who have been in the same placement for 2 years and 168 who have been in the same placement for 18 months or more. Furthermore, there are 39 children in Regulation 24 Placements with Family and Friends. Given the personal connection between the carers and young person in these placements it may be that the progression to permanence may be more readily accepted although all of these children would benefit from their long-term fostering placement being progressed to a more permanent form of care such as via an SGO or CAO.

3.26 There is a potential risk to this work-stream in that by moving in-house placements to more permanent arrangements the 'bank' of available foster

carers may reduce which will be reflected in the Fostering Performance reports. Conversely it may also have some small positive impact on foster carer recruitment as, for example, a foster carer approved for 1 placement but with two spare bedrooms could take an additional placement if one foster child is supported to an SGO/CAO.

3.27 Social workers will therefore be tasked to speak to each individual carer to ascertain what would be the required incentive it would take and what are the blockages preventing them to apply for such an Order over the course of 2018. It may be that CYPS will have to re-evaluate the benefits of being a little more flexible in its approach to post order allowances to progress as many children as possible to discharge via this work-stream, whilst still having regard for the Public Purse.

3.28 Placements of 2 years or more standing work-stream lead x 4 – Clive Purnis, Cheryl Long, Megan Decarteret and Carolyn Jones,

135 children in scope.

Placements of 18 months to 2 years standing work-stream lead– Sarah Bennett

33 children in scope

### 3.29 **Regulation 24 Placements –**

There are currently 39 children in Regulation 24 Placements (placed with family and friends who have been approved only to care for that specific child). Many of these children will still be mid-proceedings with the potential outcome being a Special Guardianship Order/Child Arrangement Order being made to the carer and the role of the work-stream lead will be to track and project the potential date for these Orders being made.

3.30 However, some Reg 24 placements continued to be in place post the Final Hearing and the role of the work-stream lead will be to support as many as possible towards more permanent arrangements.

Work-stream lead – Yvonne Howe

39 children in scope.

### 3.31 **Reunification of LAC aged 14-16 years old**

Whilst it is recognised that the risks posed by the behaviours and choices of a parent while their child is very young are significant these risks will potentially reduce as the child gets older. However, as the data outlining the relatively low number of discharges from care over the course of 2017 illustrates there seems to be little evidence of this re-evaluation of risk within current social work practice. When this has previously been attempted on a more formal basis, such as via the NSPCC Taking Care project, a very risk averse approach has resulted in very little impact being achieved. As a result, it is too common an

experience for young people aged 16+ to drift back home in response to the lack of pro-active planning taking place.

3.32 In addition to this there is clear statistical evidence to prove that young people who are become LAC in Rotherham after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday experience a decline in outcomes as compared to their peers who become LAC at an earlier age (cf Appendix ). These declining outcomes include:-

- 19% of LAC who were 14+ on admission have had 3 or more placement moves in the previous 12 months as compared to 10% of those who were under 14.
- 19% of 14+ LAC were reported as being missing from care on 2-6 occasions, 13% on 7-12 occasions and 6% on more than 12 occasions as compared to 5%, 2% and 2% respectively
- Only 42% of LAC admitted post 14 are in family based settings as compared to 89% admitted when under 14.
- Only 49% of care leavers who became LAC after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday are in Education, Training or Employment as compared to 62% of those admitted under the age of 14.
- Only 88% of care leavers who became LAC post 14 are deemed to be in suitable accommodation as compared to 98% of those admitted under the age of 14.

However, to date there is little evidence to indicate that the worse outcomes and increased costs are routinely and actively considered as part of the admission top care decision making process. . It may therefore be that the objectives set out in the Right Child Right Care work-streams will not be fully achieved until there is a cultural shift within social work practice in Rotherham that is underpinned by the Dartington Research.

3.32 As a result the work-stream lead will be tasked to speak to each respective social worker, team manager and IRO to clarify why reconciliation would not be in the young person's best interests.

Young people aged 14 work-stream lead – Kerry Seaston

39 in scope

Young people aged 15 work-stream lead - Louise Pashley

51 in scope

Young people aged 16 work-stream lead – Louisa Kay

47 in scope

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

- 4.1 There are no other options being considered as part of this report and DLT is recommended to endorse the Right Child Right Care proposals.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 All relevant partners within CYPS have been consulted in developing this programme but it may be that further individualised consultation may be required to provide the appropriate packages of support necessary to progress more children out of care.

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

- 6.1 There will be no immediate impact on the number of LAC who could be deemed to be in the Right Care as this will rather be achieved over the course of 2018/19 and most movement is likely to be achieved in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

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

- 7.1 The budget is built on 483 LAC at an average unit cost of £50k. The current unit cost has increased to £54k due to increasing complexity of children admitted to care requiring more expensive accommodation and rising prices due to market forces and, as at the end of January 2018, the number of LAC was 601.
- 7.2 Targeted work to increase the discharge rate from LAC will aim to reduce the cohort throughout the year. The timing, profile and level of discharges will impact on the financial savings to be achieved during the year. Latest forecasts are based on a discharge figure of around 150 above normal 'business as usual'.
- 7.3 Latest estimates suggest that the saving attached to the discharge of the additional 150 LAC could be between £5.9m (if the number of discharges is achieved and they are frontloaded in the year) to £1.5m (if the number of discharges is achieved but they are back loaded in the year). A constant level of discharge of the 150 during the year will result in a saving of around £3.7m
- 7.4 The main area of financial uncertainty is regarding the LAC estimates. There are a number of variables which could affect the forecast expenditure on this budget. The main ones are:
- Number of admissions/discharges (i.e. net reduction);
  - The timing / profile of discharges i.e. when in the financial year they happen (front loaded, even spread, back end of the year);
  - Availability of lower cost placements (to lower the current placement unit cost).

## **8. Legal Implications**

- 8.1 In terms of practice the proposals contained within this report fall well within the Statutory Guidance. However, there may be some resource implications if the Right Child Right Care initiative is successful in supporting more children to permanence, adoption or discharges from care.

## 9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

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

10.1 Supporting more appropriate care arrangements for looked after children can only have a positive on looked after children.

## 11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The Right Children Right Care programme will only have a positive impact on the Equality and Human Rights for looked after children.

## 12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 It is highly likely that this programme of work will have an impact on a number of partners and Other Directorates. For example, it is reasonable to anticipate that there will be an increased demand on the capacity of Early Help, Edge of Care and Legal Services.

## 13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The risk is that if the current trend of increase in the numbers of LAC is allowed to continue unabated more children will remain in inappropriate care arrangements with all of the inherent financial and positive outcomes risks that this will bring. These risks will be mitigated by utilising a performance management approach to support as many LAC as is assessed as being appropriate towards Right Care arrangements.

## 14. Accountable Officer(s) – Ian Walker, Head of Service

Approvals Obtained from:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Mick Wildman	31.01.18
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Sharon Fleming	31.01.18
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)	N/A	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	

*Report Author:* Ian Walker, Head of Service

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