

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

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

Date: Tuesday, 8th May, 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 Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March, 2018 (Pages 1 - 9)
6. LACC Update (Pages 10 - 12)
7. Corporate Parenting Performance Report - March 2018 (Pages 13 - 37)
8. Corporate Parenting Panel - Revised Terms of Reference (Pages 38 - 43)
9. Children and Social Work Act 2017 - Implications for Practice (Pages 44 - 54)
10. Proposed Charging Policy for Children Looked After and cared for in Residential Placements (including Foster Placements) under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (Pages 55 - 63)
11. Rotherham Looked After Children (LAC) Needs Assessment (Pages 64 - 71)
12. Looked After Children – Physical and Emotional Health Care (Pages 72 - 78)

13. Dates of meeting for the 2018/19 Municipal Year
Tuesday, 3rd July, 2018

28th August

16th October

18th December

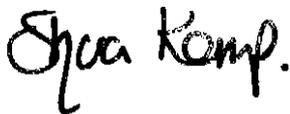
12th February, 2019

9th April

14. Date and time of the next meeting: -
Tuesday, 3rd July, 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).



Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Tuesday, 6th March, 2018

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

Also present were Tina Arnold, Deborah Johnson, Peter McNamara, Janet Russell Ian Thomas and Ian Walker.

Lisa Duvall, Adorabella, Angelina, Chelsea, Jodie and Kira were in attendance for Minute No. 53 (LACC Update).

Shokat Lal was in attendance for Minute No. 54 (Looked After Children Promises).

Apologies for absence were received from Catherine Hall, Karen Holgate and Mel Meggs.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19TH DECEMBER 2017

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th December, 2017, be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

53. LACC UPDATE

Kira, Chelsea, Jodie, Adorabella and Angelina, had chosen 4 items from their LACC update report to talk to the Panel about:-

LAC Feedback from Ofsted 2018

- Following the Ofsted visit to the LAC Council in November the following statement was included in their January report:-
“The members of the Looked After Children’s Council do a very good job of making sure that staff listen to them, so that they understand how to improve services for Children in Care and Care Leavers. This includes helping to recruit Social Workers and train Foster Carers”
- The Ofsted Inspector had told senior management that the LAC Council was a real burgeoning strength and said they were vibrant and committed and clearly having an impact on the service provided to Looked After Children

Foster Carer Panel

- A focus group for Looked After Children had been held to explore and discussed questions they would like to be asked of potential carers undertaking the Recruitment and Selection Process
- Based upon their experiences of being in foster care, the group had

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - 06/03/18

decided upon 8 questions which were submitted to CYPS Fostering Team

Improving Health Services for LAC

- A Public Health Specialist, together with colleagues from Sheffield Hallam University and Public Health England, had held a focus group to explore what made the LAC Council happy/unhappy which might affect their health
- The information and insight provided would be included in a report about the health needs of LAC in Rotherham and used in the LAC Emotional Health Advisory Group
- The report would try to ensure that every looked after child in Rotherham received the health service they deserved

Bin Liners are NOT Suitcases Event

- A 6 months campaign by the LAC Council to stop the use of bin liners being used had resulted in a change in Policy and Practice with the use of bin liners ceased immediately and suitcases purchased for every LAC moving placement
- News of Rotherham LAC Council's campaign had moved from local to regional Children in Care Councils and, with the help of the Children's Commissioner for England, was now known nationally
- An event, with over 50 guests in attendance, to celebrate the success of the campaign was held including a video of Looked After Children talking about their precious items they take with them when moving foster care placement following the bin liner fashion show
- The video will be used in training for Social Workers and Foster Carers

The Panel was then shown the video.

Councillor Cusworth, a member of the Fostering Panel, confirmed that the questions devised by the LAC Council had been used in interviews with prospective foster carers.

Ian Walker confirmed that the 180 suitcases to be provided by a local entrepreneur should be received soon and would be distributed amongst those LAC who did not have a suitcase. There would also be a number stored in the localities so any child brought into care would have access to one.

The LAC Council would discuss future projects the following day. They had been working with the Oxford University on research into what they would like when a child went into foster care. They had said they would like every foster carer to have a little video introducing their family to the child in an attempt take the fear away from going into a foster family.

Resolved:- That the January to March, 2018 update be noted.

54. ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROMISES

Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive, gave the following verbal report on the areas of his responsibility, which included Corporate Communications, Democratic Services, Corporate Intelligence and Improvement, Human Resources and Neighbourhoods (during the transition year) and how they impacted in terms of the LAC Promises:-

Work Placements/Apprenticeships

- Overall commitment of 120 apprenticeship placements over the next couple of years - started with 25 and now had 48 so making good progress
- Although good news it was not believed that there was sufficient emphasis on placing LAC and care leavers on those apprenticeship placements
- Over the last 6 months there had been 5 LAC who had come into apprenticeship placements but there was only one remaining. The other 4 placements, which were in Horticulture, had not worked out for a range of reasons
- Work had been carried out to ascertain why the placements had not been successful but what was known that the Service Area had invested a significant amount of time and support to the young people concerned
- There was a need to review whether the placements were right/appropriate for the young person
- Currently there was only one young person (who was a care leaver) currently in an apprenticeship placement
- There were only 2 young people in work placements

Democratic Services

- A lot of work had taken place ensuring LAC and care leavers were involved in Civic events
- The LAC Council was the Mayor's VIP guest on Armed Forces Day and would be leading the procession
- Inclusion in events at the Rotherham Show
- Child Friendly Borough work – lot of activity particularly around the Voice of the Child, Different but Equal Board and the Town Centre Master Plan

Corporate Communications

- This was very limited due to the issue of identifying young people but more could be done

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The range of opportunities needed to be widened across the Council
 - the greater the opportunity the greater match made

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - 06/03/18

- Learning was required in terms of preparing young people for leaving care/work opportunities
- Possibility of work experience that could turn into work placement if successful
- There was some work taster programme/try before formally move into an area offered
- There was a level of training and support to managers who would be working with the care leavers in recognition of their needs
- A presentation was to be made at the Improving Lives Select Commission on the work of a Child and Young Person Friendly Borough

The Chairman thanked Shokat for his attendance and presentation.

Resolved:- That Shokat Lal liaise with Councillor M. Elliott, Carers Champion for Employment and Training Opportunities within Council Departments and with Partner Agencies, on the work taking place to ascertain why the apprenticeships/work placements had failed.

55. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2018

Consideration was given to the report presented by Deborah Johnson, Performance Assurance Manager, Social Care, which provided a summary of performance for key performance indicators across Looked After Children Services for January, 2018. 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 (607) and reasons for the increases, a slight decline (89.7% compared to 92.2% last month) on compliance of plans and a significant decline in the proportion of LAC reviews completed in time (77.2% from 90%).

The performance on LAC visits had been reviewed and, upon reflecting on the significant performance improvements overall and increased stability in the core LAC Teams that supported good relationship development with children, it had been agreed to move to the nationally required visiting pattern where it was appropriate for the child. This approach would continue to be monitored by the Head of Service at fortnightly performance meetings.

Despite the overall increase in numbers, the proportion of children placed in a family based setting remained above 83%. At the end of January the

number of children who had had 3 or more placements (2 moves in the previous 12 months), had decreased to 67 from 73 earlier in the year. The target remained of reducing to less than 10% which was also the national average.

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 the long term LAC had been in the same placement for at least 2 years compared to less than 60% in August. However, this still placed Rotherham below latest statistical neighbours and the national averages of 68%.

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

- Monitoring of Social Workers visits to young people
- Quality of the visit and recording thereof
- Initial Health Assessment appointments at the hospital
- Number of care leavers who had a pathway plan
- Improvements and quality of statutory visits
- Number of children being placed out of area – national issue and time spent by Social Workers travelling to and from the placements
- Increasing evidence of direct work and life story work being undertaken during visits
- Placement stability
- The Virtual School's priorities for the forthcoming year were promoting the emotional wellbeing of young people and reducing the number of school exclusions
- Very low adoption disruption
- Fantastic work of the Therapeutic Team
- No benchmarking data/targets set on some Indicators
- Liquid Logic
- Rolling out/embedding of Signs of Safety
- Social Workers caseloads

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) be received and noted.

(2) That the May Panel meeting have a Health theme.

(3) That Sara Whittaker, Rotherham Therapeutic Team, present a report to a future Panel meeting on the outcomes of the Intensive Intervention Programme.

56. MUSLIM FOSTER CARERS PROJECT

Ian Walker, Head of Service Leaving Care, presented an update on Rotherham Fostering Service's participation in the Muslim Fostering Research Project being run by the Fostering Network.

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - 06/03/18

The aim of the Project was to gather and analyse data to identify good practice and evaluate how identity was taken into consideration within fostering as well as exploring barriers associated with the recruitment of Muslim families to develop a targeted recruitment campaign.

Following the research project completion in March 2018, there would be a launch event of the research findings and good practice identified with each involve service invited. Involved Fostering Services would also be given a bespoke training package developed from the practice learning that could be delivered to prospective foster carers, approved foster carers and staff.

The Fostering Network would remain involved with Rotherham's Fostering Service until July 2018 to assist in embedding the good practice recommendations into the Service.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

57. RIGHT CHILD, RIGHT CARE - FIRST UPDATE

Ian Walker, Head of Service, Leaving Care, presented a report on the increasing numbers of Looked After Children in Rotherham although it was emphasised this was not significantly out of step with many local authorities.

Nationally, the Government had reported 2017 as having seen the biggest annual surge in the numbers of LAC for 7 years increasing from approximately 65,000 to 72,670. However, the rate of increase had accelerated further since and currently stood at 90 children becoming looked after every day. A corresponding national decline in the number of children leaving care had led to debate regarding the underlying causes for and potential responses to the exponential rise.

A Looked After Children Summit had been held in Rotherham in January 2018 to develop proposals.

To ensure that there was the right child in the right care there would be 2 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.

In respect of the work to support more children to stay out of care the following interventions were now in place:-

- Family Group Conferencing
- Edge of Care Team
- Multi-Systematic Therapy

together with the following development work:-

- Pause – to work with women who had babies removed with the aim of avoiding future pregnancies which would lead to repeat Care Proceedings
- MST-FIT – apply an evidence based model to support young people to return to their parent's care following a period of being looked after
- Expansion of the Edge of Care Team
- Pilot to explore possible use of Crowden Outdoor Education Centre to provide short term regular respite care for birth parents and diversionary activities for young people
- Staff training to deliver Non-Violent Resistance

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised:-

- Foster carers choosing infant aged children
- Number of foster carers resigning/retiring
- Survey monkey taking place with foster carers as to how support could be improved

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

58. ELECTED MEMBER CHAMPIONS UPDATE

Housing/Educational Attainment and Access to Higher Education

The Chair had no update.

Employment with Training Opportunities within Council Departments and with Partner Agencies

Councillor M. Elliott and Sharon Sandell, Service Manager Leaving Care, had visited Mears' training facility at the New York Stadium. Mears had spoken about their keenness to be involved in community projects which Sharon would follow up with them.

Feedback had been received from Fortums. One young person had been referred to them for training but there was no outcome known as yet. There had been discussions about their mentoring programme but unfortunately the officer responsible was off work currently. Sharon would follow up on their return to work.

Feedback was still awaited from Mears' domiciliary department.

Foster Care Recruitment and Retention

Councillor Cusworth's meeting with Diane Clark has been cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions.

A leaflet had been produced asking Elected Members to give consideration to nominating one family as a foster carer a year which would give 63 LAC new families a year. The leaflet was to be distributed at the next Council meeting.

Health (including Mental Health)

Councillor J. Elliott had been provided with the following information from Catherine Hall, Rotherham CCG, as to the current situation:-

- The increase in children being brought into care had become a significant challenge for providers and health care namely the Rotherham Foundation Trust (TRFT). TRFT had increased the number of clinics for paediatricians to undertake Initial Health Assessments. They had dedicated an additional administration team and Business Support Manager and had committed specialist resources in ensuring that health assessments were timely. However, the numbers were overwhelming
- There was an urgent need for commissioners and providers to work together to ensure the capacity for HIAs continued to meet the rising needs
- The NHS RCGG, in the short term, had committed to funding the additional 16 IHA clinics, 4 children per clinic, but the CCG Children's Commissioner was working with TRFT Business Support Manager on qualifying this and seeking assurance that TRFT were able to provide the sufficient increase in the time frame specified (1.4.2018)
- In the medium term there was a need for commissioners, namely the Council and NHS Rotherham CCG, to review the ways health care delivery for LAC was commissioned to fully appreciate the financial implications of the delivery of statutory health care assessments and utilise the best model to ensure Rotherham children's needs were met. Meetings had been set up and clinicians were in the process of looking at models of care in other areas

59. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

Discussion ensued on the benefits of having representations from South Yorkshire Police and a foster carer on the Panel.

Resolved:- (1) That the Chair follow up possible representation from South Yorkshire Police.

(2) That discussions take place with Anne-Marie Banks, Service Manager Adoption and Fostering, with regard to a representative from the Mockingbird Project.

60. 2018/19 MEETING DATES

Resolved:- That meetings be held during the 2018/19 Municipal Year as follows all commencing at 5.00 p.m.:-

Tuesday, 12th June, 2018
28th August

16th October
18th December
12th February, 2019
9th April

61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 8th May, 2018, commencing at 5.00 p.m.

Rotherham Looked After Children's Council & Lil' LAC CLUB - Corporate Parenting Panel - Update Report March to April 2018

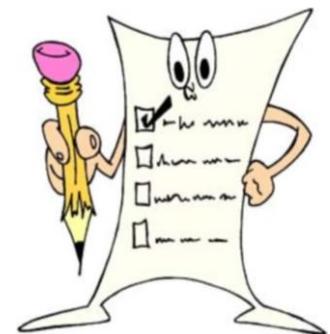
Summary

The LAC Council and Lil' LAC Club have been busy having fun, socialising and working together achieving fabulous results continuing to help shape Rotherham Services which in turn will benefit Looked After & Leaving Care Young People through their consultation work with Rotherham Fostering Service and Improving contact with families. The LAC Council has also hosted a session to say goodbye to our Strategic Director Ian Thomas and welcomed CIDON Construction who handed over 66 of their 100 Suitcases that they have donated to Rotherham Looked After Children

The numerous experiences and opportunities offered to young people at the LAC Council and Lil' LACC are specifically designed to increase social capital, self-awareness and self-esteem, to foster resilience and support better outcomes for our vulnerable young people. Here are some of the things we would like to share with you;

LACC Voice – Shaping Services in Rotherham

Improving Fostering in Rotherham – In March the LAC Council held a focus group to discuss how Looked After Children can have their Voices heard within the Fostering Service and contribute to continuing improvements of children's experiences living with Foster Carers. The young people worked very hard to develop a young person friendly confidential form for LAC to feedback their views and perceptions of current placements. Once completed, these forms will be sent to the Fostering Service, analysed and findings will support service improvements and Foster Carer Training.



Improving Contact with Families - The LAC Council are participating in the Service review of Rotherham's approach to LAC and leaving care young people seeing their family. This will be an ongoing Project where our members will continue to discuss and explore their experiences of the Contact Centre and Service with a view to making improvements to children and young people's experiences in future. So far the LACC have put forward a number of ideas to re-name the 'contact centre' and have made progress in putting forward a number of suggestions to put the child's voice in the heart of the process.

Improving Placement Moves for Looked After and Leaving Care young people –

Steve Simpson, Director of CIDON Construction and his colleague Jane Galloway, were invited to the LAC Council to hand over some of the 66 suitcases that CIDON have donated to Rotherham Looked After Children following the 'Bin Liners are **NOT** Suitcases' Campaign. CIDON have a target of 100 suitcases which will be delivered in batches later in the year. The group really liked the cases and asked Steve why he had chosen to buy suitcases for LAC with his money. Steve explained that he wanted to support something local to ensure Rotherham Children would benefit especially as he adopted a Rotherham child. Steve offered apprenticeships to young people in the group and said he would like to support us in the future. Steve and Jane enjoyed playing 'killer' pool with the LAC Council and were very touched with their 'Thank You' card that our young people had written for them. The LAC Council hope to continue with this positive relationship into the future,

'Thank you all for inviting us to your meeting last night. I truly believe the efforts the children and yourselves had gone to, to highlight the issues with bin liners and managing to change policy is inspiring. If they can achieve this who knows what else they are capable of?'

They should not underestimate what they have achieved and what they can achieve in their futures.

I enjoyed the night and took more out of it than you would ever know.' Steve Simpson CIDON Construction

LAC Council Away Day

Drayton Manor Away Day – During the Easter Break the LAC Council had a fabulous day out at Drayton Manor Theme Park and Zoo. 15 young people enjoyed spending time exploring the parks many attractions by going on rollercoasters, bumper cars, and thrill experiences such as the Haunted House. They played in Thomas Land where they travelled on Thomas the Tank Engine, also LAC members screams could be heard across the park as they ventured onto thrill rides such as the GForce, Apocalypse, Stormforce 10, Accelerator and Pirate ship. We celebrated Ashley & Jodie-Leighs birthdays singing Happy Birthday numerous times in the park and sharing out cake during lunch.



@LACCRotherham



LACC Rotherham

Lil LAC Club - Activities

The Lil LAC Club (Lil LACC) are a group of 6 to 11 year olds who have been meeting up every two weeks to participate in a safe welcoming environment. The children have been having lots of fun getting to know each other, playing games, learning how to take turns and have been having lots of fun doing arts & crafts. For Foster/Mothers Day the Lil LACC made beautiful cards and photo frames to thank their foster Mums and Birth Mums. Over Easter our Lil LACC enjoyed decorating biscuits and making bunny masks.



Friendships



Creative Fun!

Goodbye Mr Thomas

The LAC Council young people hosted a session in April to say goodbye and Thank You to Ian Thomas. Ian has been a real champion of the LAC Council throughout his time at RMBC, visiting the group regularly, championing our Destination Poland Project and supporting fundraising for the visit, actively engaging in the LAC Pride of Rotherham Awards and joining in the tutu dance with Managers, and most recently supporting the 'Bin Liners are NOT Suitcases' Campaign and participating in the LAC Council Fashion Show dressed entirely in bin liners (and of course his now in/famous shoes and socks to great amusement) Young people gave Ian a card to say goodbye and 'thank you', and played their last games of pool and table tennis with him. The LAC Council wish Mr Thomas all the very best in his new appointment.

LAC Council Guests - Young people from the LAC Council would like to thank all of our guests, friends, volunteers and supporters who have visited the LAC Council. These include:-

Steve Simpson – CIDON Construction
 Jane Galloway – CIDON Construction
 Ian Thomas – Strategic Director CYPs
 LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Team

Thank You All ☺

Contact Name:

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Council Report

Corporate Parenting Performance

Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – March 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 (March 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 – March 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 As this is the final month of the reporting year this report also represents the provisional outturn for 2017/18 therefore year-on-year analysis has been included where appropriate. However this year end position may change as data entry and validation continues into the beginning of the new reporting year.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Please note that all benchmarking data is as at the latest data release by the DfE and relates to 2016/17 outturn
- 2.5 The narrative supplied within the report has been informed by the Deputy Director for Children's Services and the 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. Over the course of 2017/18, were a further 320 admissions to care and 184 children discharged resulting in an overall year end cohort figure of 624 (a further 28% increase on March 2017).
- 3.1.2 This increase in LAC numbers and the consequential shortage in available placements has 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 624 at the end of 2017/18 which equates to a rate of 110.3 per 10,000 population this is significantly high when compared to the statistical neighbour average of 81.3.

3.2.2 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	45	7.2%	5%
1 – 4	98	15.7%	13%
5 - 9	129	20.7%	19%
10 - 15	235	37.7%	39%
16+	117	18.8%	24%
Total	624		

3.2.3 The percentage distribution by legal status remains a consistent picture with 51% of children subject to full care orders, 32% on an Interim Care Order, 10% are on Placement Orders with Care Order and 7% are under Section 20. Unfortunately there is no clear national data to benchmark this distribution against.

3.2.4 An underlying factor for the significant increase in demand is that whilst the average number of admissions to care has increased from 24 over the first 6 months of 2017/18 to an average of 39 over the most recent 4 months the discharges from care have also dropped from an average of 19 to only 12 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. To help tackle this demand issue and as outlined at the last Corporate Parenting Panel report, the "Right Child Right Care" (RCRC) project has been created to review the ongoing need for children to remain looked after on a long-term basis, and where appropriate apply targeted discharge activity to achieve permanence outside of care.

3.2.5 The scoping process of the RCRC project has now been completed. From an original total baseline of 604 children data regarding their placement duration, the child's age and their placement type were used to narrow the review group to 357

children. Each of these have then in turn been individually reviewed by team managers with 170 identified as having a viable alternative permanence plan out of care in 2018. These are broken down into the following work-streams:-

- Adoption (38 children)
- Placement with Parents Regulations (35 children)
- Rehabilitation to home of LAC aged 14+ (5 children)
- Regulation 24 Placements - family and friends carers (14 children)
- Move to permanence for children in long-term matched placements (78 children)

3.2.6 In addition there will be 51 LAC who will reach the age of 18 over the course of the year bringing a potential reduction in LAC over the course of the year by 221 (gross) which equates to 37% reduction on the baseline cohort in 2018.

3.2.7 These permanence plans will be managed through the Performance Clinic process although the dissemination of the project aims already seems to have had an impact on social work practice in CYPS. For example whereas the average number of discharges for the 3 months leading up to the project launch was only 7 this has doubled in the three months post project planning stage with 20 children discharged from care in March.

3.2.8 However, over the same 3 months period the average number of admissions has been 28 which evidences that a far stronger Edge of Care provision is also required if any net reduction is to be achieved over the course of the year.

3.2.9 We also know that young people admitted to care over the age of 14 are known to achieve far worse outcomes and bring with them a disproportionate level of placement cost. In the last 6 months of 2017 45 young people over the age of 14 were admitted to care whereas over the past 3 months only 14 young people over the age of 14 have been admitted to care. Whilst this is an improving picture more awareness raising work is required amongst the social workers to help them make more informed decisions as to the appropriateness of these older children becoming looked after.

3.3 LAC Plans

3.3.1 Despite the continuing high demand levels compliance on plans has remained relatively consistent for the last three months at circa 90%, (89.7% at the end of March) which is slightly lower than last year's position of 91.2 but not statistically significant. This area still remains under close management scrutiny in the performance meetings.

3.4 Reviews

3.4.1 A decline in performance in respect of LAC Statutory Reviews in earlier months had been a concern for the service but was linked to IRO sickness levels, high demand and social workers not completing their pre-review reports within timescales. However, it is reassuring to note that, in March performance improved to 95.5% resulting in a full year's performance of 90.4% which is slightly lower than the 2016/17 outturn of 91.3%.

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). Although compliance against National Minimum visiting standards has dipped from 98% to 94.7% this but remains good and inline with last year's outturn of 94.9%.

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 82%.

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 relatively stable 82.4%, which is higher than last year's outturn position of 81.1%. (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 In the last three months there has been an increase in the number of children are experiencing multiple placement moves. The provisional outturn position of 13.1% (81 out of 618 children) is an increase on the 2016/17 figure of 11.9%. The local increase in LAC is part of a national trend and as a result the placement market is increasingly saturated making appropriate matching decisions an increasing challenge.
- 3.6.4 The proportion of long term LAC who have lived in the same placement for over two years continues to achieve incremental monthly improvements to 61.3% (92 out of 150 children) following an in year low in November of 59.2%. This measure has been impacted by the increasing number of long term LAC and our desire to bring children closer to home and into family placements. Due to the timeframes within the definition this is an area of performance which cannot be improved quickly. 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.
- 3.6.5 The Intensive Intervention Programme being implemented by the Rotherham Therapeutic Team is clearly having some positive impact on the number of placement disruptions for the most vulnerable and challenging of our young people. However, it is also likely that the impact of the Right Child Right Care project will mean more placements will be converted to Special Guardianship Orders/Child Arrangement Orders which will have a significant negative impact on the stable placement performance over the course of the latter end of 2018.

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 we know that performance will change when statistics are rerun in future reports as figures reported by the LAC Health Team are higher than those recorded in local systems.
- 3.7.2 The number of Initial Health Assessments (IHA) complete each month remains relatively consistent however timeliness performance according to internal recording is below 40% at 36.4% (4 out of 11 completed IHAs) this is particularly low when compared to achievements earlier in the year of between 75-90%. Over the year 55.3% of the 226 IHAs completed were within timescale, it is acknowledged that this is low but it is a significant improvement on

levels achieved in the last three years (18.2% in 2016/17). The reported figure by Health colleagues for March is 56% with a further five “did not attend” and one last minute cancellation which need to be followed up. Both Health and Dental LAC reviews have seen a decline to 76.8% and 64.1% respectively. In respect of the Health Review Assessments the figure reported by the LAC Health Team colleagues is 86%.

3.7.3 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.

3.8 LAC Education

3.8.1 At the end of March 97% of eligible LAC population had a Personal Education Plan (15 LAC with no PEP).

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 Spring Term 95% had a PEP from within the term. Although this performance is high and an improvement on the Autumn term it is slightly lower than usual due to a combination of the adverse weather which meant that several PEPs had to be rescheduled, and the fact that it was a very short term. Also, the figure includes LAC who either did not come into care until late in the term, or who we were notified had come into care, and who there wasn't time to arrange PEP meeting

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.

3.9 Care Leavers

- 3.9.1 The number of young people receiving a Care Leavers service at month end was 257 which is a 15% increase on 2016/17 position of 223.
- 3.9.2 The proportion of care leavers who have a pathway plan remains at an outstanding level (98-100%). Despite a 10% increase in the number of Care leavers to 246, the timeliness of these plans continues to improve with 82% now up to date compared to 69% earlier in the year. 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 and will assist in addressing the variability issues identified in the Ofsted Monitoring Visit.
- 3.9.3 The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains strong at 97%, and represents top quartile performance nationally. This has however dipped from the 99% achieved earlier in the year with the decline solely due to a further two young people being in custody. Current performance still places Rotherham in the top quartile (10th out of all the local authorities in England) in respect of this performance measure.
- 3.9.4 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.
- 3.9.5 Performance in respect of care leavers who are in Education, Employment or Training has improved after a recent decline in recent months, at 63.6% this measure currently stands at its highest level for 12 months. The Leaving Care Team are working closely with other Directorates to firm up the pre-apprenticeship offer (work experience and work placements) in order to achieve more sustained apprenticeships given that from 2017 only one young person is still attending his apprenticeship placement. However, performance remains strong and once again places Rotherham back in the top quartile.

3.10 Fostering

- 3.10.1 At the end of the financial year there were 17 new foster families approved providing 27 placements, exceeding the target set of 25 new placements over the course of the year. A more stretching target has been set for 2018/19 to create 35 new in house placements.
- 3.10.2 Given the increasing numbers of LAC performance regarding the proportion of LAC in commissioned placements has declined to 50.5% (315 of 624 LAC). This decline is not significant and reflects

the same level as October when there were only 267 LAC in the cohort. This indicates that the in-house Fostering and Placements team have become far more efficient in placing children within in-house placements.

- 3.10.3 A number of initiatives being implemented to support in-house fostering recruitment including Mockingbird, Muslim Foster Carer recruitment and Challenge 63. In addition the Duty System has been overhauled and all initial enquirers are 'kept warm' via regular contact with the enquirer and newsletters even if they decide that now is not the right time for them to foster. The dedicated marketing officer is also having a marked impact with regular stories appearing in the local press meaning that a Google search of Fostering in Rotherham now brings RMBC as the 5th entry and the first reference that is not a paid for advertisement – a significant improvement as compared to the very low social media presence the Fostering Team had last year.
- 3.10.4 As a result of the revised referral process the conversion rate from initial enquiry has as over the past 6 months improved from 11% to 16%.
- 3.10.5 Over the course of 2018/19 the team are already forecasting approval of 14 foster families providing 16 new placements over the first half of the year. The service is now well-positioned to improve on last year's performance and achieve its target of 35 new foster placements.
- 3.10.6 The numbers of Private Fostering placements is now down to 3 with 2 further assessments about to commence. This churn evidences much greater social worker oversight of these placements.
- 3.10.7 The Fostering Supervisory Team continue to performance managing their visits to foster carers although this is a relatively recently introduced performance measure and are currently achieving 93% of the supervisory visits in timescale and 86% of their unannounced visits in timescale both of which are improving trends.

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 or 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 were five adoptions in March, which is the highest single month of the reporting year, this takes the year's total to 27. Whilst this is a drop from last year there are currently 43 children on the adoption pathway 26 children already in their adoptive placements and 17 further children with a match identified. This leaves 20 children who are in the 'Hard to Place' category including a sibling group of 4 for whom an assessment of viable adoptive parents is ongoing. (As these hard to place children have been waiting for some time as and when they are matched performance in respect of A1 and A2 is likely to dip in the next reporting year).
- 3.11.4 Over the whole of 2017/18 the average time between the child entering care and being placed with the adoptive family (A1) performance was 325 days a slight increase on the year-to-date figure of 311 days reported in February. This remains excellent performance when compared to the Statistical neighbour average of 511 days and the national average of 558 days and places Rotherham in the top quartile. Over the longer 3 year period 2015-17 Rotherham has actually achieved an average performance of 404 days as opposed to a national average of 520 days which places Rotherham at the 11th best performing local authority in England over this period.
- 3.11.5 Time between the Placement Order being made and the match with adoptive parents (A2) is back to 125 days compared to the Statistical Neighbour average of 214 days and the national average of 226 days and once again Rotherham is in the top quartile and at an England ranking of 42nd over the 3 year period
- 3.11.6 In respect of adopter recruitment there are currently 12 adoptive parents undergoing the assessment process, 6 at stage 1 and 6 at stage 2. 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 Teams 1-3 have a higher average caseload (average of 12.6), than Teams 4&5 (average of 11.8).

3.12.2 Taking into account the reduced caseloads allocated to 'Assessed and Supported Year in Employment' (ASYE) social workers and 'Advanced Care Planning' (ACPs) the actual average caseload for the LAC Teams 1-3 is more accurately presented as 15. In addition one social worker has a low caseload as he is in the process of leaving the authority. Two social workers are off long-term sick with their cases being managed by the rest of the service and one ACP is temporarily acting up into the management role so actual caseloads will be even higher than this.

3.12.3 Similarly the average caseload within LAC 4-5 is also increasing as at the 9th April the average had increased to 13.5 which is on the high side of a team that manages the legal process and this will need careful monitoring over the coming months.

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 Panel Monthly Performance Report

As at Month End: March 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: 4th April 2018

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

Performance Summary

As at Month End: March 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)	DOT (Yr on Yr)	RAG (in month)	RAG (Year End)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND			LATEST BENCHMARKING						
				Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Year End 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	604	609	624		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	106.7	107.6	110.3		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	27	18	34	320	Financial Year	↑	↑				n/a	175	208	262						
	6.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	11	13	20	184	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	0.0%	25.0%	15.0%	24.5%	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	9.1%	7.7%	5.0%	6.9%	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	85.9%	88.4%	95.5%	90.4%	Financial Year	↑	↓			<90%	90%>	95%+	94.9%	83.3%	91.3%					
	6.8	% of children adopted	High	Percentage	0.0%	15.4%	25.0%	14.7%	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	80.2%	80.5%	76.8%	76.8%	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	66.8%	65.7%	64.1%	64.1%	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	53.3%	33.3%	36.4%	55.3%	Financial Year	↑	↑			range to be set			20.0%	8.4%	18.2%					
	6.12	% of LAC with a PEP	High	Percentage	93.5%	92.9%	96.9%	89.9%	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			95.0%		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	89.7%	90.3%	89.7%	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	98.4%	97.7%	94.7%	94.7%	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	88.5%	88.1%	81.6%	81.6%	As at mth end	↓	↓			<85%	85%>	90%+	64.0%	80.2%	88.3%					
CARE LEAVERS	7.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	238	246	257	257	As at mth end	↑	↑				n/a	183	197	223						
	7.2	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan	High	Percentage	97.0%	97.0%	97.0%	97.0%	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	73.2%	78.9%	82.1%	82.1%	As at mth end	↑	new													
	7.4	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	99.2%	99.2%	96.9%	96.9%	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	58.1%	61.4%	63.6%	63.6%	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	60.8%	60.3%	61.3%	61.3%	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	12.0%	13.2%	13.1%	13.1%	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	82.5%	81.8%	82.4%	82.4%	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	5.3%	5.0%	4.4%	4.4%	As at mth end	↑	↑			range to be set					5.3%					
	8.5	% of LAC in a Commissioned Placement (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Percentage	48.5%	49.6%	50.5%	38.1%	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	399	401	422	422	As at mth end	↑	↑			range to be set				180	353					
	9.2	% of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Percentage	66.1%	65.8%	67.6%	67.6%	As at mth end	↑	↓			range to be set				41.7%	72.3%					
	9.3	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	High	Count	149	147	146	146	As at mth end	↓	↓			range to be set					168					
	9.4	Number of Foster Carers Recruited	High	Count	0	1	1	15	Financial Year	→	↓			range to be set					77					

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				Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Year End 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	
9.5	Number of Foster Carers Deregistered	Info	Count	2	3	2	25	Financial Year	↓	↑			range to be set					24					
ADOPTIONS	10.1	Number of adoptions	High	Count	0	2	5	27	Financial Year	↑	↓			n/a	43	43	31						
	10.2	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Count	0	1	4	16	Financial Year	↑	↑			n/a	16	23	12						
	10.3	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	-	50.0%	80.0%	59.3%	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	315.0	311.9	325.3		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	137.0	134.9	124.8		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	17	17	18	18	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	11.6	12.9	12.6	12.6	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	9.7	10.7	11.8	11.8	As at mth end	↑	new			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

The recent decline in admissions to care was reversed in March with 34 children admitted to care which brought the total numbers of LAC to 624. The rate per 10,000 of the population now stands at 110.3 as compared to the statistical neighbour average of 81.3 and the national average of 62 (as reported at March 2017). On a more positive note the rate of discharge reached its highest level for 6 months with there being 20 children discharged from care indicating the Right Child Right Care programme is beginning to have some impact. Further awareness work is required in respect of the added 'value' in respect of admitted young people over the age of 14 to care, in order to ensure a more robust enforcement of the alternative offer from the Edge of Care Service as over the course of 2018 thus far there have been 12 young people admitted over the age of 14 including 2 x 17 year olds. This will be re-enforced with a presentation at the Whole Service Event and consultation process to be commended in respect of a charging policy for Section 20 placements.

The scoping process has been completed for the Right Child Right Care programme and there are 170 children for whom discharge is assessed to be a viable option. Work on progressing these plans will now commence, although significant impact is anticipated until late 2018.

	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						

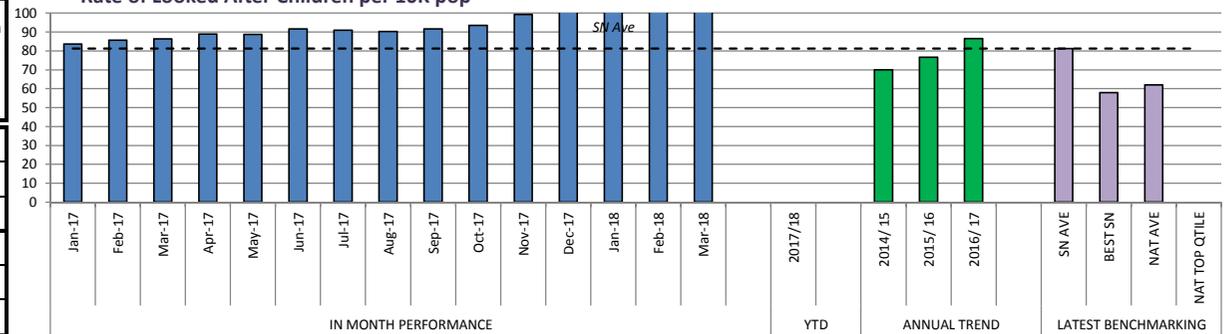
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	83.6	471	9	21	42.9%	0.0%
	Feb-17	85.7	483	26	14	28.6%	14.3%
	Mar-17	86.4	487	22	18	11.1%	0.0%
	Apr-17	88.9	503	27	11	9.1%	0.0%
	May-17	88.7	502	14	15	33.3%	26.7%
	Jun-17	91.5	518	36	20	35.0%	5.0%
	Jul-17	91.0	515	17	20	25.0%	5.0%
	Aug-17	90.3	511	15	19	26.3%	0.0%
	Sep-17	91.5	518	35	28	21.4%	7.1%
	Oct-17	93.5	529	21	10	33.3%	0.0%
	Nov-17	99.3	562	39	6	66.7%	16.7%
	Dec-17	103.9	588	37	11	50.0%	9.1%
	Jan-18	106.7	604	27	11	0.0%	9.1%
Feb-18	107.6	609	18	13	25.0%	7.7%	
Mar-18	110.3	624	34	20	15.0%	5.0%	

YTD	2017/18			320	184	24.5%	6.9%
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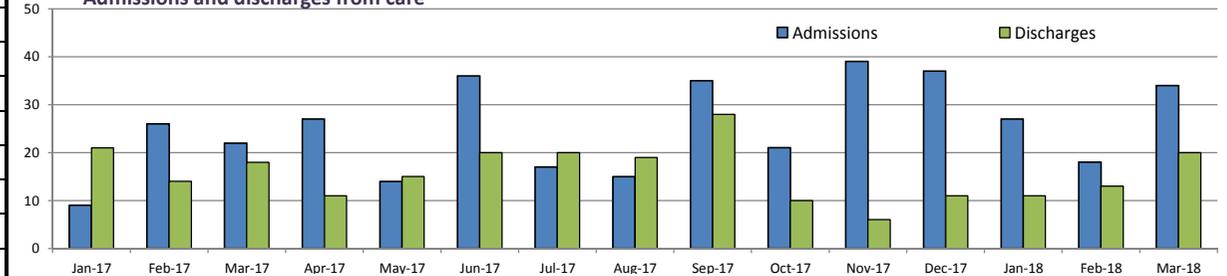
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	70.0		175	160	37.5%	
	2015/16	76.6	432	208	192	40.1%	
	2016/17	86.6	488	262	215	27.9%	9.8%

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	81.3					
	BEST SN	58.0					
	NAT AVE	62.0					
	NAT TOP Q/TILE	-					

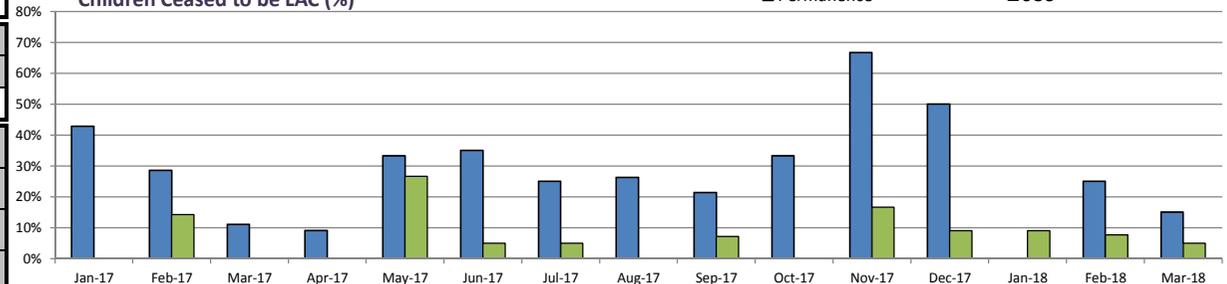
Rate of Looked After Children per 10K pop



Admissions and discharges from care



Children Ceased to be LAC (%)



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

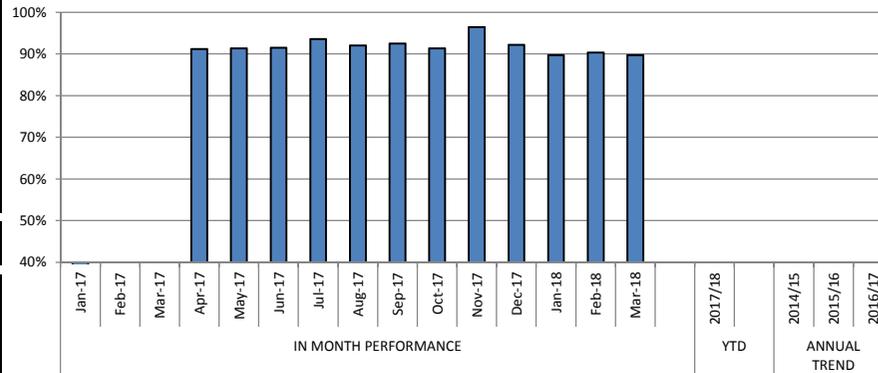
If a child has an out of date plan it may mean that their risks and needs are not being addressed effectively. The level of change is not statistically significant but are subject to management scrutiny in the performance meetings. The performance dip is likely to be as a consequence of a number of factors including the increase in caseloads in locality and LAC, these increases are being scrutinised by managers and joint work is underway to ensure smooth transfer of work and step-down from care into permanence where appropriate.

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	90.3%
	Mar-18	89.7%
YTD	2017/18	
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	
	2015/16	
	2016/17	

LAC with an up to date plan



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - REVIEWS & VISITS

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

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

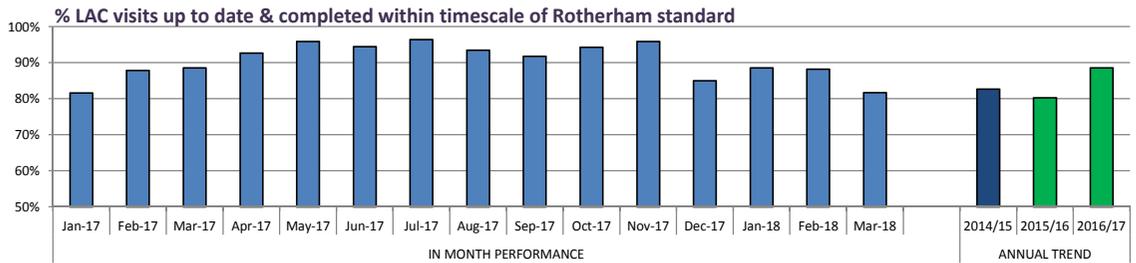
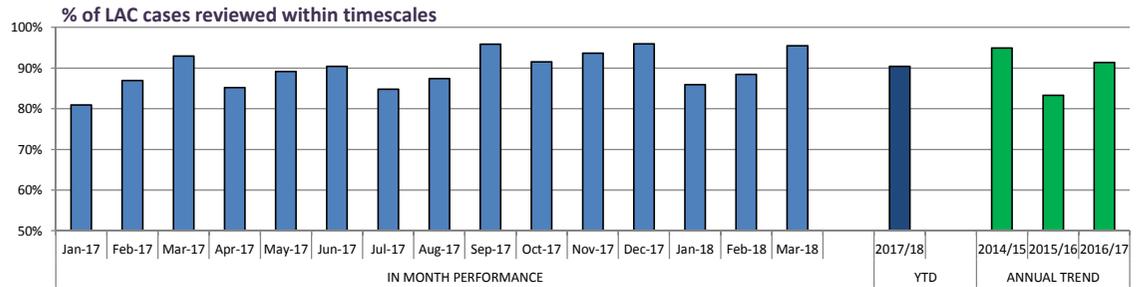
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The timeliness of Statutory Reviews has improved this month to 95.5%. The reviews not held in timescale are linked to IRO sickness levels and some social workers not completing their pre-review reports within timescales. To support maintaining and improving on the timeliness of reviews and the quality of care planning we are working closely with the LAC and field work teams around positive preparation for reviews. We are also considering and reviewing the staffing capacity within the IRO service to support less meetings being held out of time.

Performance in respect of statutory visits has declined slightly but this amounts to only 6 less visits than last month. Performance has been impacted by the increase in numbers of LAC and the increased travelling distances required due to placement market saturation. The adverse weather over the course of the month may also have had some impact. This remains an on-going focus of attention in performance clinics.

	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

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	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	86 of 101	85.1%	487 of 501	97.2%	464 of 501	92.6%
	May-17	123 of 138	89.1%	494 of 501	98.6%	480 of 501	95.8%
	Jun-17	122 of 135	90.4%	516 of 520	99.2%	491 of 520	94.4%
	Jul-17	117 of 138	84.8%	511 of 519	98.5%	500 of 519	96.3%
	Aug-17	104 of 119	87.4%	512 of 519	98.7%	485 of 519	93.4%
	Sep-17	139 of 145	95.9%	505 of 519	97.3%	476 of 519	91.7%
	Oct-17	140 of 153	91.5%	531 of 536	99.1%	504 of 535	94.2%
	Nov-17	133 of 142	93.7%	568 of 570	99.6%	546 of 570	95.8%
	Dec-17	119 of 124	96.0%	578 of 591	97.8%	502 of 591	84.9%
	Jan-18	140 of 163	85.9%	598 of 608	98.4%	538 of 608	88.5%
	Feb-18	107 of 121	88.4%	593 of 607	97.7%	535 of 607	88.1%
	Mar-18	127 of 133	95.5%	587 of 620	94.7%	506 of 620	81.6%
YTD	2017/18	1457 of 1612	90.4%				
ANNUAL TREND	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.

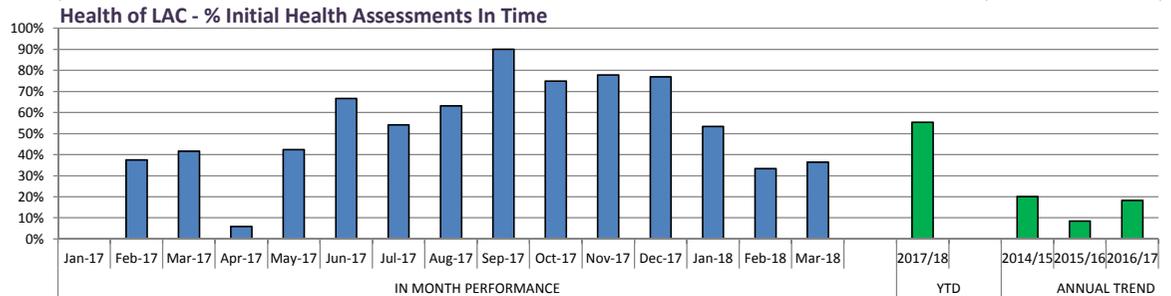
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The performance figures reported by the LAC Health Team are higher than those recorded in this report, suggesting there is still some timelag in inputting data onto Liquid Logic by social workers. In respect of Initial Health Assessments the reported figure is 56% over the course of March (13 of 23) although there were still 5 x Did Not Attends and 1 last minute cancellation which need to be followed up. In respect of the Review Health Assessments the figure reported by the LAC Health Team is 86%.

Work is being progressed with the Liquid Logic team to enable the LAC Health Team to directly input the Health Needs Assessment onto the case file which should resolve this time lag issue.

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%	12 of 19	63.2%
	Sep-17	89.9%	75.6%	9 of 10	90.0%
	Oct-17	86.7%	72.1%	18 of 24	75.0%
	Nov-17	87.5%	69.0%	14 of 18	77.8%
	Dec-17	83.0%	65.1%	10 of 13	76.9%
	Jan-18	80.2%	66.8%	8 of 15	53.3%
	Feb-18	80.5%	65.7%	6 of 18	33.3%
	Mar-18	76.8%	64.1%	4 of 11	36.4%
YTD	2017/18			125 of 226	55.3%
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 QTILE				



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS

DEFINITION

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

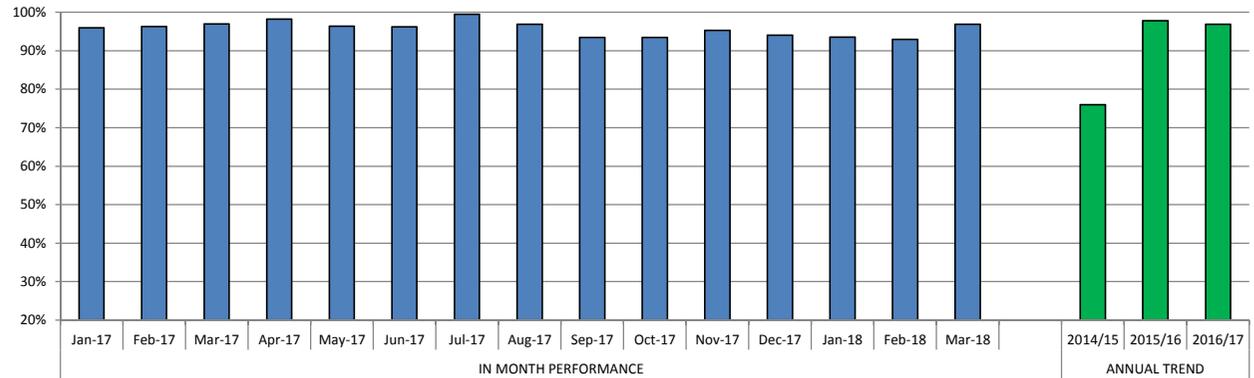
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

97% of eligible LAC have Personal Education Plan (15 LAC with no PEP) and 95% have a PEP less than a term old (24 with an older or no PEP).

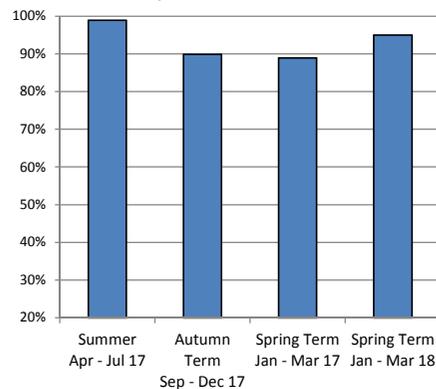
Although this performance is high and an improvement on the Autumn term it is slightly lower than usual due to a combination of the adverse weather which meant that several PEPs had to be rescheduled, and the fact that it was a very short term. Also, the figure includes LAC who either did not come into care until late in the term, or who we were notified had come into care, and who there wasn't time to arrange PEP meeting.

		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	429 of 456	94.1%	89.9% (Autumn Term)
	Jan-18	433 of 463	93.5%	
	Feb-18	435 of 468	92.9%	
Mar-18	468 of 483	96.9%	95.0% (Spring Term)	
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			

% LAC with a Personal Education Plan



% LAC with up to date PEP



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

Despite the increase in numbers of care leavers, performance remains strong with the numbers of care leavers with an up to date Pathway Plan increasing to more than 82%. The numbers of care leavers in suitable accommodation has declined, however, to 96.9% which is solely due to 2 more young people receiving custodial sentences. Current performance still places Rotherham in the top quartile and in fact RMBC is 10th out of all the local authorities in England in respect of this performance measure.

Performance in respect of care leavers who are in EET has improved after a recent dip and currently stands at its highest level for 12 months. The Leaving Care Team are working closely with other Directorates to firm up the pre-apprenticeship offer (work experience and work placements) in order to achieve more sustained apprenticeships given that from 2017 only one young person is still attending his apprenticeship placement. However, performance remains strong and once again places Rotherham back in the top quartile.

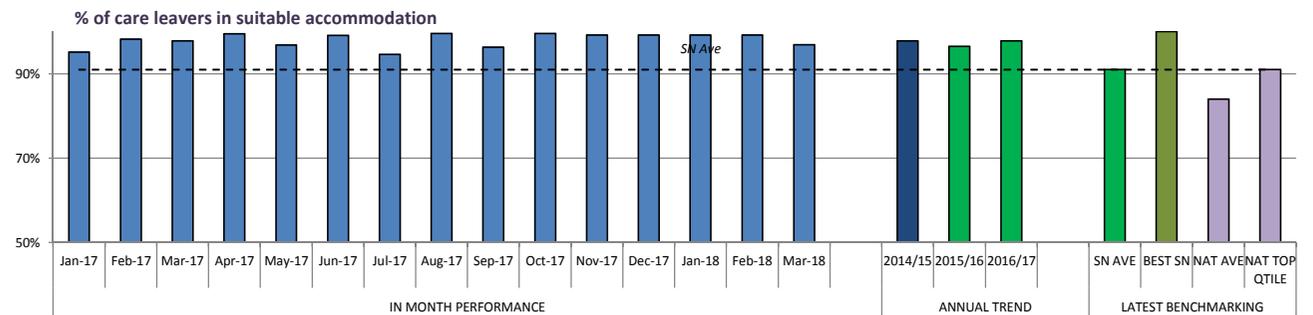
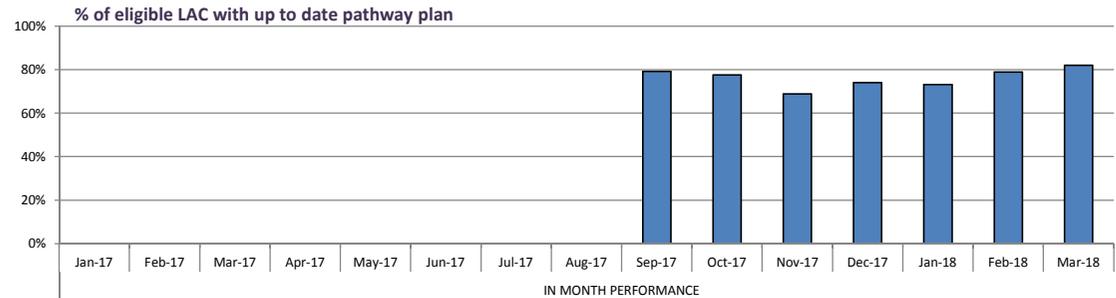
	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
	Number of care leavers	% of eligible Care Leavers with a pathway plan	% of eligible Care Leavers with up to date pathway plan	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	% of care leavers in employment, education or training

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17	223	Unavailable	Unavailable	95.1%	Unavailable	
	Feb-17	223	97.8%		Unavailable	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%		99.6%	61.9%	
	Sep-17	230	100.0%		79.2%	96.3%	63.5%
	Oct-17	237	98.6%	77.6%	99.6%	61.5%	
	Nov-17	237	98.6%	68.9%	99.2%	59.1%	
	Dec-17	236	96.2%	74.1%	99.2%	59.7%	
	Jan-18	238	97.0%	73.2%	99.2%	58.1%	
	Feb-18	246	97.0%	78.9%	99.2%	61.4%	
	Mar-18	257	97.0%	82.1%	96.9%	63.6%	

YTD	2017/18					
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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 QTILE				91.0%	57.0%



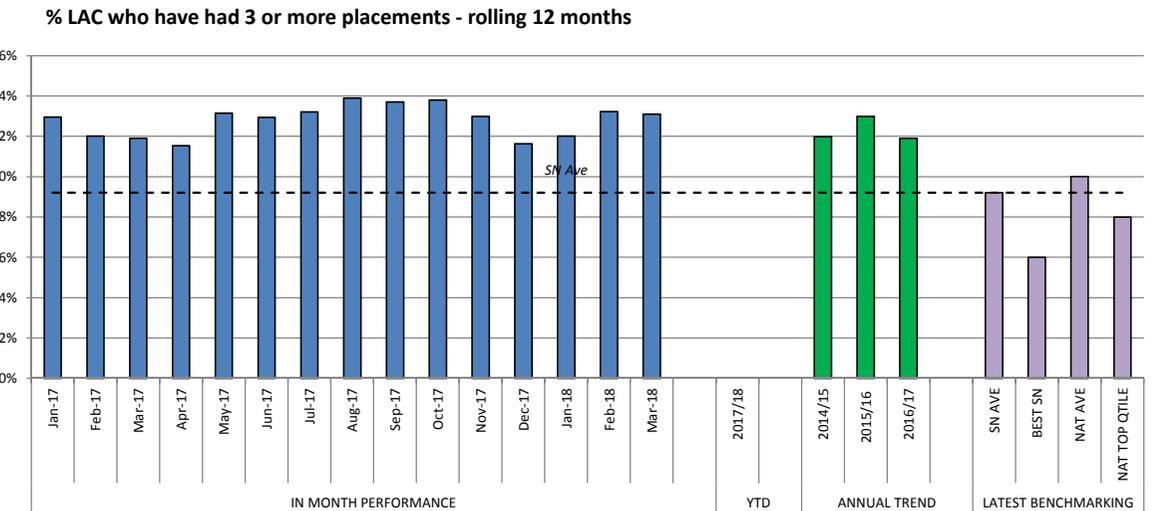
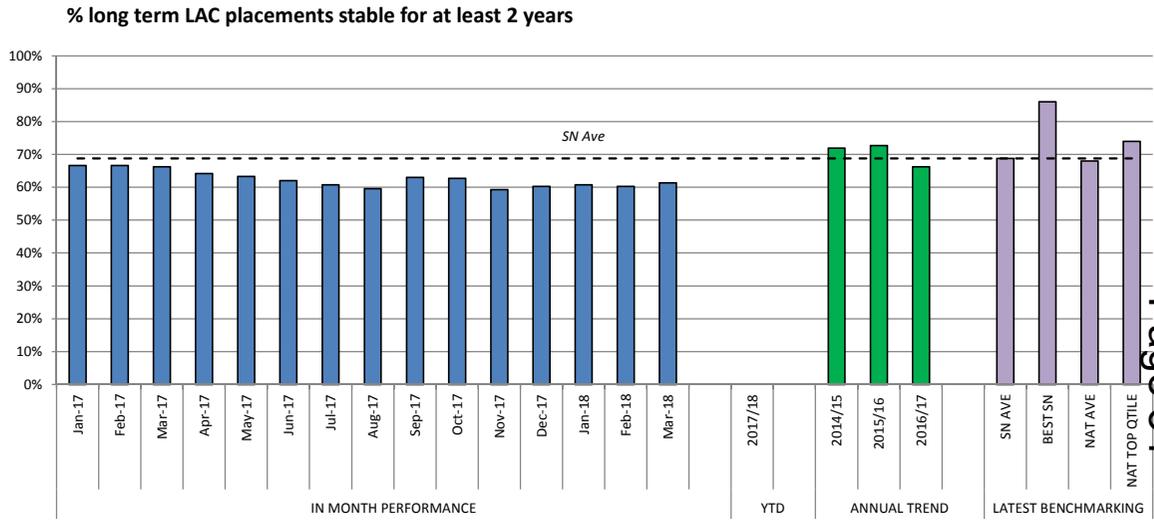
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PLACEMENTS

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.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The increase in LAC is part of a national trend and as a result the placement market is increasingly saturated making appropriate matching decisions an increasing challenge. Despite this there has been a slight improvement in both measures of placement stability and in the numbers of LAC in family based settings. The Intensive Intervention Programme being implemented by the Rotherham Therapeutic Team is clearly having some positive impact on the number of placement disruptions for the most vulnerable and challenging of our young people and a full report of the programme will be presented to DLT next month. However, it is also likely that the impact of the Right Child Right Care project will mean more long-term placements will be converted to Special Guardianship Orders/Child Arrangement Orders which will have a significant negative impact on the stable placement performance over the course of the latter end of 2018.

		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 529	13.8%	81.7%	4.5%	267 of 529	50.5%		
	Nov-17	93 of 157	59.2%	73 of 562	13.0%	82.2%	5.3%	270 of 562	48.0%		
	Dec-17	94 of 156	60.3%	68 of 585	11.6%	83.3%	4.4%	289 of 588	49.1%		
	Jan-18	93 of 153	60.8%	72 of 599	12.0%	82.5%	5.3%	293 of 604	48.5%		
	Feb-18	91 of 151	60.3%	80 of 605	13.2%	81.8%	5.0%	302 of 609	49.6%		
	Mar-18	92 of 150	61.3%	81 of 618	13.1%	82.4%	4.4%	315 of 624	50.5%		
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 QTILE		74.0%		8.0%						



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 final year end performance was the recruitment of 17 new foster families providing 26 new placements with 2 approvals being put on hold due to further information being received that will require further review. At present there are already 12 assessments being progressed all of which should be presented to Panel within the first 6 months of the financial year. This will place the Recruitment Team in a strong position to exceed last year's performance. This will be supported by the Muslim Foster Care project in which Rotherham is a pilot Local Authority, and the Challenge 63 Project in which every elected member will be challenged to propose a viable candidate for fostering over the course of the year.

In respect of de-registrations the figure is not as negative as would first appear. Of the reported de-registrations 1 was a Family and Friends placement where the children returned to birth parents, 3 were day care/respice care only and 5 had not actually provided any placement for the previous 6 months and so the impact is not as significant as would appear. An audit undertaken in March evidenced that the 16 (at that time) newly registered households provided 3602 days care for a total of 36 children whilst the 20 households who were deregistered only provided 1120 days care for a total of 12 children. As a result there was a net increase of 2482 actual care days provided (this does not take into account any days these carers had no placement or the 17th foster carer recruited over the course of the year.

There are currently 163 active fostering households providing 196 placements (+ 11 Reg 24 placements) which is 46% of the total foster placements being accessed by LAC. There are 8 placements on hold due to safeguarding concerns and a further 25 on hold due to bedroom/space issues, carers being on holiday or needing a break from fostering.

In respect of social work visits performance is at 86.2% for supervisory visits (up from 74.7%) and 81.6 for unannounced visits (up from 77.8%) and the trend is one of ongoing improvement.

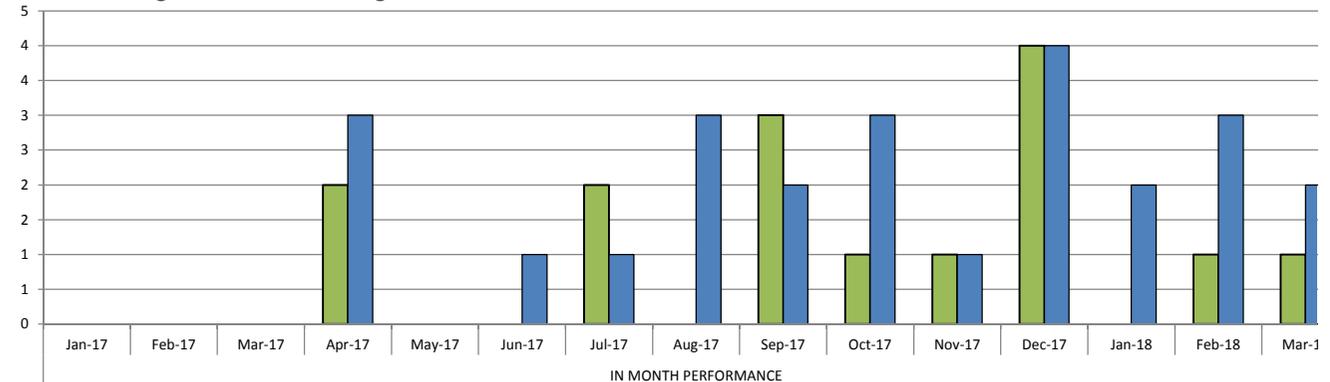
9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5
Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend)	% of total LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend)	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	Number of Foster Carers Recruited (Households)	Number of Foster Carers De-registered (Households)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-17					
	Feb-17					
	Mar-17					
	Apr-17	357	71.0%	155	2	3
	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	68.6%	151	1	3
	Nov-17	377	67.1%	151	1	1
	Dec-17	394	67.0%	151	4	4
	Jan-18	399	66.1%	149	0	2
	Feb-18	401	65.8%	147	1	3
Mar-18	422	67.6%	146	1	2	
YTD	2017/18			15	25	
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

Time between the child entering care and being placed with the adoptive family (A1) current performance was an average of 325 days up slightly from the 311 days reported in February. This remains well below the Statistical neighbour average of 511 days and the national average of 558 days and places Rotherham in the top quartile. Over the 3 year period 2015-17 Rotherham has actually achieved an average performance of 404 days as opposed to a national average of 520 days which places Rotherham at the 11th best performing local authority in England over this period. Time between the Placement Order being made and the match with adoptive parents (A2) is back to 125 days compared to the Statistical Neighbour average of 214 days and the national average of 226 days and once again Rotherham is in the top quartile and at an England ranking of 42nd over the 3 year period.

Please note performance in respect of timeliness is likely to experience some ongoing volatility given that the numbers in the cohort remain relatively small and one child can therefore have a disproportionate impact on the overall data. 27 children have been adopted during this financial year. Whilst this is a drop from last year there are currently 43 children on the adoption pathway with 21 of them already having an identified match and placed or about to be placed with their adoptive parents. As a result the adoption team are already well-placed to improve on this performance next year. This reduced forecast is almost solely due to adoption case law which seems to be giving birth parents greater rights of appeal right up to the Adoption Order hearing. Whilst no appeals have been successful thus far this does seem to be prolonging the adoption process. In respect of recruitment there are currently 12 adoptive parents undergoing the assessment process, 6 at stage 1 and 6 at stage 2. Given that only 13 adopters were approved throughout 2016/17 the team is once again well placed to improve on recent performance.

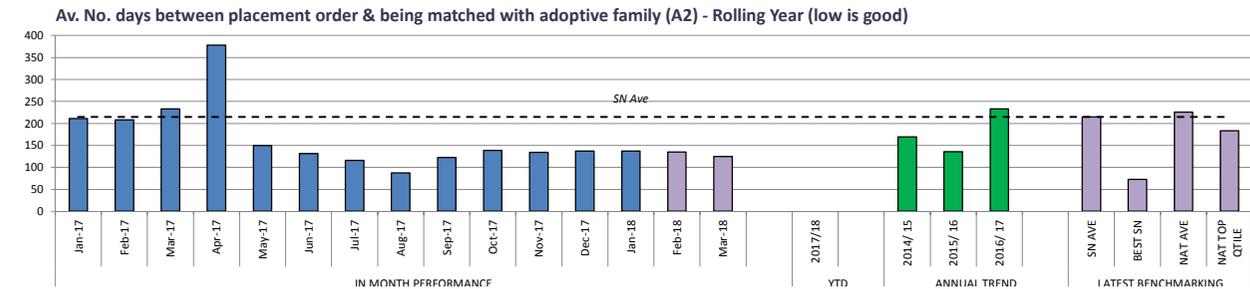
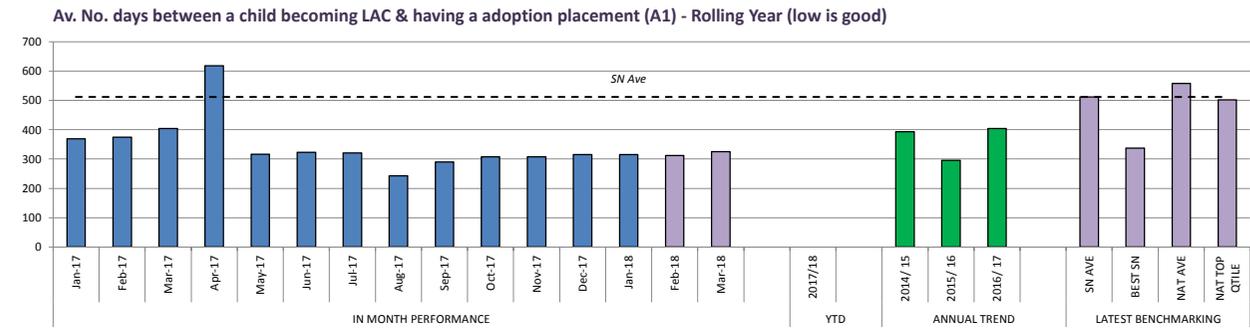
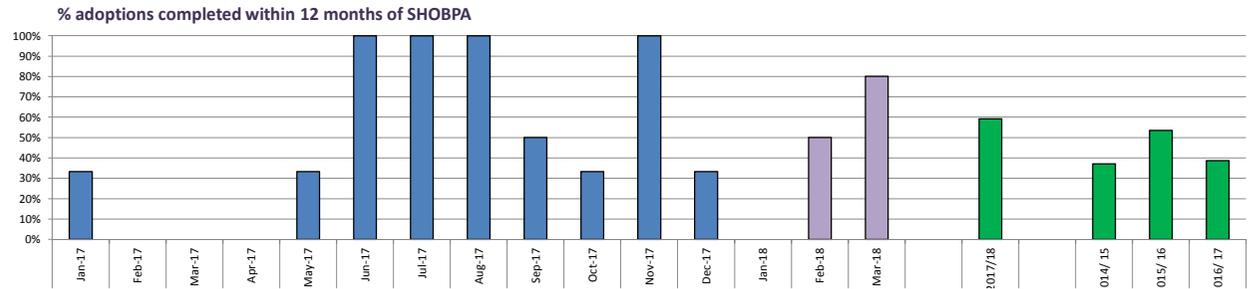
Data Note: Taken from manual tracker. Data requires inputting into LCS

	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)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	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	2	1	50.0%	311.9	134.9
	Mar-18	5	4	80.0%	325.3	124.8
YTD	2017/18	27	16	59.3%		
ANNUAL TREND	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
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				511.6	214.7
	BEST SN				337.0	73.0
	NAT AVE				558.0	226.0
	NAT TOP Q/TILE				501.1	183.6

*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

Taking into account the reduced caseloads allocated to 'Assessed and Supported Year in Employment' (ASYE) social workers and 'Advanced Care Planning' (ACPs) the actual average caseload for the LAC Teams 1-3 is more accurately presented as 15. In addition one social worker has a low caseload as he is in the process of leaving the employ of RMBC. 2 social workers are off long-term sick with their cases being managed by the rest of the service and one ACP is temporarily acting up into the management role so actual caseloads will be even higher than this. Similarly the average caseload within LAC 4-5 is also increasing as at the 9th April the average had increased to 13.5 which is on the high side of a team that manages the legal process and this will need careful monitoring over the coming months. However, at present the 'maximum and average caseload' across the key safeguarding teams still continues to be consistent and remains within acceptable limits. The recent trend in increasing LAC numbers does impact on social worker capacity by more than just an increased caseload. Due to market saturation local placements are increasingly hard to secure and as a result social workers spend more of their working time driving to and from placement visits. A further audit of social work capacity being spent transporting to and supervising contact and travelling to and from out of authority placements is being undertaken week commencing 9th April which will further evidence the pressures being faced by the LAC Service above and beyond caseload numbers.

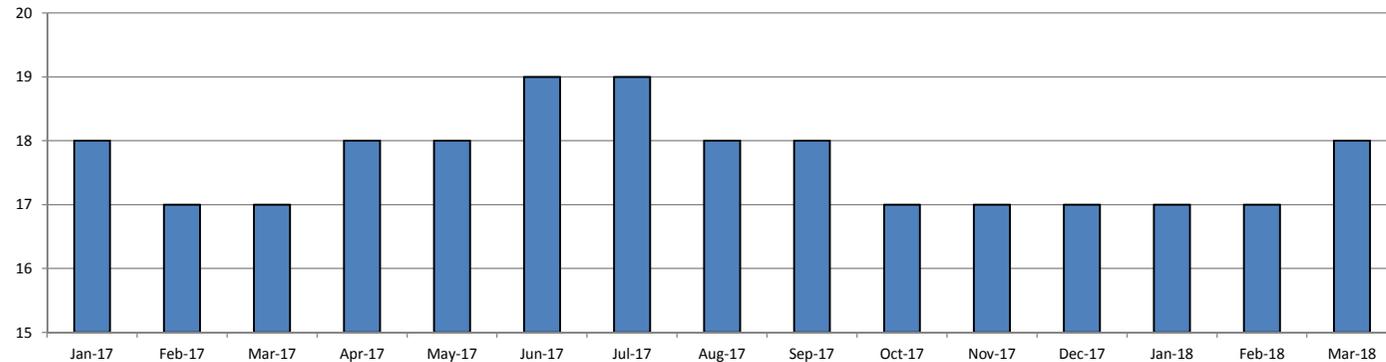
	11.3	11.4
Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC Teams	Av. no. cases in LAC Teams	
	Teams 1-3	Teams 4 & 5

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	17	12.9	10.7
Mar-18	18	12.6	11.8	

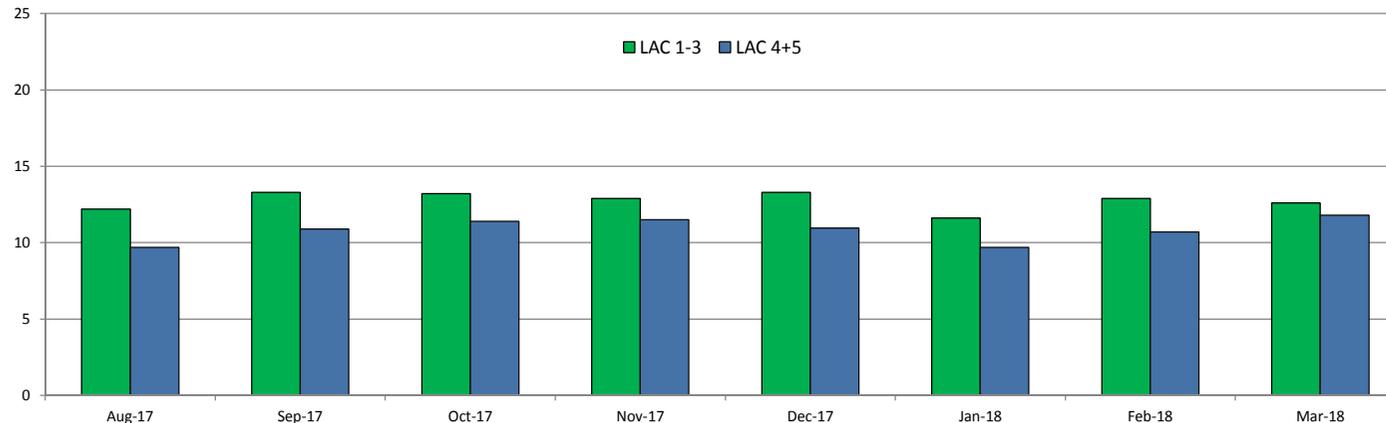
YTD	2017/18		
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ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		
	2015/16	19.2	14.1
	2016/17	17.0	11.6

Maximum caseload of social workers



Average number of cases per team



ROTHERHAM CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Corporate Parenting Panel

1. Our Commitment to Looked After Children and Care Leavers

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

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduces corporate parenting principles, which comprise of seven needs that local authorities in England must have regard to whenever they exercise a function in relation to looked-after children or care leavers (collectively referred to as *looked-after children and care leavers*).

In order to thrive, children and care leavers have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and care leavers , as follows:

- i. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and care leavers
- ii. to encourage those children and care leavers to express their views, wishes and feelings
- iii. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and care leavers
- iv. to help those children and care leavers gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- v. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and care leavers
- vi. for those children and care leavers to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- vii. to prepare those children and care leavers for adulthood and independent living.

The corporate parenting principles do not exist in a vacuum. They should shape the mind-set and culture of every part of a local authority in how it carries out all of its functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers.

The corporate parenting principles are not about applying a formulaic approach to how services are delivered in relation to looked-after children and care leavers. Rather they describe the behaviours and attitudes expected of councils when they are acting as any good parent would do by supporting, encouraging and guiding their children to lead healthy, rounded and fulfilled lives. The principles intend to ensure that all councils have high ambitions for the children in their care. In doing so, the application of the principles must respond to the individual needs, vulnerabilities or disadvantages of looked after children and care leavers. This will assist in securing that such children and care leavers are not placed at significant disadvantage when compared with the support a non-looked after child may receive from their family.

The detail of what local authorities must do to effectively care for looked-after children and care leavers is addressed through existing legislation, regulations and accompanying statutory guidance. The corporate parenting principles are intended to inform how a local authority carries out those existing responsibilities, whether that is about assessing a looked after child's needs or listening to and taking account of the wishes and feelings of care leavers. The principles are intended to encourage local authorities to be ambitious and aspirational for their looked-after children and care leavers.

The corporate parenting principles do not replace or change existing legal duties, for example in relation to the provision of accommodation for care leavers aged 18 and above.

This document should be read together with the statutory guidance which can be found below

**Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers
February 2018**

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683698/Applying_corporate_parenting_principles_to_looked-after_children_and_care_leavers.pdf

2. Purpose

2.1 The role of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPP) is to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its duties towards Looked After Children (LAC) corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies.

2.2 In order to achieve the above it will be necessary that:-

- Elected members champion the needs of children and Care leavers people and respond proactively and effectively to their needs
- There is clear evidence that partnership working is improving outcomes
Partners have very high aspirations for Looked After children and care leavers

- The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and Corporate Parenting Board (CPP) provide effective leadership and contribute significantly to the development of services, which are regularly audited for effectiveness

The Panel will:-

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

3. Responsibilities

The Panel has the following responsibilities:

To ensure that the Council acts as a good corporate parent to children and care leavers in care and care leavers, including:

- 3.1 Care leavers in residential care
- 3.2 Children and care leavers in foster care
- 3.3 Children placed for adoption
- 3.4 Children placed at home under Placement with Parents Regulations
- 3.5 Care leavers who are living in supported lodgings
- 3.6 Care leavers in secure services
- 3.7 Care leavers in custody
- 3.8 To engage and listen to the views of children, care leavers and their carers for whom the Council is the parent.
- 3.9 To work in partnership with other statutory agencies to drive forward improvements in care.
- 3.10 To act as the governing body for the Virtual School for looked after children and Care leavers.

3. Functions of the Panel

- i) To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children (LAC) services, children's homes, and the virtual school with a view to recommending any changes.
- ii) Ensure that the profile of the corporate parenting agenda is incorporated into key plans, policies and strategies through out the Council overseeing interagency working arrangements. Review reports relating to complaints from looked after

children to ensure officers have dealt with these appropriately and made any recommendations for change.

- iii) Raise awareness in Rotherham Council and the wider community by promoting the role of members as corporate parents and the Council as a large corporate family with key responsibilities.
- iv) Raise the profile of the needs of looked after children and care leavers through a range of actions including through the organising of celebratory events for the recognition of achievement.
- v) Ensure that leisure, cultural, further education and employment opportunities are offered and taken up by our looked after children and care leavers.
- vi) Promote the development of participation and ensure that the view of children and care leavers are regularly heard through the Corporate Parenting Panel to improve educational, health and social outcomes to raise aspiration and attainments.
- vii) Undertake meetings with children and care leavers , frontline staff and foster carers to inform the panel of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.
- viii) Monitor the ongoing commitment to providing support, training and clarity of expectations to foster carers to achieve excellent and high quality care.
- ix) To appoint elected members to undertake visits to residential children's homes alongside the appointed regulation 44 visitor where appropriate.
- x) To participate in the QA Visits to Out of Authority Visits alongside the Placements and Commissioning Team.
- xi) To undertake QA visits to their teams and services in and related to the LAC Service to improve understanding of the functioning of the service and contribute to service development.
- xii) To appoint elected members as Champions for Children in Care in respect of the following strands:
 - *Housing – Cllr Watson*
 - *Employment and training opportunities within council departments and with partner agencies – Cllr M Elliott*
 - *Health (including mental health)- Cllr J Elliott*
 - *Educational Attainment and access to Higher Education – Cllr Watson*
 - *Foster carer recruitment and retention – Cllr Cusworth*
 - *Response to those who go missing – Cllr Clark*

4. Children in Care Council

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

5. Work Programme

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

6. Performance Monitoring

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

- Placement stability
- Independent child care reviews
- The performance of all care standards regulated services:
 - Adoption and adoption support;
 - Fostering; and
 - Children's homes
- Service to care leavers, including accommodation, education, employment and training
- The health needs of children in care
- Educational attainment of children in care

7. Membership of the Panel

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

Membership to include key partners and will include senior local police officer, Virtual Head Teacher, a representative from Housing and designated Health lead.

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

The Advisory Lead Member will be chair the panel.

The CPP has nominated Cllr Cusworth to be the vice chair of the Panel.

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

8. Officer support

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

9. Training

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

Total Respect training is to be recommended and commissioned for Corporate Parenting Panel Members.

10. Chairing arrangements, Frequency of meetings and Governance

10.1 The Panel will be chaired by the statutory Lead Member for Children's Services to assist in him/ her carrying out their statutory duties. This person will be chairman on a permanent basis.

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

10.3 The governance support for this Panel will be provided by a representative from the Council's Democratic Governance Service and the agenda will be dispatched a week in advance of the meeting.

10.4 It is an essential requirement that for each CPP there are sufficient elected members to contribute to fulfilling the role of the CPP. Therefore quoracy will only be met if there is a minimum of three elected members in attendance. If the meeting is not quorate then there is nothing to stop those in attendance discussing Corporate Parenting matters but it cannot be classed as a Board meeting and minutes will not be taken. As a consequence, non-quorate decisions cannot be ratified.

11. Reporting Mechanisms

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

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Directorate Leadership team

Report Title

Children and Social Work Act 2017 – Implications for Practice

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

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 is intended to improve the support for looked after children (LAC), previously looked after children and care leavers, promote the welfare and safeguarding of children and make revised provisions about the regulation of social workers.

This report will focus solely on the implications for looked after children, previously looked after children and care leavers.

This report outlines the main legislative changes in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and how RMBC aims to implement those changes locally to ensure that our care leavers have the brightest future.

For the full text of the Act, please refer to:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted

Recommendations

DLT is recommended to note the changes in practice that the Act will require along with the specific implications there will be for Rotherham CYPS.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children and Social Work Act 2017 – Implications for Practice

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 DLT is recommended to note the changes in practice that the Act will require along with the specific implications there will be for Rotherham CYPS.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Act sets out corporate parenting principles for the council as a whole to be the best parent it can be for the children in its care. These are largely a collation of existing duties local authorities have towards looked after children and those leaving care. Local authorities will be required to publish their support offer to care leavers and to promote the educational attainment of children who have been adopted or placed in other long-term arrangements. The legislation extends the current considerations of the court when making decisions about the long-term placement of children to include an assessment of current and future needs and of any relationship with the prospective adopter.
- 2.2 As corporate parents, it is every councillor's responsibility to make sure that the Council is meeting these duties towards children in care and care leavers. Children can be in care in a range of different settings, with the authority acting as corporate parent to all of them. This includes foster care, children's homes, secure children's homes and kinship care.
- 2.3 Every councillor and officer within a council has a responsibility to act for those children and young people as a parent would for their own child. Lead members, those on corporate parenting panels, and overview and scrutiny committees will have particular responsibilities.

There are 64 sections in the Act. The first 10 have direct relevance to LAC and Care Leavers.

The following provisions of the Act came into force on 1st April 2018—

- (a) section 1 (corporate parenting principles); (b) section 2 (local offer for care leavers); and
(c) section 3 (advice and support).

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Section 1 introduces the 7 principles of Corporate Parenting which local authorities must give due regard to for both LAC and Care Leavers whether or not they were the local authority who looked after the child. These principles are:-

- To act in the best interests of, and to promote the health and wellbeing of relevant children and young people.
- The need to encourage relevant children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- The need to take account of a relevant child or young person's views, wishes and feelings.
- The need to help relevant children and young people to gain access to and get the best use of the services provided by the local authority and its partners.

- The need to promote high aspirations amongst relevant children and young people and the need to secure the best outcomes.
- The need for relevant children and young people to be safe and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
- The need to prepare relevant children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

3.1.1 The implication for Rotherham CYPS is that the Corporate Parenting Panel will need to review and formally adopt these principles and then benchmark current practice against them. The Panel may then need to agree and implement an Action Plan in order to ensure that any shortfalls are reviewed and addressed. This will be a focus of attention in the forthcoming Corporate Parenting Panel meetings.

3.2 Section 2 requires local authorities to publish information about the services it offers to care leavers which may assist them in preparing for adulthood and independent living. These services may include health and wellbeing, education and training, employment, accommodation, and participation in society. It is distinct from the special educational needs and disability (SEND) local offer stipulated by the Children and Families Act 2014.

3.2.1 Rotherham has had a formal offer to its care leavers that was approved by the Corporate Parenting Panel in February 2017. This Guide to Financial Support for Young People Leaving Care in Rotherham includes formal commitments in respect of the financial assistance available for eligible and relevant and former relevant young people, provision of accommodation, support for young people to access further education, employment or training opportunities including apprenticeships and support in special circumstances including for care leavers who were unaccompanied minors and support with Criminal Injuries claims.

3.2.2 However, one year after its launch this Guide would benefit from a review as the focus on the health and wellbeing of care leavers and their participation in society is not as well developed as it could have been. In addition, the Leaving Care team has instigated further developments over the course of the past 12 months including a formal offer for care leavers who are pregnant or young parents. This aspect of the offer would usefully be incorporated into the full Guide to better meet the expectation laid out in the Act.

3.3 Section 3 requires local authorities to appoint a personal adviser for care leavers who request one up until the age of 25, regardless of whether the young person intends to pursue education or training. The local authority also has a duty to carry out an assessment of the young person's needs and to provide the necessary advice and support. This duty is initiated as from April 1st 2018.

3.3.1 In respect of the impact for practice in Rotherham it is envisaged that care leavers' needs will vary considerably. Some of them will, from time to time, require only limited support to resolve a relatively straightforward query or to be signposted to another specialist service such as careers guidance. Other young adults will require more intensive support for a limited period of time when they are facing particular challenges, such as losing their job or receiving a benefit sanction or facing eviction, but then require only limited support once they are

back on track. There will be a small number who have complex needs and will need intensive ongoing support but it will be very difficult to predict both how many young people will request support after the age of 21, or what type and level of support they will need. However, a scoping exercise undertaken with Trafford local authority, which had been offering support to all its care leavers to age 25 for a number of years, suggested that around 15% of care leavers were actively receiving support in any given week, and that on average this equated to each young person receiving about 2 hours' Personal Adviser time per week. In Rotherham this would equate to approximately one f.t.e Personal Adviser role. The Leaving Care Team has recently had approval to increase the number of Personal Advisers and it is therefore anticipated that this additional function will be assimilated within existing staff resources.

3.4 Section 4 places a duty on local authorities to make advice and information available to parents, designated teachers in maintained schools, and academies to promote the educational achievement of previously looked after children. A local authority must appoint an officer employed by them or another authority to discharge the duty to provide advice and information.

3.4.1 Local authorities have a duty under section 23ZZA of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017) to promote the educational achievement of previously looked-after children in their area by providing information and advice to:

- any person that has parental responsibility for the child;
- providers of funded early years education, designated teachers for previously looked-after children in maintained schools and academies, and
- any other person the authority considers appropriate for promoting the educational achievement of relevant children.

3.5 Section 5 places a duty on the governing body of a maintained school to designate a member of school staff to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of previously looked after children, including those who are now the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.

3.5.1 Although the responsibility of schools and the LA for supporting previously looked after children does not commence until September 2018 meetings have already held between the Virtual School, the Head of LAC Service, the Therapeutic Team manager, the post adoption team, the post SGO social worker and the post adoption therapeutic intervention worker, to consider how we could work in collaboration in discharging the new statutory responsibilities of the Virtual School. The initial phase of this work was to attempt to scope the potential numbers of children involved and it has been calculated that there are approximately 200 active post adoption cases and 150 active post SGO cases. However, many of these cases only involve sporadic support or signposting and in fact there are approximately 'only' 20 acute post adoption cases and 15 acute post SGO cases currently receiving more intensive support.

3.5.2 At this meeting it was agreed that:-

- The Virtual School will modify the training it already provides to carers, schools, governors, social workers and so on to incorporate the new responsibilities to provide support for post LAC.
 - Duty and Assessment and MASH will require guidance and training to ensure that enquiries are directed appropriately.
 - Systems and processes need to be established to signpost, provide advice and guidance to all relevant parties.
 - The Virtual School will provide consultancy to the post LAC team who will act as gatekeepers, given that demand will always exceed supply.
 - The Virtual School will aim to attend the post adoption support group on a regular basis.
 - There will need to be significant amounts of awareness raising to ensure that head-teachers and school governors engage fully with the new legal duties.
 - This may include actively encouraging school capacity building measures such as developing Emotional Literacy Support Assistants.
 - That we consider providing highly accessible leaflets/ communications to parents, carers and teachers in the area of understanding and responding to challenging behaviour.
 - That further liaison is held with the Early Help Service to clarify what part they could contribute in fulfilling this new duty.
- 3.6 Section 6 imposes a provision on all existing and new academy agreements requiring the proprietor of an academy to designate a member of staff to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of relevant children and young people. The proprietor must ensure that person undertakes training and has regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 3.6.1 Within Rotherham the Virtual School will ensure that all Academies in the RMBC are made aware of this new legal requirement.
- 3.7 Section 7 amends the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 to require the governing body of a maintained school to ensure that the designated teacher for looked after pupils has regard to any guidance from the Secretary of State. Previously, only the governing body was required to do so.
- 3.7.1 Once again within Rotherham the Virtual School will ensure that maintained schools are made aware of this new legal requirement.
- 3.8 Section 8 extends the definition of the permanence provisions in the Children Act 1989 so that it includes kinship care, adoption, and other types of long-term care. The courts will now be required to consider the impact on the child concerned of any harm they have or are likely to have suffered; their current and future needs, and the way in which the long term plan for the child's upbringing would meet those current and future needs. Social workers will have to give full consideration to these issues in the child's Care Plan and as a result they may require some additional guidance from the Public Law Outline Care Manager to ensure they abide by this additional expectation.
- 3.9 Section 9 amends the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and requires courts and adoption agencies to consider the child's relationship with their prospective adopters in decisions relating to the adoption if the child has been placed with those prospective adopters.

- 3.10 Section 10 amends legislation to allow local authorities in England and Wales to place children in secure accommodation in Scotland.
- 3.11 As it can be seen the most significant impact arising from the Children and Social Work Act 2017 will be the new expectation of an assessment of need and provision of support for care leavers up to the age of 25 and the requirement to promote the educational outcomes for children previously looked after and now subject of an Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order. Rotherham CYPS has already assessed the likely impact of these revised legal duties and anticipate that the new provision can be met within existing services.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 Given that these new duties arise from legislative changes there are no suggested options to consider and DLT is recommended to endorse the proposals contained in this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There has already been some consultation with partners who will be required to support some of the new requirements but further awareness raising will need to be undertaken with maintained schools and academies within Rotherham.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 All the requirements of the Act will need to be in place by September 2018. Ian Walker and Peter McNamara will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the revised legislation.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 The first major potential implication is the financial burden on local authorities, as the requirement to provide advice and support, a personal advisor and a pathway plan extends to young persons up to 25 who are not in education or training. The legislation also affects children who are present in the UK but have no recourse to public funds. Whilst it is envisaged children that fall within this provision will be caught by *section 54* and *Schedule 3* to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (NIA 2002) (which provides a list of services the local authority is permitted to exclude for certain groups of migrants such as who are unlawfully in the UK), it does not include the wider band of persons, who have an embargo on access to public funds, but have valid claims for leave to remain and who therefore are not caught by Schedule 3 to the NIA 2002. In order to mitigate the additional costs incurred by extending the role of the Personal Adviser to 25 the DfE has recently published the Extended Personal Adviser Duty Grant Determination 2018-19. As a result of this Rotherham will receive an additional £12,901 which will clearly not meet the anticipated additional costs this legislation will bring. Unfortunately the funding formula was based on the number of Care Leavers as at March 2017 since when the number of LAC and care leavers has significantly increased.

8. Legal Implications

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 27th April 2017.

8.1 Corporate Parenting Principles

Section 1 of the CSWA 2017 Act introduces corporate parenting principles which comprises of seven needs that local authorities must have regard to whenever they exercise a function in relation to looked after children and care leavers. These principles will apply to the every part of the local authority and not just to children's services in how it carries out its functions to ensure that there is more joined up approach in relation looked after children and care leavers. These are largely a collation of existing duties local authorities have towards looked after children and those leaving care.

8.2 Council tax exemption

As stated above, S1 of the CSWA 2017 states that every part of the local authority will need to consider the extent to which the corporate parenting principles are relevant to their particular service area and all service areas can have a role in supporting care leavers.

The Council has power as a billing authority under S13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Act 1992 to reduce to nil to reduce the amount of council tax payable by young people leaving in care. The power to reduce council tax to nil is limited to those young people living in care in the borough. However, financial support can be offered to meet the cost of council tax that may be payable by RMBC's leavers who live outside the borough. Rotherham has already implemented this exemption to its care leavers in full

8.3 Apprenticeships

The funding for apprenticeship training is no longer restricted to younger age groups, although some additional funds are available for younger groups and 19-24 year old care leavers. Generally the Council will need to advertise apprenticeship opportunities to every age group within of the community to avoid giving the impression that apprenticeships are just for young people even if in practice the majority of those applying for and being offered them are young; otherwise the Council may be vulnerable to claims of age discrimination.

The Council's Local offer can include employment services and support that is specifically available to care leavers. In the context of age discrimination in having a quota of apprenticeship places for care leavers, it is lawful for the Council to make such an offer to care leavers provided that the Council is able to demonstrate that there is justification for this offer, which promotes fairness and accords with a social policy aim to secure best outcomes for care leavers

8.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

Under Section 149 the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and foster good relations between people who share a

protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics covered by the Equality Duty are as follows:

- Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination), pregnancy and maternity, race (including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation.

The public sector equality duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not share that protected characteristic.

- 8.5 The Court of Appeal in *SO v London Borough of Barking & Dagenham* [2010] EWCA Civ 1101 decided that section 23C(4)(c) of the CA 1989 encompassed the provision of accommodation. Therefore, many of these young people with no recourse to public funds are provided with accommodation under section 23C(4)(c) by the LA. Section 23C(4) of the CA 1989 continues to apply to young people up to the age of 21 and the CWSA 2017 does not repeal or change those provisions. However the CSWA 2017 now extends the application of section 23C(4) to young people between the ages of 21 and 25. It is no coincidence that following the debates in the House of Lords, the wording of the new section 23CZB(5) is more explicit, in that section 2(2) of the CSWA 2017 is clear that services that may assist care leavers, includes services relating to accommodation. It is clear that accommodation is a service a LA can consider providing, if it considers the young person requires it.

In the same way that the “well-being principle” is at the heart of the Care Act 2014, the “corporate parenting principles” is the heart of the CSWA 2017. Although the principles do not add anything new to local authorities’ duties, it does bring the young person back into focus and attempts to bring the corporate parent in line with a biological parent. In practical terms, nothing much should change and this principle in itself does not herald a massive change in practice. In theory, local authorities should have been working with these principles in mind in any case. However, some local authorities whose focus may have shifted in recent years may need to revisit their policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the corporate parenting principles. The discussions in the House of Lords noted that local authorities, being one of the biggest employers, should do more to secure employment for those children it “parents”. This appears to make sense and it is recognised that some local authorities do more than others to create opportunities for their care leavers.

The CSWA 2017 also has the effect of imposing a further responsibility on local authorities in relation to children who are being educated within the local authority area and who may have been looked after by another local authority.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 There are already some reviews of staffing and structures being undertaken to ensure that CYPS have the relevant staff and skills to meet the requirements of the Act. Further support for training and development needs may also be required.
- 9.2 As per the legal implications, RMBC will be expected to do more to secure employment for children it parents which may involve additional work for the HR Department.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The offer of additional educational support being made available post-permanence will be likely only to improve their educational outcomes. The extended offer to care leavers to the age of 25 will also assist in providing more support to those vulnerable adults who otherwise would be at greater risk of being NEET or living in insecure accommodation.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 The Council's corporate parenting duty extends to all care leavers to whom the local authority owes a duty, regardless of their current area of residence. On that basis the support offered should be broadly similar, irrespective of where a young person resides.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1 Given the strengthening of the Corporate Parenting responsibilities, especially in respect of the apprenticeship offer, there will clearly be implications for other directorates although through the Corporate Parenting Panel agenda this is already being progressed. Given the extension of responsibility for care leavers to the age of 25 there will clearly need to be closer partnership working with Adults Services.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Looked After Children and care leavers are a vulnerable group that are at risk of a number of factors – poor education and training, health, safeguarding and transition into adulthood.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Ian Walker – HoS

Peter McNamara – Virtual School

Approvals Obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Mick Wildman	6/4/18
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Sharon Fleming	9/4/18
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)	N/a	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Amy Leech	22/03/18

Ian Walker
Head of Service

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

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Directorate Leadership Team

Report Title

Proposed Charging Policy for Children Looked After and cared for in Residential Placements (including Foster Placements) under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989

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

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

This report seeks approval for the consideration of a charge being levied on parents who place their child into the care of the local authority under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

This proposal is not designed to be a revenue raising process but is rather intended to reinforce to parents the costs incurred by the local authority in caring for their child and therefore to elicit greater co-operation and engagement with the Edge of Care plan.

For the purposes of this report a 'parent' is any person who holds parental responsibility for a child including adoptive parents and other adults who hold parental responsibility by virtue of having a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order.

Recommendations

DLT is recommended to consider the risks and benefits to be accrued from a Charging Policy and make a decision DLT is recommended to as to whether such a policy would be of any benefit in supporting the Right Child Right Care project and if so to approve a 12 week consultation process

List of Appendices Included

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Proposed Charging Policy for Children Looked After and cared for in Residential Placements (including Foster Placements) under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989

1. Recommendations

1.1 DLT is recommended to consider the risks and benefits to be accrued from a Charging Policy and make a decision DLT is recommended to as to whether such a policy would be of any benefit in supporting the Right Child Right Care project and if so to approve a 12 week consultation process.

2. Background

2.1 Section 20(4) of the Children Act 1989 gives local authorities the legal right to provide accommodation for any child within their area (even though a person with parental responsibility for that child is able to provide them with accommodation) if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote that child's welfare. However, a key feature of this provision is that the accommodation cannot be provided if any person with parental responsibility does not agree to this accommodation and therefore this process is very much a 'voluntary' one. Where children are accommodated for more than 24 hours pursuant to functions under Section 20 then they are deemed to be looked after. Through this process and where court proceedings are not immediately instigated and parents/guardians retain full parental responsibility for the children.

2.2 The Children Act 1989, Schedule 2 Part III, sets out the legislative framework for a charging policy as follows:-

Liability to contribute

21(1)Where a local authority are looking after a child (other than in the cases mentioned in sub-paragraph (7)) they shall consider whether they should recover contributions towards the child's maintenance from any person liable to contribute ("a contributor").

(2)An authority may only recover contributions from a contributor if they consider it reasonable to do so.

(3)The persons liable to contribute are—

(a)where the child is under sixteen, each of his parents;

(b)where he has reached the age of sixteen, the child himself.

(4)A parent is not liable to contribute during any period when he is in receipt of universal credit (except in such circumstances as may be prescribed), of income support under Part VII of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, of any element of child tax credit other than the family element, of working tax credit of an income-based jobseeker's allowance or of an income-related employment and support allowance.

(5) A person is not liable to contribute towards the maintenance of a child in the care of a local authority in respect of any period during which the child is living with, under arrangements made by the authority in accordance with section 22C, a parent of his.

(6) A contributor is not obliged to make any contribution towards a child's maintenance except as agreed or determined in accordance with this Part of this Schedule.

(7) The cases are where the child is looked after by a local authority under—

(a) section 21;

(b) an interim care order;

(c) section 92 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

Agreed contributions

22(1) Contributions towards a child's maintenance may only be recovered if the local authority have served a notice ("a contribution notice") on the contributor specifying—

(a) the weekly sum which they consider that he should contribute; and

(b) arrangements for payment.

(2) The contribution notice must be in writing and dated.

(3) Arrangements for payment shall, in particular, include—

(a) the date on which liability to contribute begins (which must not be earlier than the date of the notice);

(b) the date on which liability under the notice will end (if the child has not before that date ceased to be looked after by the authority); and

(c) the date on which the first payment is to be made.

(4) The authority may specify in a contribution notice a weekly sum which is a standard contribution determined by them for all children looked after by them.

(5) The authority may not specify in a contribution notice a weekly sum greater than that which they consider—

(a) they would normally be prepared to pay if they had placed a similar child with local authority foster parents; and

(b) it is reasonably practicable for the contributor to pay (having regard to his means).

(6) An authority may at any time withdraw a contribution notice (without prejudice to their power to serve another).

(7) Where the authority and the contributor agree—

(a) the sum which the contributor is to contribute; and

(b) arrangements for payment,

(whether as specified in the contribution notice or otherwise) and the contributor notifies the authority in writing that he so agrees, the authority may recover summarily as a civil debt any contribution which is overdue and unpaid.

(8) A contributor may, by serving a notice in writing on the authority, withdraw his agreement in relation to any period of liability falling after the date of service of the notice.

(9) Sub-paragraph (7) is without prejudice to any other method of recovery.

2.4 There are currently 34 looked after children subject of section 20 although many of these are actually children with a disability who qualify as being looked after by virtue of receiving 75 nights respite care. More significantly there are currently 5 adolescents who are LAC subject of section 2 who are placed in Out of Authority residential care.

2.5 Over the course of the past 12 months there have been 45 young people accommodated under Section 20 by CYPS who were over the age of 14 at the point of entry to care. As internal performance data has evidenced, these young people are likely to achieve far worse outcomes than young people admitted to care under the age of 14 and are likely to incur placement costs up to three times that of the younger cohort. Whilst many of these 45 young people have subsequently been made subject of a Care Order this process is in many respects driven by previous Ofsted findings that children were previously managed via Section 20 for too long a time. As a result of this need for an early consideration for permanence it remains unclear how many of them could have been supported to rehabilitation with birth/extended family members. Given this issue seems now to have been resolved there may be an opportunity to review this practice in order to leave the option for rehabilitation available for a longer period of time.

3. Key Issues

3.1 The provisions under Section 20 are most often used in situations where families are experiencing difficulties with the behaviour of older children, usually teenagers, and at the direct request of the holder of parental responsibility. Section 20 admissions to care should preferably only be used as a short term measure in which families are supported in reaching a point where they feel able to maintain their child safely at home again. Within Rotherham, however, it seems that local practice is for adolescents to be accommodated on a longer term basis often with little or no active consideration being given to a rehabilitation plan. This can be because, on occasions, the parents refuse to engage with any offers of support to enable the child to be returned to/remain in their care. This is despite the fact that all available performance measures indicate that where such accommodation is offered to young people over the age of 14 it generally has a negative impact on the young person's outcomes.

Short term intervention is the key, since research shows that if a young person remains accommodated in care for two months then they are highly likely remain in care for over a year.

- 3.2 Where there is no cost to an admission to care under Section 20, this can act as a disincentive for parents to not co-operate with professionals in trying to support a child to continue live at home or to resist/ undermine the efforts of social work professionals to return children home. Parents can step away from responsibilities in working with professionals where there is no financial consequence to their child remaining in care long term. As a result where all relevant professionals are of the opinion that the parent is unwilling to fulfil their parental responsibilities and as a result the child becomes/remains accommodated then consideration can be given to levying a charge. The parents should be notified of this option at the point at which there is any expressed resistance from the parent to continue or resume the care of their child in order to enable them to make a fully informed decision regarding their parenting responsibilities
- 3.3 Because parents will not have been given such information in respect of current Section 20 accommodation arrangements it is not intended to make this a retrospective measure. The levy of charges will only be considered therefore where S20 accommodation is being requested subsequent to the date of approval of this policy. The numbers of cases which may be eligible for charging are likely to be small. There is a risk that this may narrow the basis on which the evaluation of the potential success of the policy is made but any evaluation should take into account the deterrent effect the policy may have.
- 3.4 Whilst the introduction of the policy may generate some income towards maintenance costs, the main purpose of the proposal is to act as an alert to parents of the cost of the service they are requesting and encourage them to reconsider other forms of family support that provides alternatives to care. This would have specific impact on potential teenage placements, which traditionally have higher placement cost implications.
- 3.5 The local authority would not be able to levy a charge for all Section 20 admissions to care as local authorities are not able to charge in the following circumstances:
 - Parents who are in receipt of benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, any element of child tax credit other than the family element or any income related employment and support allowance.
 - Parents whose children are accommodated for 75 or more days as part of respite care provision.
 - Services provided as 'After Care' under Section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983.
 - Where parents who agree to section 20 admission as an alternative to care proceedings being initiated.
 - Where parents agree to section 20 until the local authority can make an application for an Interim Care Order.
 - Parents who agree to section 20 admission as a result of their child's significant and complex disability.

- A person is also not liable to contribute towards maintenance costs in respect of any period during which the child is allowed by the local authority to live with their parents.
 - For children over the age of 16 who are requesting to be accommodated of their own volition.
- 3.6 Where a child is accommodated parents will also need to be informed that HM Revenue and Customs will be routinely informed of the change in circumstances and as a result Child Benefit will stop being paid after the child has been looked after for 8 weeks. It can, however, continue to be paid if the child returns home for at least 2 consecutive nights a week.
- 3.7 Once it is identified that a parent is liable for charging, a financial assessment will be completed. This financial assessment should be formally reviewed every 12 months after the young person has been accommodated until the young person is discharged from care either by virtue of returning home or to the care of extended family members or by reaching the age of 18. For young people over the age of 16 a social work assessment will be required to ascertain the extent to which the request for accommodation has genuinely come from the young person or whether this has occurred as a result of the parent's wishes or actions in order to determine the implementation of the charging policy.
- 3.8 It is recommended that the base line payment should be in line with the charge for in house foster care i.e. £189.37 for 11 to 15 year olds and £230.30 for 16 to 17 year olds. Once the financial assessment evidences that, taking into account the income and regular outgoings the family has some remaining disposable income, they will then be held liable for S20 charges. The regular outgoings will only include those costs that will continue to be incurred after the young person has been accommodated including mortgage/rent, utility bills, loan repayments and Council Tax. There will not include outgoings that should reduce by having one less child in the household such as food, leisure, holidays etc.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the charge is levied using the calculation of the amount of disposable income up to a maximum the amount of the basic foster allowance divided by the number of adults and children who live in the house. As a result the family would pay the proportion of their disposable income equivalent to the projected reduced financial burden that would arise by them having one less child to care for. For example a family with £100 disposable income per week requesting accommodation for a 16 year old and consisting of two parents and two children in total would mean the family would have to contribute £25 per week as a contribution to the costs of accommodation.
- 3.10 There will be no charge for any leaving care support or accommodation provided once the young person reached 18 as at that point the young adult will be eligible to claim benefits in their own right. However, there will be charges due for any semi-independent/supported accommodation provided to a looked after young person aged between 16 and 17 whilst they remain subject of S20 care. Although the amount of income this may generate would be negligible, it may be seen as a preventative measure if the ability to levy such a charge is deemed applicable.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 DLT could decide it is inappropriate to charge parents in these circumstances. If this option were to be followed then the pressure to accommodate adolescents purely due to family breakdown situations is likely to persist along with the budget pressures that such young people create.
- 4.2 Conversely DLT could endorse this proposal in order to give social workers more leverage to persuade parents to fully engage in the Edge of Care plan to support the young person to remain living with their birth/extended family.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 A twelve week consultation period will take place from April to July 2018 and the outcome of this consultation will be reported.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 Subject to DLT approval this policy could be implemented after the consultation process in June 2018. Ian Walker will be responsible for implementing this decision.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 The scheme is not meant to be an income generator for the council, therefore an income target would not be set in terms of the LAC budget.
- 7.2 Any income would offset expenditure that the Council otherwise would not have incurred. This additional expenditure would not be budgeted.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report as this report is to seek approval for a consultation process. The legal basis for charging parents in these circumstances is set out in section 2.2 of this report

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 None identified.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 This policy should ensure that more adolescents will be supported to be cared for by their birth/extended families. As a result their outcomes are less likely to experience a negative impact on their outcomes as is a common experience be eroded by becoming looked after improved

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the equality duty that public authorities must comply with. This duty requires the decision maker to have due regard to: the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other unlawful conduct under the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between

persons who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not share it; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. An equality impact assessment will be completed.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None identified

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Implementation could lead to complaints by parents. However, this can be mitigated by undertaking a full consultation process.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Approvals Obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Colin Allen	19/3/18
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Sharon Fleming	20/3/18
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)	N/a	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Amy Leech	19/3/18

Ian Walker
Head of Service

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Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Directorate Leadership Team – 12th March 2018

Report Title

Rotherham Looked After Children (LAC) Needs Assessment

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

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

Catherine Homer from the Public Health Team has, in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, undertaken an assessment in respect of LAC Health Needs as commissioned by Ian Walker, Head of Service. The aim of undertaking the Assessment was to identify the key health needs for LAC and identify potential areas of improvement in respect of the support offered by the Health and Social Care agencies.

It was agreed in the set up meeting that this assessment would focus on two key issues:-

- The emotional health and wellbeing of LAC as evidenced by the higher than average Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire scores.
- The challenges and outcomes faced by LAC and Care leavers who are parents.

The methodology of the assessment included data analysis from local and national sources and three focus groups consisting of the LAC Council, a range of social workers and team managers from the LAC and Leaving Care Service, the Rotherham Therapeutic Team, the NHS Foundation Trust and CCG and Specialist

midwives. A focus group had been planned for care leavers but it proved to be impossible to successfully engage the potential participants.

Recommendations

DLT is recommended to note the contents of this report and endorse the action plan that will evolve from it.

List of Appendices Included

The Health Needs Assessment is attached in full to this report

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Insert Title of Report here

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 DLT is recommended to note the contents of this report and endorse the action plan that will evolve from it.

2. Background

- 2.1 The aim of the assessment was to provide a systematic analysis of the unmet health care needs of LAC within Rotherham and to review and challenge the current systems so as to improve the physical and emotional health of children and young people looked after by RMBC. This ties in with Promise 8 of the Looked After Children Strategy 2017-20:

‘We will help you to be happy and healthy’

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Chapter 1 of the report analyses the demographics of the LAC population in Rotherham and raises the risks posed by the current trend for increasing numbers of LAC. The report highlights that the gender ratio of LAC is becoming more equitable with a greater proportion of females being admitted to care. It further hypothesises that, although child sexual exploitation is not an exclusively female issue, more young women have been admitted to care since the publication of the Jay and Casey reports. The increase in LAC has had the impact of meaning that the number of LAC placed more than 20 miles from their home address is significantly higher than regional, national and statistical neighbours. The report also highlights that LAC in Rotherham are more likely to experience fixed term exclusions than their peers on a regional and national basis and this will be a focus of work for the Virtual School over the course of 2018.
- 3.2 Another identified shortfall is that 50% of looked after children with a Statement of Educational needs do not have an Educational health Care Plan (EHCP) and this will become a focus of activity within the LAC Performance Clinics for 2018.
- 3.3 The assessment also highlights that 52% of the cohort have a raised to very high Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score with 27% having a very high score of 20+.
- 3.4 The Assessment highlights that a significant amount of information is collected on individual children through the LAC Health Assessment process including in respect of Body Mass Index, smoking, drug use, self-harming behaviours and sexual activity. However, there is no current mechanism to draw together this information in order to better inform the commissioning of services to improve the health of LAC. The LAC Health Team will be asked to provide an annual report analysing the trends and themes arising from individual Statutory Health Assessments in order to better inform the support offer to LAC.

- 3.5 Chapter 2 focusses on information taken from the Voice of the Child Lifetime Survey which highlights that LAC are significantly more likely to smoke cigarettes and to have been involved in a sexual relationship than their peers.
- 3.6 Chapter 3 details the findings from the focus groups which were designed to explore the issues from both an adult professional and LAC perspective in order to highlight and contrast the differing perspectives between the two groups. One of the key findings from the LAC focus group was that the importance of having a regular hobby or activity to support the emotional wellbeing of young people may have been previously underestimated. This contrasted with the professional focus group which concluded that material possessions would be rated as being more important to LAC. In addition contact with the wider birth family and friends and having some connection with their early childhood in the form of photographs or mementos was a key factor in achieving emotional well-being. The report also highlights the need for social workers across the LAC pathway to receive input to raise their awareness regarding the longer-term outcomes for LAC.
- 3.7 The focus group regarding young parents highlighted the concern that LAC and Care Leavers are more likely to have a lower threshold for pre-birth assessments and subsequent child protection planning than their peers. It highlighted the potential degree of conflict between the social worker for the baby (Locality Team) and the social worker for the parent (LAC/Leaving Care). It was apparent that there is a lack of focus on LAC and Care Leavers as young fathers. There was an identified need to support LAC to reduce repeated future pregnancy and removal indicating that there should be further consideration to prioritising LAC and Care Leavers who have already had one child removed from their care in the PAUSE project. The development of an enhanced support package for LAC and Care leavers who are parents including a Young Dad's Group and play courses will be led by the Leaving Care Team to be provided out of the Journey.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 There are no options to be considered. DLT is therefore recommended to note the contents of the Assessment and endorse the resulting Action Plan.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 This report has been formulated in full consultation with a range of social work and health professionals and with the LAC Council themselves.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 An Action Plan has been developed out of this Needs Assessment the implementation and oversight of which will be managed through the LAC Physical and Emotional Health Work-stream over the course of 2018.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 There are no financial or Procurement implications arising from this report as the Action Plan can be implemented within existed resources.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising as this report is for information purposes only.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 There are no direct HR issues arising from this report. However additional training needs will be required for some to ensure that Social Workers have the awareness regarding the longer-term outcomes for LAC and the needs of the Action Plan.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 This assessment and resulting action plan is designed to improve the physical and emotional health of LAC and Care Leavers.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The assessment and Action Plan are similarly designed to address the health inequalities that LAC and care leavers can experience.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 All of the implications for Partners and other Directorates are detailed in the Action Plan

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 there is a risk that if the Action Plan is not completed in full that the LAC and Care Leavers will continue to be at risk of being disadvantaged in respect of their health needs.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Ian Walker – Head of Service

Catherine Hall – Head of Safeguarding CCG

Approvals Obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Mick Wildman	8/03/18
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Sharon Fleming	7/03/18
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)	N/a	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Amy Leech	8/03/18

Ian Walker
Head of Service
LAC and Care Leavers

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ACTION	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	DATE TO BEGIN	DUE DATE	RAG	OUTCOMES
LAC Health Team to provide an annual report to P&EH work-stream and to CPP regarding thematic issues arising from HNAs including BMI, smoking, self-harming and sexual activity.	TRFT Business Manager				Better commissioning of lifestyle based services. More focussed support for LAC and their carers
Contact needs of LAC to consider extended family and friendship groups.	Sharon Sandell				
CYPs to address the 50% shortfall of LAC with SEN who have no EHCP.	Ian Walker				
To reduce the number of foster placements to improve the stability of a child's life.	Ian Walker				
Develop awareness of non-LAC sw teams to ensure a more uniformed response to focussing on long-term outcomes for the child as opposed to completion of 'the process.'	Ian Walker				
Benchmark RMBC SDQ scores with those of statistical neighbours.	Sue Wilson				
Sws to be trained to increase understanding of SDQs, their administration and how to use them to inform referral to interventions.	Sara Whittaker				
More community based HNAs to be made available so that LAC have less of a feeling of difference as compared to their peers.	<u>TRFT Business Manager</u>				
LAC to be helped to understand the value of SDQs to their health.	<u>Sara Whittaker/LAC SWs</u>				
Administration of SDQs to fall in line with HNAs as opposed to their birthdays.	Ian Walker				SDQs will then be used more appropriately to inform care plans and Review decisions in a more timely manner
Review and commission a greater range of parent and baby accommodation to increase chances of successful parenting for LAC and care leavers.	Jo Smith				

Every LAC to be supported to regularly participate in at least one hobby or activity	Ian Walker				Improved emotional health and wellbeing
LAC and Care Leavers who are/becoming a young parent to receive a 'formal offer' of support, advice and assistance from the Corporate Grandparent. This is to include clear thresholds of intervention so that LAC and Care Leavers do not experience over-intervention just because of their LAC status.	Sharon Sandell Commissioners of 0 – 19 Service				
Follow up focus group to be established to give professionals a greater understanding of the needs and pressures experienced by young parents	Sharon Sandell				Promote more parenting opportunities' for LAC and Care Leavers and increase the chances of successful parenting.
All young parents and young fathers especially to receive an offer to access parenting play courses.	Ian Walker/Early Help				
Consideration to be given to peer mentoring being provided by care leavers who are successful parents	Ian Walker				
LAC/Care leavers who have had one child removed to be given priority access to the PAUSE project	Jenny Lingrell				
Training to be provided to foster carers re sexual health and healthy relationships	Anne-Marie Banks				
Update and utilise the 'Moving On' toolkit.	Sharon Sandell				

NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (NHSR CCG)

Looked After Children – Physical and Emotional Health Care

Lead Executive:	Sue Cassin, Chief Nurse, Safeguarding Executive Lead
Lead Officer:	Catherine Hall, Designated Nurse LAC, Head of Safeguarding Dr Shakil Hashmi, Designated Doctor LAC
Lead GP:	Dr Jason Page, GP Commissioning Lead Children Dr Russell Brynes, GP Commissioning Lead Mental Health

Purpose:

This paper is to highlight to the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) the on-going commitment of NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (NHSR CCG) to Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers (CL) in and from the borough.

Background:

Under the Children Act 2004, health professionals have a legal responsibility to promote the health and wellbeing of all children who they are responsible for. This responsibility is particularly pertinent with regard to vulnerable cohorts such as LAC and CLs. 'Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children' (Department for Children, Schools and Families 2015) sets out a framework for the delivery of care from healthcare providers and social services to ensure their effectiveness in supporting and delivering that care.

NHSR CCG, as the responsible health commissioner for Rotherham LAC, commissions physical health care from The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) and mental health care from Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust (RDaSH).

Analysis of key issues and of risks

The health economy, including universal healthcare provision, planned, emergency acute and mental health services across Rotherham, accepts that most children, young people and families in the borough thrive. Rotherham residents have access to, and benefit from, preventative as well as reactive health services delivered by dentists, GPs, midwives, health visitors, school nurses and services within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). However, the health economy also agrees that some children and families need access to additional bespoke healthcare at times; this includes the additional and personalised needs of a cohort of children who for a variety of reasons find themselves within the care system.

Across the UK research informs us that LAC fall short of the health outcomes we strive for across the Every Child Matters spectrum. Therefore NHSR CCG and TRFT have a robust service specification that strives to reduce some of the physical health inequalities endured by children in the care system.

The service specification covers all LAC and CL that NHSR CCG retains the Responsible Commissioner (2009) duty for. The definition utilised by the health economy for a Looked After Child is where a child or young person has been looked after by the Local Authority for a continuous period of more than 24hours (The Children's Act 1989) and a Care Leaver is where a young person has been in the care of the Local Authority for a period of 13 weeks or more spanning their 16th birthday (Children, Leaving Care, Act 2000). Looked After Children placed outside of the borough by the local authority either acting alone or in-conjunction with the CCG the "originating CCG" remains the responsible CCG for the services that CCGs have responsibility for commissioning. That is the case even where the child changes his or her GP practice.

The originating CCG is responsible for commissioning the child's statutory health assessment(s) (DH 2015). In addition the Department of Health (DH 2015) clearly state that CCGs and NHSE should ensure that a child is never refused a service, including for mental health, on the grounds of their placement being short-term or unplanned. This can raise logistical challenges for health services but these should not be insurmountable if all agencies work diligently in the child's best interest.

The governments mandate to NHS England (November 2012) stated that they "expect to see the NHS working together with schools and children's social services, supporting and safeguarding vulnerable LAC through a more joined-up approach to addressing their needs". With this in mind RMBC and NHSR CCG have a joint Commissioner for Children's Services; whilst this is a relatively new post it is starting to see improvements in commissioning services jointly. As of 2017 health, education and the Local Authority commissioners and providers are working together to ensure that the physical and emotional health needs of LAC are given the recognition necessary. Counsellor J Elliot is a member of this group and ensures that agencies work in the best interest of the child. Counsellor Elliot regularly reports into the Corporate Parenting Panel ensuring that progress is monitored and barriers to development are reduced. See Recommendation 1.

National research into the long term health consequences of being in the care system is often negative therefore NHSR CCG and TRFT will continue to drive up their commitment to improving the health and wellbeing needs of LAC. We recognise our need to ensure that children in care have their emotional wellbeing taken into account and fully accept the DRAFT LAC Health Needs Assessment (RMBC Public Health 2018) that highlights children in care desire to be safe and happy. On-going commitment to utilise the Strengths and Difficulties questionnaires will feature in our on-going work.

Delivery Expectations:

The overarching principles to be taken into account when considering the health needs of LAC are that all parents want their children to have the best start in life, to be healthy and happy and to reach their full potential. Therefore we, as corporate parents and partners, must have the same high aspirations and ensure that the children and young people entrusted into our care receive the healthcare and support they need in order to thrive.

Local Authorities (LAs) have a duty under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children they look after, wherever they are placed. Directors of Children's Services, Directors of Public Health and Lead Members for Children's Services have a responsibility to ensure there are systems in place so that this duty is properly discharged.

This duty must be discharged in accordance with the relevant Regulations (The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010). These Regulations include the need for statutory health reviews and a health plan. The NHS therefore has a major role in ensuring the timely and effective delivery of health services to Looked After Children. In fulfilling those responsibilities the NHS contributes to meeting their corporate parent responsibilities by:

- commissioning effective services,
- delivering through provider organisations and
- through individual practitioners providing coordinated care for each child.

NHSR CCG commissions Designated LAC Professionals and Named Professionals from TRFT to identify and deliver care needs. The role and responsibilities of these Designated and Named professionals is highlighted in national guidance, namely Safeguarding Children and Young People: roles and competences for health care staff; Intercollegiate Document, Third edition, March 2014. In addition these roles are externally inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and NHS England.

**Capacity Comparison with the Looked After Children and Care Leaver Health Team
(Intercollegiate 2014)**

	Best Practice	Actual	RAG
Designated Nurse LAC	A minimum of 1 dedicated WTE* Designated Nurse Looked After Children for a child population of 70,000. Rotherham population = 62,100 in 2013 (Public Health England 2015)	1WTE covering LAC, Child Protection and managing Adult Safeguarding Team**	AMBER
Secretarial support (Designated Function)	A minimum of 0.5WTE dedicated administrative support to support the Designated Nurse Looked After Children	1 WTE secretary covering Safeguarding, LAC and Protected Learning Time.	AMBER
Designated Doctor LAC	A minimum of 8 hours per week or 2 PAs per 400 Looked after Children population (excluding any operational activity such as health assessments).	2 Programmed Activities (1PA = 4 hours)	GREEN
Named Nurse	A minimum of 1 dedicated WTE Named Nurse for Looked After Children for each Looked After Children provider services	1WTE	GREEN
Specialist Advisor Care Leavers	A minimum of 1 WTE* specialist nurse per 100 Looked After Children	1 WTE	GREEN

* WTE = Whole Time Equivalent

** Designated Nurse works as part of a team approach including from April 2016 a Deputy Designated Nurse Safeguarding based in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Health Care Delivery:

Statutory guidance (DH 2015) states that 'IHAs are to be completed within 20 working days of a child becoming looked after'. IHAs being undertaken within this timescale were at an unacceptably low level in Rotherham. Over 2017 there was a concerted effort across all agencies involved, RMBC, TRFT and CCG to improve compliance. A team of colleagues across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw have worked together to improve compliance and are working toward comparing data in the same robust manner as unwarranted variations in data collection were a significant challenge.

What is crucial to note is that every child brought into care is offered an IHA – it is the timeframe that proves a challenge for agencies. Of note and highlighted at Corporate Parenting on a number of occasions is that around 5% of young people in care continue to decline a formal routine health assessment; work with these young people continues to encourage engagement whilst accepting they have the right to decline the offer.

In recent months the significant challenge for providers of IHA has been compounded by the increase in children being brought into care and the impact of changes to adoption law. Whilst these changes strive to efficiently twin track children for adoption in order to reduce any time delays for the child, during this critical period they impact upon the IHA as there are additional assessments and paperwork required. TRFT LAC Team is making significant strides to ensure that the timeliness of health assessments is prioritised. See Recommendation 2.

Chart 1 shows the percent of Initial Health Assessments completed within timescales.

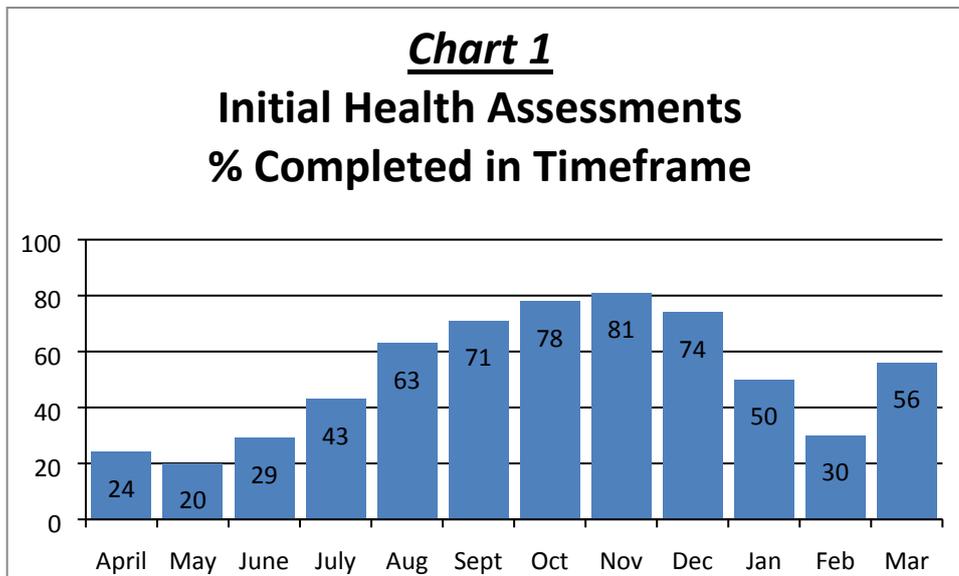
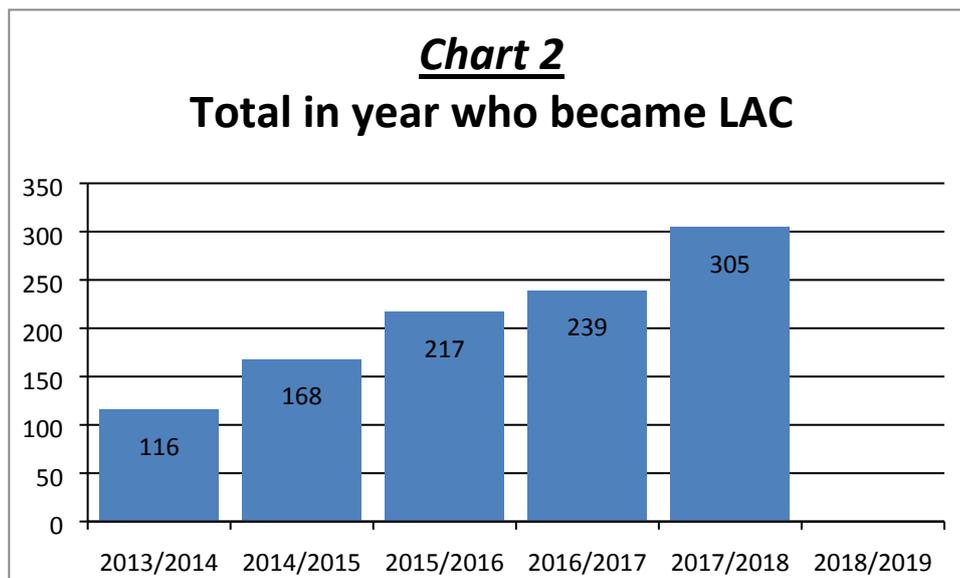
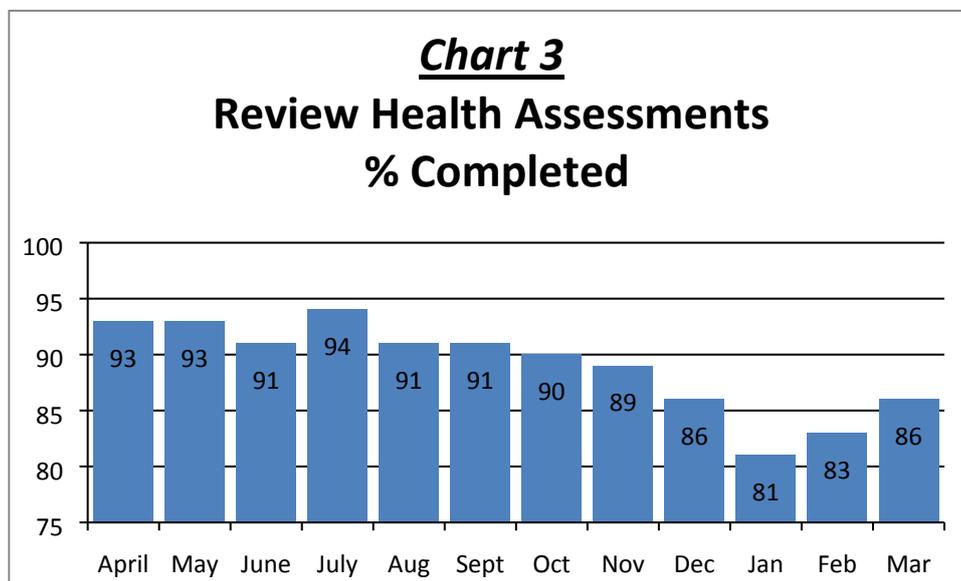


Chart 2 below demonstrates the challenges faced in Rotherham in recent years with regard to the increased numbers of children being brought into care. This year on year increase in numbers of children is impacting significantly upon the capacity with the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) to undertake IHAs in a timely fashion. Following a decrease in compliance (Jan/Feb 2018) the CCG has commissioned an additional 16 IHA Clinics equating to 64 extra places has supported the percentage increase in March 2018. This workload for TRFT is phenomenal but demonstrates their on-going commitment to LAC.



Review Health Assessments (RHAs) in Rotherham are undertaken in line with statutory requirements; all children under the age of 5 years have access to a health assessment every 6 months. All children over the age of 5 years have access to a health assessment every 12 months. In addition all LAC and CLs are encouraged to attend routine dental checks and assistance given to register if not with a dentist. All Rotherham LAC and CLs placed within the borough are assigned a key health worker and for those placed out of the borough the quality of their health assessment is reviewed by the TRFT LAC Named Nurse utilising the national health assessment check list.

Chart 3 demonstrates the on-going compliance by TRFT 0 – 19 service (previously known as Health Visitors and School Nurses) with regard to undertaking statutory LAC health assessments.



Within TRFT the health LAC team take full responsibility for the administration and quality assurance of all RHAs. In addition to this responsibility, they will hold small caseloads of hard to reach LAC and they support the Personal Advisors for the Care Leavers. The TRFT health LAC team maintains a health data set that includes all health assessments, the date the next assessment is required, Personal Healthcare Plans etc. and they assist in co-ordinating service delivery. This team effectively track the health care delivery and needs of children in care.

Conversely the quality of RHAs has become more varied with some colleagues seeing the RHA as a one off health check rather than the delivery of a robust and bespoke health care plan. Within TRFT the 0 – 19 service (previously known as Health Visitors and School Nurses) undertake all RHAs. Constraints on the 0 – 19 service, increasing numbers of children in care and children, subject to a plan has had an impact on the quality of care delivery to LAC. The LAC team and Designated Professionals for LAC are in the process of considering alternative models of healthcare delivery from Doncaster and Nottinghamshire. The intention is to compare and contrast healthcare delivery options with RMBC and CCG Commissioners and providers developing a service based on some key principles and outcomes, namely:

- Delivery of services tailored to individual need;
- Placing the voices of children and young people at the heart of LAC service redesign and delivery;
- Address individual and group health inequalities;
- Emphasis on prevention and wellness;
- Accurate assessment and health achievements monitored and planned effectively;
- Benchmarking across LAC of health needs and outcome driven;
- Delivery of world class standards of physical healthcare;
- Make sure all health professionals working with LAC have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The recommendation for Rotherham is to utilise fully integrated working and joint commissioning based around effective partnerships at both strategic and individual case level to improve service delivery, information sharing, confidentiality and consent. In turn this will have an impact on healthcare delivery for LAC in the borough. See Recommendation 3.

Every year it is estimated nationally that around 10,000 16 to 18 year-olds leave foster or residential care in England. Listening to the explicit needs of young people in the care system it became apparent that they faced their future with limited information on their past health issues, challenges or successes. For example some young people were unaware of their immunisation status and of where this could be elicited from. Some young people were not aware of whether

they had had childhood ailments such as chicken pox, or measles; childhood ailments and immunisation status can become a significant issue when young people decide to have their own children. Therefore NHS RCCG and TRFT looked for a solution to this challenge. The solution has been in the development and provision of a 'Health Passport' which will act as a personal health record. This document has the potential to act as a vital personal document to support them on their onward journey through life. This is especially pertinent when reflecting upon the evidence that these children experience unstable placements or if they have experienced being placed out of borough. Roll out of the Health Passports continues to be slow, therefore Recommendation 4 is that Corporate Parenting takes an active interest in the roll out ensuring that any delays are minimised.

Nationally there have been concerns in tracking missing children, research indicating that LAC and CLs go missing more than other children; NHSR CCG continues to reiterate the need for children in care to be prioritised within the health and social care systems. TRFT are active participants in the Child Protection Information System (CP-IS); this system goes some way to supporting the tracking of children subject to a plan and children in the care of the Local Authority. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) for a variety of reasons have been slow to drive CP-IS forward. Therefore, Corporate Parenting Panel has asked for an update from RMBC. CP-IS is reported to go live 26 April 2018, see Recommendation 5.

In conclusion the NHS has a major role in ensuring the timely and effective delivery of health services to LAC. The mandate from central government to NHSE, Statutory Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies and The NHS Constitution for England make clear the responsibilities of CCGs and NHSE to LAC (and, by extension, to care leavers).

Next steps for Rotherham are to ensure that we deliver the best healthcare service across all agencies with regard to our LAC. As advocates for these children we need to ensure that the Local Authorities and the CCG use the information in developing their Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.

As Corporate parents we need our attention drawn to a small number of children/young people who are placed outside of the NHS England boundary in order to meet their challenging needs and/or who are placed for adoption. Challenges arise, in particular, when children are placed in Wales and Scotland. These areas fall out of the health guidelines set by NHS England and therefore receive a different standard of healthcare to the children/young people residing within England.

- Wales currently charge a set standard fee for the deliverance of healthcare for children/young people placed in their area regardless of need or use. This includes access to basic healthcare such as GP and dentist.
- Scotland do not complete 6 monthly statutory Review Health Assessments for children under the age of 5 years; therefore for children who are mainly placed for adoption at this age in Scotland, they do not receive up to date LAC assessments. They do however receive the equivalent of the National Child Health Programme therefore receive developmental assessments and support from the health visiting service.

Financial Implications:

There is a potential that commissioners namely RMBC and NHSR CCG will need to review the way they commission healthcare delivery for LAC.

Recommendations:

- CPP are asked to support the paper in its entirety and consider recommendations:
1. Continue to take regular independent reports at the Corporate Parenting Panel from Counsellor J Elliott.

2. Champion the health needs of LAC including the drive to improve IHAs timeliness and quality.
3. Strive to develop best practice for Review Health Assessments using an evidence base developed in other areas.
4. Maintain an active interest in the roll out of Health Passports ensuring that any delays are minimised.
5. Champion the use of CP-IS as a tool to support us in our duty to care for LAC.