

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

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

Date: Tuesday, 3rd July, 2018

Time: 5.00 p.m.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE OVER

1. Introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Icebreaker
4. Diana Awards
5. LAC Council Champion Request
6. EID Party and Foster Care Matching for Muslim LAC
7. Funding and LACC Budget/Bank Account
8. Any Other Business

Formal Business

9. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972
10. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency
11. Declarations of Interest
12. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th May 2018 (Pages 1 - 11)
13. Looked After Children's Council Update July 2018 (Pages 12 - 15)

14. Corporate Parenting Panel - Terms of Reference (Pages 16 - 21)
Final Version for information
15. Corporate Parenting Performance Report - May 2018 (Pages 22 - 44)
16. Lifelong Links (Pages 45 - 50)
17. Date and time of the next meetings: -
Tuesday, 28th August, 2018

16th October

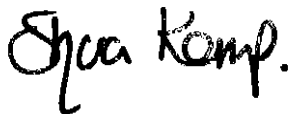
18th December

12th February, 2019

9th April

Membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel: -

Councillors G. Watson (Deputy Leader and Children and Young People's Services Portfolio holder), V. Cusworth (Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission), P. Jarvis (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, 8th May, 2018**

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

Also present were Tracey Arnold, Steve Fisher, Catherine Hall, Karen Holgate, Deborah Johnson, Peter McNamara and Mel Meggs.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark and Elliot.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Catherine Hall made a Personal Declaration of Interest in the items to be discussed (Director of Lexus Academy which had some schools in the Authority).

63. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH, 2018

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March, 2018, be approved as a correct record of proceedings subject to the following clerical correction:-

Minute No. 58 (Elected Member Champions), it should read "... for IHAs continued to meet" and not HIAs as printed.

Arising from Minute No. 54 (Assistant Chief Executive – Looked After Children Promises) Councillor M. Elliott reported that he was to meet with Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive, on 24th May, 2018.

64. LACC UPDATE

Representatives of the LAC Council had submitted their apologies.

In their absence, the Panel noted their update report March-April, 2018 which highlighted some of the LACC's work during the period including:-

- Improving fostering in Rotherham
- Improving contact with families
- LACC Away Day
- Lil LAC Club activities

65. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT - MARCH 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 March, 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. Between March 2016 and March 2017 the number of LAC had increased by 13% (432 to 488). During 2017/18 there had been a further 320 admissions to care with 184 children discharged resulting in an overall year end cohort figure of 624 (a further 28% increase on March 2017). This increase in LAC numbers and the consequential shortage in available placements, had had an increase in the number of young people placed outside of the local area which in turn had had a negative impact on Social Work capacity. However, despite the additional capacity pressures, in general performance remained sustained across a number of areas.

Rotherham continued to have an increasing Looked After Children profile; there were 488 LAC at the end of 2016/17 which had risen to 624 at the end of 2017/18 (110.3 per 10,000 population).

An underlying factor for the significant increase in demand was that, whilst the average number of admissions to care had 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 had also reduced from an average of 19 to 12 over the same period. The significant decline in discharge activity could 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 reduced Social Worker resources needed to progress children out of care. To help tackle the demand, the "Right Child Right Care" (RCRC) project had 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.

Despite the continuing high demand levels, compliance on plans had remained relatively consistent for the last 3 months at 90% (89.7% at the end of March). This was lower than last year's position (91.2%). This area still remained under close management scrutiny in performance meetings.

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, March's performance had improved to 95.5%, giving a full year's performance of 90.4 (2016/17 91.3%).

Despite the overall increase in numbers, the proportion of children placed in a family based setting remained stable at 92.4%, an improvement on last year's outturn position (81.1%). In the last 3 months there had been an increase in the number of children experiencing multiple placement moves. The provisional outturn position of 13.1% (81 out of 618 children)

was an increase on 2016/17 (11.9%). This was part of a national trend and as a result the placement market was increasingly saturated making appropriate matching decisions an increasing challenge.

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

- Right Child Right Care - so far this year there was potentially 23 children to find permanence elsewhere – so far 16 had been achieved
- That future performance reports include information re the above bullet point
- The desire to change the wording of “did not attends” to “was not brought”

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

66. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel considered the proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel in light of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The Act introduced corporate parenting principles which comprised of 7 needs that local authorities in England must have regard to whenever they exercised a function in relation to Looked After Children or care leavers:-

- i. to act in the best interest and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing 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 the stability in their homes lives, relationships and education or work and
- vii to prepare those children and care leavers for adulthood and

independent living

Discussion ensued on the draft Terms of Reference with the following points raised:-

- The reference to “Corporate Parenting Board” should be amended to read “Corporate Parenting Panel”
- Emphasise that all Directorates/Services were Corporate Parents and not just Children and Young People’s Services
- The need to ensure the Terms of Reference were Care Act compliant

Resolved:- (1) That the Terms of Reference as suggested be updated and circulated to the Panel for final sign off.

(4) That arrangements be made for Councillors Cusworth and M. Elliott to be included in Regulation 44 visits.

(3) That refresher training for all Elected Members be included as part of the Member Development Programme.

(4) That renewed efforts be made for representation on the Panel from Housing and South Yorkshire Police.

(5) That Sharon Sandall, Service Manager Leaving Care, ensure that the Terms of Reference were Care Act compliant in particular with regard to the additional duties around care leavers.

(6) That Sharon Sandall, Service Manager, Leaving Care, discuss with the Care Leavers’ Forum a representative to attend the Panel.

67. CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT 2017 - IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

Mel Meggs, Acting Strategic Director, presented a report outlining the main legislative changes in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and how the Council aimed to implement those changes locally to ensure that its care leavers had the brightest future.

The Act set out corporate parenting principles for the Council as a whole to be the best parent it could be for the children in its care. These were largely a collation of existing duties local authorities had towards its Looked After Children and those leaving care. Local authorities would be required to publish their support offer to care leavers and to promote the educational attainment of children who had been adopted or placed in other long term arrangements. The Legislation extended 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.

As corporate parents, it was every Councillor's responsibility to make sure that the Council was meeting these duties towards children in care and care leavers. Every Councillor and Officer within the Council had a responsibility to act for those children and young people as a parent would for their own child.

Section 1 introduced 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 (Minute No. 66 refers).

The Panel would need to review and formally adopt the principles and benchmark current practice against them. The Panel may then need to agree and implement an action plan in order to ensure that any shortfalls were reviewed and addressed.

Section 2 required local authorities to publish information about the services it offered to care leavers which may assist them in preparing for adulthood and independent living. Rotherham had a formal offer to its care leavers (approved by the Panel in February 2017), entitled Guide to Financial Support for Young People Leaving Care in Rotherham. One year after its launch the Guide would benefit from a review as the focus on the health and wellbeing of care leavers and their participation in society was not as well developed as it could. In addition the Leaving Care Team had instigated further developments including a formal offer for care leavers who were pregnant/young parents.

Section 3 required local authorities, as from 1st April, 2018, to appoint a personal adviser for care leavers who request one up until the age of 25 regardless of whether the young person intended to pursue education or training. The Leaving Care Team had recently had approval to increase the number of Personal Advisers, therefore, it was anticipated that the additional function would be assimilated within existing staff resources.

Section 4 placed 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. Under Section 23ZZA of the Children Act 1989 (inserted by Section 4 of the Children and Social Worker act 2017), local authorities had a duty to promote the educational achievement of providing such information.

Section 5 placed 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 were now the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or Child Arrangements Order. Although the responsibility did not commence until September, 2018, meetings had taken place between the Virtual School, Head of LAC Service, the Therapeutic Team

Manager, Post-Adoption Team, post-SGO Social Worker and the post-Adoption Therapeutic Intervention Worker to consider how they could work in collaboration in discharging the new statutory responsibilities of the Virtual School. It had been estimated that there would be approximately 200 active post-adoption cases and 150 active post-SGO cases. However, many involved sporadic support/signposting and only approximately 20 acute post-adoption and 15 acute post-SGO cases that currently received more intensive support. At the meeting a number of actions had been agreed as set out in the report submitted.

Section 6 imposed 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 having undertaken training and having regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Within Rotherham the Virtual School would ensure that all academies in the Borough were made aware of the new legal requirement.

Section 7 amended the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 requiring the governing body of a maintained school to ensure that the designated teacher for Looked After pupils had regard to any guidance from the Secretary of State. The Virtual School would ensure that maintained schools were made aware of the new legal requirement.

Section 8 extended the definition of the permanence provisions in the Children Act 1989 and included kinship care, adoption and other long term types of care. Social Workers would 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 abided by the additional expectation.

Section 9 amended the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and requiring courts and adoption agencies to consider the child's relationship with their prospective adopters in decisions relating to the adoption if the child had been placed with those prospective adopters.

Section 10 amended Legislation to allow local authorities in England and Wales to place children in secure accommodation in Scotland.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Proposals to extend the remit of the Virtual School to meet the new duties under the Act
- The need for the corporate parent approach that Looked After Children were the Authority's children for life whilst acknowledging that the level of support would decline over a period of time but there would be some exceptionally vulnerable young people because of the abuse they had experienced
- The Legislation needed to be seen in conjunction with the Homeless Reduction Act

- National Test for Social Workers – further information awaited
- Was there a children's version of the document?

Resolved:- (1) That the changes in practice as required by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 together with the specific implications for the Children and Young People's Service be noted.

(2) That Ailsa Barr, Acting Deputy Director, submit the action plan relating to the implementation of the 7 principles of Corporate Parenting to the Panel for oversight.

(3) That the Ian Walker, Head of Service Leaving Care, discuss the production of a child friendly version of the document with the LACC.

68. PROPOSED CHARGING POLICY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARED FOR IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS (INCLUDING FOSTER PLACEMENTS) UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1989

Mel Meggs, Acting Strategic Director, submitted for consideration proposals for a charge to be levied on parents who placed their child into the care of the Local Authority under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

The proposal was not designed to be a revenue raising process but intended to reinforce to parents the costs incurred by the Local Authority in caring for their child and hopefully gain greater co-operation and engagement with the Edge of Care Plan.

It was noted that a 'parent' was any person who held parental responsibility for a child including adoptive parents and other adults who held parental responsibility by virtue of having a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order.

During the past 12 months 45 young people (over the age of 14 years) had been accommodated under Section 20 by the Service. Whilst many of the 45 young people had subsequently been made subject of a Care Order, it remained unclear how many of them could have been supported by rehabilitation with birth/extended family members.

Section 20 admissions to care should preferably only be used as a short term measures in which families were supported in reaching a point where they felt able to maintain their child safely at home again. However, within Rotherham it appeared that local practice was for adolescents to be accommodated on a longer term basis often with little or no active consideration being given to a rehabilitation plan. This could be due to the parents refusing to engage with any offers of support to enable the child to be retrained to/remain in their care. This was despite the fact that all available performance measures indicated that, where such accommodation was offered to young people over the age of 14, generally had a negative impact on the young person's outcomes. Short

term intervention was the key.

While there was no cost to an admission to care under Section 20 it could act as a disincentive for parents to co-operate with professionals in trying to support a child to continue to live at home or to resident/undermine the efforts of Social Work professionals to return children home. Whilst the introduction of the policy may generate some income towards maintenance costs, the main purpose of the proposal was to act as an alert to parents of the cost of the service they were requesting and encourage them to reconsider other forms of family support that provided alternatives to care.

Charges would not be levied in the following circumstances:-

- Parents who were 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 were 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 agreed to Section 20 admission as an alternative to Care Proceedings being initiated
- Where parents agreed to Section 20 until the Local Authority could make an application or an Interim Care Order
- Parents who agreed to Section 20 admission as a result of their child's significant and complex disability
- A person was 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 were requesting to be accommodated of their own volition

Where a child was accommodated, parents would also need to be informed that HM Revenue and Customs would be routinely informed of the change in circumstances and Child Benefit would stop being paid after the child had been looked after for 8 weeks.

Once identified that a parent was liable for charging, a financial assessment would be completed and formally reviewed annually or until the young person was discharged from care.

It was proposed that the base line payment should be in line with the charge for in-house foster care i.e. £189.37 for 11-15 year olds and £230.30 for 16-17 year olds.

There would be no charge for any leaving care support or accommodation provided once the young person reached 18 as they would be eligible to claim benefits in their own right. However, there would be charges due

for any semi-independent/supported accommodation provided to a Looked After young person aged between 16-17 whilst they remained subject of Section 20 care.

It was clarified that the children concerned would be non-Safeguarding cases and where it was thought that the family were more than able to care for the child.

Resolved:- That the proposed Charging Policy for Children Looked After and cared for in residential placements (including foster placements) under Section 20 the Children Act 1989 be supported.

69. ROTHERHAM LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Catherine Hall, Rotherham CCG, reported on the outcome of an assessment undertaken by Catherine Homer (Rotherham Public Health Team) in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, 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.

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 the Authority.

Catherine highlighted:-

- Focus groups held with young people with the questions asked what made them emotionally stable. The young people wanted to be happy
- However, when the same question was asked of the staff they spoke about monetary issues
- The young people did not want to have to tell Health staff that they were LAC because they felt they were scrutinised more than anyone else particularly if the male was with a non-LAC partner
- A report back had been provided to all the young people that took place

The draft action plan was to be discussed at the Task and Finish Group on 21st May and monitored by the LAC Physical and Emotional Health Workstream.

Peter McNamara, Virtual School, stressed the need for discussions to take place as so much of the proposals for the new phase of the Virtual School promoted the emotionally wellbeing of young people

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

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(2) That the revised action plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

(3) That clarification be sought with regard to the number of Looked After Children with a Statement of Educational Needs who did not have an Education Health Care Plan.

70. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN – PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH CARE

Catherine Hall, Rotherham CCG, presented a report on the ongoing commitment of the NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group to Looked After Children and Care Leavers in and from the Borough.

Catherine highlighted:-

- The CCG was responsible for all the residents of Rotherham's children which included those children that had moved out of the area
- NHS England expected the CCG (as commissioners) to work together with schools, Local Authority, Health and Social Care to support all its LAC
- LAC had very similar health needs to all children but needed a bespoke service offer
- The Service Specification was frequently reviewed to ensure the most effective services were provided
- The Looked After Children and Care Leaver Health Team was very small – due to the number of children admitted the CCG had commissioned extra health workers to ensure the children who came into care had a timely Initial Health Assessment
- Conversations taking place regarding possible bespoke LAC Nursing Team
- It was difficult to put pressure on services if a child was placed out of area to give them urgent access

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That Councillor J. Elliot, Health (including Mental Health) Champion, continue to provide regular updates to the Panel.

(3) That the health needs of Looked After Children, including the drive to improve IHAs timeliness and quality, be pursued.

(4) That work continue on developing best practice for Review Health Assessments using an evidence base developed in other area.

(5) That an active interest in the roll out of health passports be maintained ensuring that any delays were minimised.

(6) That the use of CP-IS (Child Protection Information System) as a tool to support services in their duty to care for LAC be supported.

(7) That the issue of LAC children receiving priority access to CAMHS when placed out of their natural area be raised at the ADC Group with a report back to this Panel.

71. DATES OF MEETING FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Resolved:- That meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel be held in 2018/19 as follows:-

3rd July, 2018

28th August

16th October

18th December

12th February, 2019

9th April

All commencing at 5.00 p.m. and held in the Town Hall, Rotherham.

72. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved:- That the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 3rd July, 2018, commencing at 5.00 p.m.

Rotherham Looked After Children's Council & Lil' LACC CLUB - Corporate Parenting Panel - Update Report May & June 2018

Summary

The LAC Council and Lil' LACC Club have been busy having fun, socialising and working together achieving fabulous results by continuing to help shape Rotherham Services which in turn will benefit Looked After & Leaving Care Young People through their consultation work with Rotherham Contact Service Review. The LAC Council has also actively participated in the Regional Children in Care Council Seminar in Leeds, engaged in the Voice of the Rotherham Child Event, appointed their own Treasurer and Vice Treasurer to manage money for the group, have interviewed candidates for the Strategic Directors post and are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded the Diana Award for their 'Outstanding Contribution to Society'.

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 that we have been doing to achieve those outcomes that we would like to share with you;

LACC Voice – Shaping Services in Rotherham

Diana Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Society'

We are proud to announce that the Rotherham LAC COUNCIL has been given national recognition and awarded the prestigious Diana Award in recognition of their '*Outstanding Contribution to Society*' through their Voice & Influence projects including the 'Bin Liners are NOT Suitcases' Campaign. The Diana Award judges thought their story was '*truly inspirational*', said Tessy Ojo, CEO Diana Award 2018.



The LAC COUNCIL has been invited to an award ceremony in September at Leeds College of Music to pick up their award. In addition, each award holder has been invited by Earl Spencer, brother of Diana to visit Althorp House the childhood home of Princess Diana.

Improving Contact with Families - The LAC Council are continuing to share their ideas and put forward their voices to improve their experiences through the Contact Service Review to ensure their voices are heard within the review process and ongoing monitoring of the service for children and young people. The LAC Council members have put forward a number of suggestions to re-name the project and have created the 'LAC Voice' form which will

LAC VOICE -development



ask how the child/young person has experienced their meeting with family, and how could their experience be improved in the future. This ongoing Project will continue to work with LAC Council to ensure the child's voice is at the heart of the process and contribute to successful outcomes.

Voice of the Rotherham Child Event- In May, the LAC Council was invited alongside 80 other young people from Rotherham to engage in the Voice of the Rotherham Child Event. Chicken-shed a London based drama/dance performance group came and delivered their performance around risk for young people and explored in a number of activities what Rotherham young people perceive as risk in their world and how they could reduce that risk. Together they looked at adult stereotypes of young people and worked to turn those around in a positive 'rap' which young people and chicken-shed performed together. This was an exciting evening where our young people engaged in arts & crafts making colourful masks and a giant jigsaw expressing their feelings around who would potentially listen to them if they needed someone to talk to.



The voices of Rotherham young people at the event will be analysed and presented to the Centre for Excellence who funded the project.

CICC Regional Seminar @ Leeds Civic Hall 30th May - In May, the young people also participated in their Regional Children in Care Council Seminar held in Leeds Civic Hall. Ian Walker joined us and the group had an opportunity to update young people from across our region on their 'Bin Liners are NOT Suitcases' Campaign and how it has changed Policy and Practice in Rotherham. The LAC COUNCIL played their DVD 'Precious Things' that had been launched at the Bin Liner Event at RCAT in February. Following the Seminar all young people went across to have a game of Bowling and get to know each other a little more. This was an exciting and eventful day that has helped our young people push themselves and speak in front of a room



Leeds Civic Hall

Interview Panel for Strategic Director- 4 members of the LAC COUNCIL engaged in the interview panel for the new Strategic Director for CYPS held at New York Stadium. The young people created their own questions and delivered them to candidates and fed back their views on each candidate. This was an exciting opportunity to put the voices of Looked After Children to the Strategic Director and raise awareness of things that are important to LAC and ask what would the prospective SD's do about them should he/she be successful. By meeting the young people panel all the candidates recognised the importance Rotherham places on young people being front and centre in supporting key decisions. This was also an ideal opportunity for the young people to feedback how the interview process with young people may be improved for future interviews too. Congratulations Jon Stonehouse😊

LAC Council Treasurer and Vice Treasurer- The LAC Council held peer interviews with LACC members who put themselves forward for the annual positions of Treasurer and Vice Treasurer. 6 Candidates delivered presentations outlining why they would be most suitable for the post which was heard, discussed amongst the panel and voted on afterwards by their LAC Council peers. We would like to introduce Kaylen as the LACC Vice Treasurer and Manny as the LACC Treasurer who will work together to keep an eye on spend and future spend for the LAC COUNCIL and Lil LAC Club. Well Done Everyone for taking part!

Lil LAC Club -Activities

The Lil LAC Club (Lil LACC) are our youngest participation group aged 6 to 11 years. The children meet up every two weeks to play games and make new friends in a safe welcoming environment and have fun. The children have been engaging in creative games together to get through mini courses wearing Goggle-Eyes and Frisbee hats to make the course more difficult. The children have worked together in teams to create 'Paper Jackets' and 2 team members displayed their teams creative designs by moonwalking to Michael Jacksons Thriller across the floor. The LIL LACC also enjoyed a trip to McDonalds.



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:-

Ian Walker – Head of Service Children in Care
Chickenshed

Steve Simpson – CIDON Construction

Jane Galloway – CIDON Construction

LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Team

Thank You All 😊

Contact Name:

Lisa Du-Valle

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LACC Rotherham

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 an annual basis .

Council Report

Corporate Parenting Performance

Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – May 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 (May 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 – May 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 The panel have previously received the the provisional outturn for 2017/18 within the March 2018 report. This year-end data has now been refreshed and some updates made as data entry and validation continued to be made.
- 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 2017 and March 2018 the number of LAC increased by 29% from 488 to 628. As at the end of May this had increased further to 642.
- 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. The 642 children at the end of May equates to a rate of 113.4 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 (16.0% compared to 13%) and a lower proportion aged over sixteen (16.8% 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	49	7.6%	5%
1 – 4	103	16.0%	13%
5 - 9	137	21.3%	19%
10 - 15	242	37.7%	39%
16+	108	16.8%	24%
Total	642		

3.2.3 The percentage distribution by legal status remains a consistent picture with 52% of children subject to full care orders, 31% on an Interim Care Order, 10% are on Placement Orders with Care Order and 6% are under Section 20. Unfortunately there is no clear national data to benchmark this distribution against.

3.3 LAC Plans

3.3.1 After a period of consistency at circa 90%, compliance on plans at the end of May dropped to 87.4%. This area still remains under close management scrutiny in the performance meetings and at the time of this report (22/06/18) had increased back to 89.5%.

3.4 Reviews

3.4.1 In the two months since the end of 2017/18 there has been a decline in the timeliness of LAC Statutory Reviews from 96.1% to 78.8%. The timeliness of Statutory Reviews has declined once again this month to 78.8%. This has been attributed to on-going sickness and capacity issues within the IRO service although there is also an issue in respect of a smaller number of Reviews not being held due to social workers not having completed their pre-Review reports.

3.5 Visits

- 3.5.1 As the service continue to experience significantly high demand workers have been directed to prioritise visits to meet the national minimum standard over the local standard, (although this is a generalisation and visiting patterns are still influenced by any current risk factors for each child or young person).
- 3.5.2 There is a correlation between the number of cases held by the team and performance (higher cases lower performance). Performance against National Minimum visiting standards has dipped from 97.5% to 93.2%.
- 3.5.3 A review at operational performance meetings has shown that for the majority children on the system as 'visit overdue' they have been seen but workers had not yet updated their electronic record. This should be reflected in future reports when May's data will have been refreshed.

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 at 81%, (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 The increase at the end of 2017/18 in the number and proportion of children experiencing multiple placement moves has continued. 13.8% (88 children) have had three or more placements. This has in part been linked to the shortage or placement choice created by the national increase in LAC making appropriate matching decisions an increasing challenge but we continue to work with providers to improve this for Rotherham children.
- 3.6.4 Following incremental improvements during 2017/18 the proportion of long term LAC who have lived in the same placement for over two years seems to have plateaued at 61.3% (92 out of 150 children). 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.

- 3.6.5 The first impact analysis of the Intensive Intervention Programme (IIP) has been completed. This evidences that whilst 14 of the LAC had 2 or more placement moves prior to them accessing the IIP this has reduced to 4 young people since their IIP intervention. Similarly the numbers in the group who were going missing from care has reduced from 7 to 3. A full Review of the programme will be presented to DLT in July and then disseminated for wider consideration.

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 increased was high in April at 25 but dipped to 12 in May. Timeliness performance according to internal recording in May was 41.7% taking the current 2018/19 year to date position to 43.7% (16 out of 37 IHAs).
- 3.7.3 With regards to Health reviews performance has dipped to 79.6% compared to 83.7% at the end of March. Similarly Dental performance has declined from 72.5% to 63.2%.

3.8 LAC Education

- 3.8.1 At the end of May 92.7% of eligible LAC population had a Personal Education Plan (36 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). 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

3.9 Care Leavers

- 3.9.1 The number of young people receiving a Care Leavers service at month end was 249 which is a decline on the 2017/18 year end position of 256.
- 3.9.2 Performance in all of the indicators has improved over the course of the month possibly as a result of some Personal Advisors returning from sick leave which ensures that the reported data is more up to date. There is, however, a potential risk to future performance in that as from April the Leaving Care Services now have the statutory duty, as set down in the Children and Social Work act 2017, to offer support to care leavers up to the age of 25. This is likely to have an impact on capacity within the team although plans are being formulated in order to mitigate this impact.
- 3.9.3 The proportion of care leavers who have a pathway plan is above target at 96.3%, with 86.4% of young people having plan less than 6 months old. Both represent a significant improvement on the year-end positions of 93.9% and 70.3% respectively. 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.
- 3.9.4 The proportion of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains strong at 96%, and represents top quartile performance nationally.
- 3.9.5 Performance in respect of care leavers who are in Education, Employment or Training remains at circa 64% (63.9%). 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 The recruitment of foster carers is demonstrating improved performance. In 2017/18, 17 new foster families were approved providing 27 new foster placements. Conversion rate from expression of interest to approval has increased from 11% to 16%.
- 3.10.2 As at the 1st June 3 new foster families had been approved by Panel (5 placements) with 15 more foster families booked onto Foster panel for approval (20 placements) with 4 more assessments needing allocation. As a result the Fostering Service will also surpass last year's performance. Significantly 6 of the 15 assessments will be able to offer placements for adolescents.

- 3.10.3 There were a further 33 enquiries over the course of May which was supported by a very positive Foster Carer Fortnight during May. The current conversion rate should provide a minimum of a further 3 new foster families. The recruitment of foster carers is therefore demonstrating improved performance.
- 3.10.4 The launch of Challenge 63 proved to be a disappointing. Only 2 elected members engaged to any degree and one of those being one of the organisers. Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to support officers in recommending methods to encourage greater member commitment when the scheme is re-launched.
- 3.10.5 In total there were 25 resignations and de-registrations of foster carers in 2017/18 with a further 4 in 2018/19 to date. Of these, in the course of the past 12 months, 4 foster carers have resigned after having been approved for less than 2 years. Whilst some of these resignations can be attributed to unforeseeable circumstances including illness and bereavement the Fostering Service will review all of these cases to ascertain if there are any lessons to be learned

3.11 Adoptions

- 3.11.1 In total five children have been adopted in the first two months of 2018/19. Performance remains vulnerable to significant swings given the cohort is so small and the 5 adoptions achieved thus far have had such an impact with the A1 performance declining from an average of 370 days to 469 days and the A2 from 146 to 260.
- 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.
- 3.11.3 It is also clear that court timescales are having an impact on this performance as adopters are reporting that where it used to take 6 weeks between them lodging their adoption order application and being heard in court this has now extended to an average of 12 weeks. Despite this, the team are well placed to surpass last year's performance of 27 adoptions given that in addition to the 5 adoptions achieved there are currently;
- 24 children already living in their adoptive placement (6 of whom have a date set for the Adoption Hearing, 6 with their application lodged with Court but no date yet set. A further 9

eligible for lodging to court having been in placement for more than the required 10 weeks and 3 placed for less than 10 weeks),

- 10 children with a match identified,
- 10 with a potential match,
- 8 further visits organised for the initial meeting with adopters who have expressed an interest.

3.11.4 There have been 3 sets of adoptive parents fully approved so far this year with 12 more at Stage 1 and seven at stage 2. The services are confident that last year's performance will be surpassed.

3.12 Caseloads

3.12.1 Taking into account the reduced caseloads of 'Assessed and Supported Year in Employment' (ASYE) social workers and 'Advanced Practitioner' (APs) (but not the 3 social workers currently on long-term sick leave) average caseloads for LAC teams 1-3 remain at 15. Which is high than the shown in system data reports.

3.12.2 In addition, the audit undertaken in April 18 evidenced that on average across the 5 teams 20% of social worker capacity is 'lost' by virtue of them having to supervise contact or due to the time spent driving to and from out of authority placements. This means that in real terms the average caseload for LAC 1-3 is the equivalent of 18. More concerning the average caseload for teams 4-5 is 13 (with a similar 20% uplift for contact and travelling) and this is being impacted by the increasing delays in adoptions being progressed due to the court more readily agreeing to final appeals by birth parents meaning that the throughput of cases is delayed.

3.12.3 The Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Handbook recommends that IRO's should have between 50 and 70 children whom they review. Rotherham's nine IRO's currently have an average of 69.9 children. In real terms due to high level of IRO sickness, three IRO's have 70 or more, and our agency IRO is providing some support to cover individual meetings over and above her allocated caseloads. The real pressure in the team is coming from the on-going allocations linked to high admissions to care. In order to support the IRO's with caseloads, and covering staff sickness we have agreed a 12 month secondment to the team to support a workers development and reflect that we aim to reduce the number of Looked after children in 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)

Ian Walker, Head of Service Looked After Children and Care Leavers
ian.walker@rotherham.gov.uk

Ailsa Barr Interim Assistant Director Safeguarding Children
ailsa.barr@rotherham.gov.uk

Corporate Parenting Monthly Performance Report

As at Month End: May 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.

Document Details

Status: Issue 1

Date Created: 05/06/18

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

*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	2018 / 19				DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND				LATEST BENCHMARKING					
				Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	YTD 2018/19	DATA NOTE			Red	Amber	Target Green	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOL		
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	6.1	Number of Looked After Children	Info	Count	628	627	642	-	As at mth end	↑			n/a	407	432	488	628						
	6.2	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Rate per 10,000	111.0	110.8	113.4	-	As at mth end	↓			99.1	70	76.6	86.6	111.0	81.3	58.0	62.0	-		
	6.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Info	Count	44	16	35	51	Financial Year	↑			n/a	175	208	262	330						
	6.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	26	17	20	37	Financial Year	↑			n/a	160	192	215	194						
	6.5	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Adoption)	High	Percentage	34.6%	17.6%	40.0%	29.7%	Financial Year	↑			<33% 33%>	35%+	37.5%	40.1%	27.9%	27.3%					
	6.6	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order	High	Percentage	15.4%	0.0%	15.0%	8.1%	Financial Year	↑			range to be set			-	-	9.8%	8.2%	12.9%	26.0%	12.0%	16.0%
	6.7	LAC cases reviewed within timescales	High	Percentage	96.1%	85.6%	78.8%	82.0%	Financial Year	↓			<90% 90%>	95%+	94.9%	83.3%	91.3%	90.6%					
	6.8	% of children adopted	High	Percentage	19.2%	11.8%	15.0%	13.5%	Financial Year	↑			YTD	<20% 20%>	22.7%+	26.3%	22.4%	14.4%	13.9%	18.9%	30.0%	14.0%	20.0%
	6.9	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments	High	Percentage	83.7%	82.4%	79.6%	-	As at mth end	↓			<90% 90%>	95%+	81.4%	92.8%	89.5%	83.7%					
	6.10	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	High	Percentage	72.5%	68.8%	63.2%	-	As at mth end	↓			<90% 90%>	95%+	58.8%	95.0%	57.3%	72.5%					
	6.11	Health of Looked After Children - Initial Health Assessments carried out within 20 working days	High	Percentage	55.6%	44.0%	41.7%	43.2%	Financial Year	↓			range to be set			20.0%	8.4%	18.2%	55.7%				
	6.12	% of LAC with a PEP	High	Percentage	93.6%	94.0%	92.7%	-	As at mth end	↓			<90% 90%>	95%+	76.0%	97.8%	97.0%	93.6%					
	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%+	-	-	98.9%	(Summer 2018)					
	6.14	% of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	High	Percentage	89.5%	89.1%	87.4%	-	As at mth end	↓			<93% 93%>	95%+	98.8%	98.4%	79.1%	89.5%					
	6.15	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of National Minimum standard	High	Percentage	97.5%	96.7%	93.2%	-	As at mth end	↓			<95% 95%>	98%+	95.2%	98.1%	74.0%	97.5%					
	6.16	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of Rotherham standard	High	Percentage	88.9%	85.0%	77.6%	-	As at mth end	↓			<85% 85%>	90%+	82.6%	80.2%	69.1%	88.9%					
CARE LEAVERS	7.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	256	266	249	-	As at mth end	↓			n/a	183	197	223	256						
	7.2	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan	High	Percentage	93.9%	93.7%	96.3%	-	As at mth end	↑			<93% 93%>	95%+	-	69.8%	99.3%	93.9%					
	7.3	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan	High	Percentage	70.3%	80.0%	86.4%	-	As at mth end	↑					-	-	-	70.3%					
	7.4	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	96.1%	94.0%	96.0%	-	As at mth end	↑			<95% 95%>	98%+	97.8%	96.5%	97.8%	96.1%	91.0%	100.0%	84.0%	91.0%	
	7.5	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	High	Percentage	64.1%	61.3%	63.9%	-	As at mth end	↑			<70% 70%>	72%+	71.0%	68.0%	62.9%	64.1%	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	61.2%	62.3%	61.3%	-	As at mth end	↓			<68% 68%>	70%+	71.9%	72.7%	66.2%	61.2%	68.8%	86.0%	68.0%	74.0%	
	8.2	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Percentage	13.4%	13.9%	13.8%	-	Rolling Year	↑			13%+	13%<	10.8%<	12.0%	13.0%	11.9%	13.4%	9.2%	6.0%	10.0%	8.0%
	8.3	% of LAC in a family Based setting (Council Plan Indicator)	High	Percentage	81.0%	81.5%	81.0%	-	As at mth end	↓			range to be set		85%>	-	-	81.1%	81.0%				
	8.4	% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	Low	Percentage	4.3%	4.7%	4.9%	-	As at mth end	↑			range to be set			-	-	5.3%	4.3%				
	8.5	% of LAC in a Commissioned Placement	Low	Percentage	50.2%	50.6%	49.7%	-	As at mth end				range to be set			-	43.6%	43.2%	50.5%				
FOSTERING	9.1	Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Count	414	411	420	-	As at mth end	↑			range to be set			-	-	353	414				
	9.2	% of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Percentage	65.9%	65.6%	65.4%	-	As at mth end	↓			range to be set			-	-	72.3%	65.9%				
	9.3	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	High	Count	154	154	152	-	As at mth end	↓			range to be set			-	156	161	154				

*'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 PERFORM IS	DATA NOTE (Monthly)	2017/18	2018 / 19				DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND				LATEST BENCHMARKING			
					Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	YTD 2018/19	DATA NOTE			Red	Amber	Target Green	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOL
FOS	9.4	Number of Foster Carers Recruited	High	Count	1	2	0	2	Financial Year	↓		range to be set			-	13	32	16				
	9.5	Number of Foster Carers Deregistered	Info	Count	2	2	2	4	Financial Year	→		range to be set			-	16	22	25				
ADOPTIONS	10.1	Number of adoptions	High	Count	5	2	3	5	Financial Year	↑				n/a	-	43	31	27				
	10.2	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Count	4	1	0	4	Financial Year	↓				n/a	-	23	12	16				
	10.3	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	80.0%	50.0%	0.0%	80.0%	Financial Year	↓		<83%	83%>	85%+	37.0%	53.5%	38.7%	59.3%				
	10.4	Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A1)	Low	YTD Average	325.3	370.0	469.0	-	Rolling Year	↓		511+	511<	487<	393.0	296.0	404.0	325.3	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	124.8	146.5	260.2	-	Rolling Year	↓		127+	127<	121<	169	136	232.9	124.8	214.7	73.0	226.0	183.6
	11.4	Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC	Low	Average count	18	22	22	-	As at mth end	→		21+	20<	18<	-	19.2	17.0	18.0				
	11.5	Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 1-3	Within Limits	Average count	12.6	12.8	12.5	-	As at mth end	↓		over 1% above range	1% above range	14-20	-	-	-	12.6				
		Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 4 - 5	Within Limits	Average count	11.8	14.4	12.8	-	As at mth end	↓		over 1% above range	1% above range	14-20	-	-	-	11.8				

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

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

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

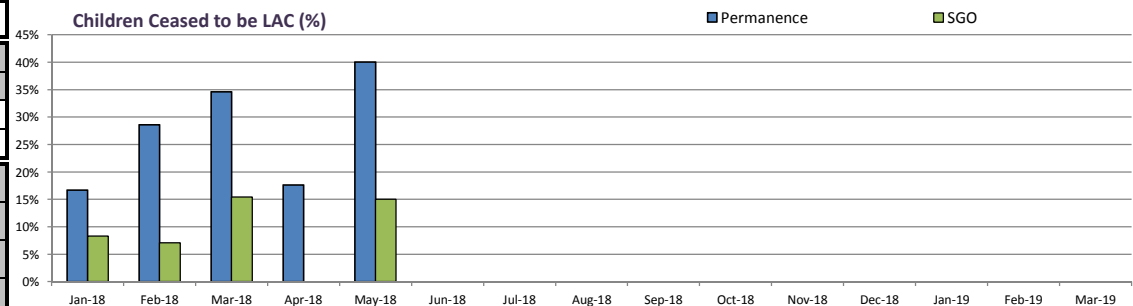
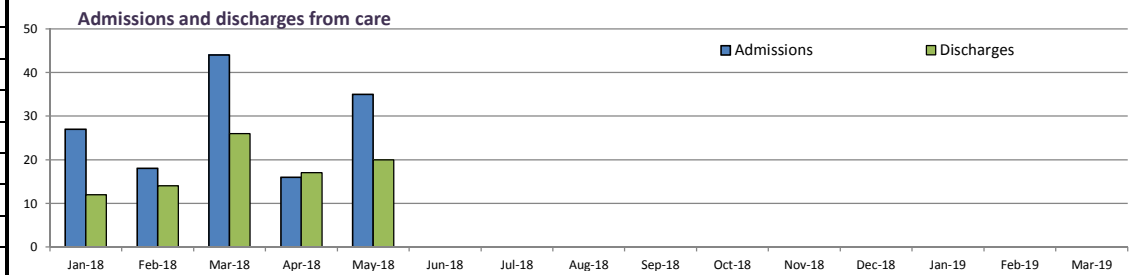
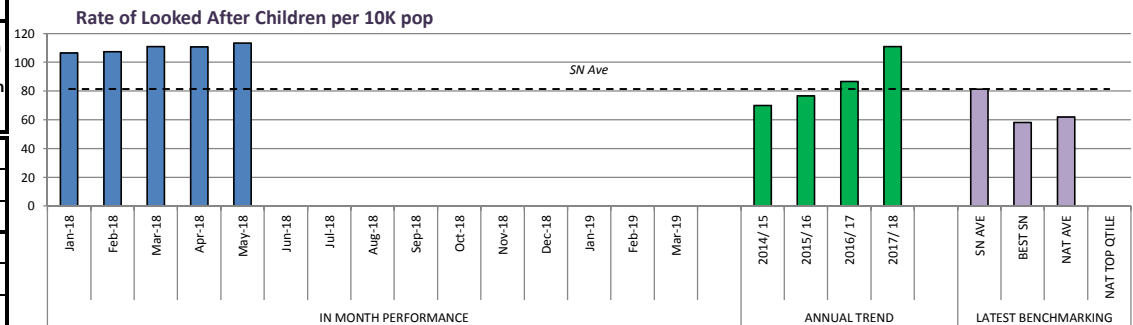
Although the PID and previous report highlighted that there was unlikely to be any significant impact on the numbers of LAC until the end of the year, the Right Child Right Care (RCRC) is in fact already having a discernible impact on practice within the service. The original scoping has been completed and the monthly RCRC Performance Clinics are being held to drive the permanence plans and address blockages. These Clinics are central to the process given the increased pressures on social work capacity currently being experienced would otherwise only serve to drop this work down the list of priorities for social workers. The average age of a child being admitted to care has reduced from 10.5 at the set up point of RCRC to 5.1 by the end of May. These younger children are far more likely to achieve permanence outside of the care system, be looked after for far shorter periods of time and incur far lower placement costs per child. As a result whilst the overall numbers of LAC may not yet have started to reduce the average placement cost may be coming down.

April saw the first net reduction in LAC numbers for 8 months and May performance was particularly aggravated by the fact that there were 7 large sibling groups admitted (1 x 6 children and 6 x 3 children totalling 24 of the 35 admissions).

Since the commencement of RCRC 34 of the 169 (170 as per last report) children originally in scope have already been discharged from care – 20% of the original target. In addition a further 13 not in the scope have also been discharged from care and a further 19 reached the age of 18. (N.B. there are 7 children recorded as LAC but whose discharge has been delayed due to Liquid Logic issues and a further 7 children who have been returned to Slovakia whose discharge has been delayed by the legal process.)

The core principles of the RCRC project seem to be having a ripple effect on social work practice across the board as there seems to be a far greater energy in respect of progression to permanence across CYPS – for example in the Children with Disabilities Team alone there are 9 children with a plan for permanence currently being implemented.

		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-18	106.6	603	27	12	16.7%	8.3%
	Feb-18	107.3	607	18	14	28.6%	7.1%
	Mar-18	111.0	628	44	26	34.6%	15.4%
	Apr-18	110.8	627	16	17	17.6%	0.0%
	May-18	113.4	642	35	20	40.0%	15.0%
	Jun-18						
	Jul-18						
	Aug-18						
	Sep-18						
	Oct-18						
	Nov-18						
	Dec-18						
	Jan-19						
Feb-19							
Mar-19							
YTD	2018/19	-	-	51	37	29.7%	8.1%
ANNUAL TREND	2014/ 15	70.0	407	175	160	37.5%	-
	2015/ 16	76.6	432	208	192	40.1%	-
	2016/ 17	86.6	488	262	215	27.9%	9.8%
	2017/ 18	111.0	628	330	194	27.3%	8.2%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	81.3					
	BEST SN	58.0					
	NAT AVE	62.0					
	NAT TOP QTILE	-					



PLANS - IN DATE

DEFINITION

A child's plan is to be developed for an individual child if they have a "wellbeing need" that requires a targeted intervention. Each type of plan has a completion target. When a Looked After Child reaches 16 years and 3 months their plan changes to a 'Pathway Plan' - this plan focuses on preparing a young person for adulthood and their future (For example; future accommodation, post 16 Education/Training and Employment)

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance for CiN, CP and LAC plans remains relatively static. Team managers and service managers are ensuring oversight of this through performance meetings, however increased caseloads may go some way to account for this.

In duty the number of assessments that have exceeded 45 working days has decreased and this can have a positive impact on the timeliness of CIN plans. Scrutiny of insight tells us that there are particular challenges in some locality teams which appear to correlate with the areas who have the highest caseloads, this continues to be explored and service managers are working on plans to address the highest caseloads. Locality Service Managers lead regular reviews of all open CIN activity to ensure the timely progression of work.

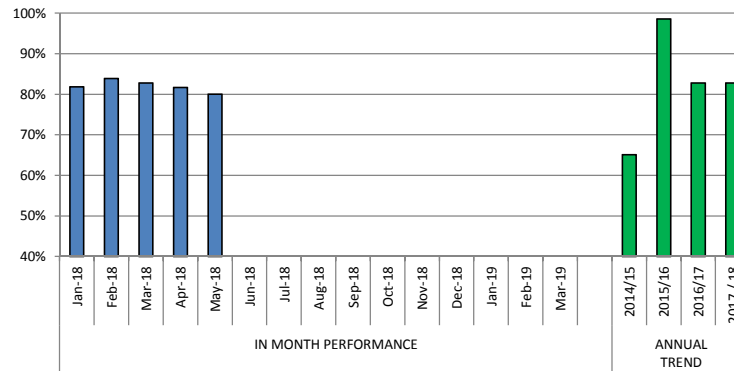
	4.4	5.14	6.14
CIN with an up-to-date plan (open at least 45 days)		CPP with an up to date plan	LAC with an up to date plan

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-18	81.8%	84.2%	89.7%
	Feb-18	83.9%	84.2%	90.3%
	Mar-18	82.8%	87.7%	89.5%
	Apr-18	81.7%	90.0%	89.1%
	May-18	80.0%	87.8%	87.4%
	Jun-18			
	Jul-18			
	Aug-18			
	Sep-18			
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
Mar-19				

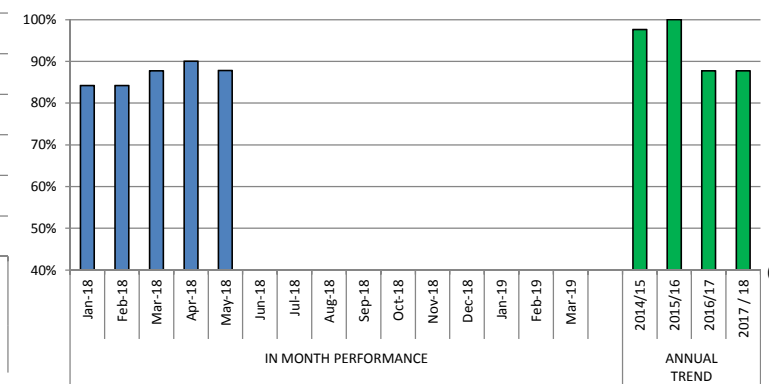
YTD	2018/19	-	-	-
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ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	65.1%	97.6%	98.8%
	2015/16	98.6%	100.0%	98.4%
	2016/17	82.8%	87.7%	79.1%

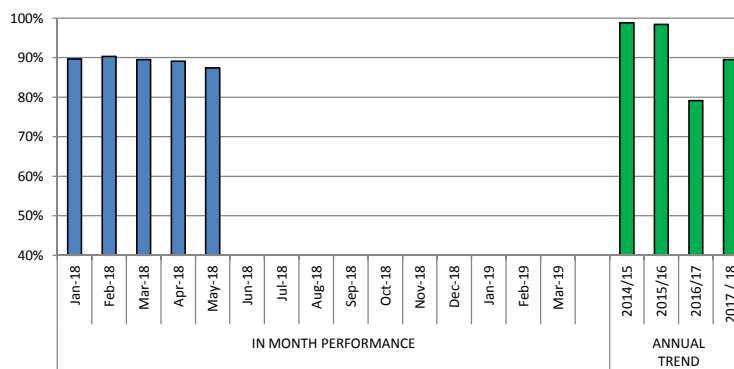
CIN with an up-to-date plan - open at least 45 days



CPP with an up to date plan



LAC with an up to date plan



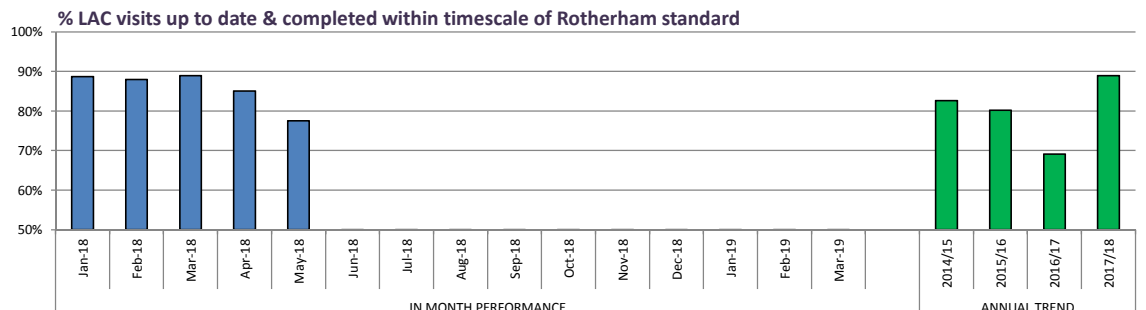
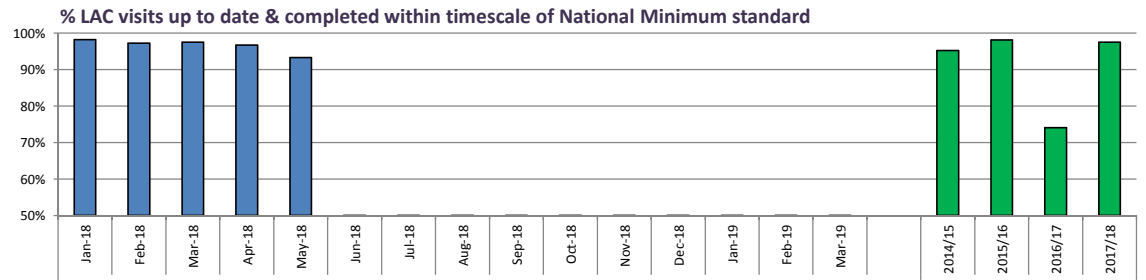
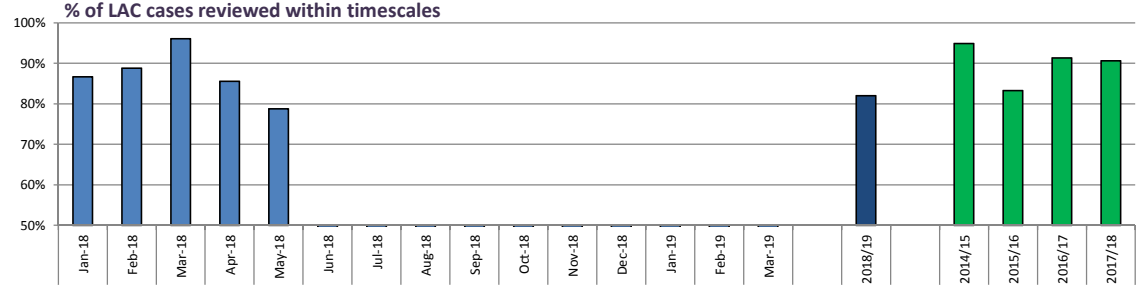
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - REVIEWS & VISITS

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 declined once again this month to 78.8%. Out of the 146 reviews 115 are currently showing as held in timescale and completed. The decline in performance regarding statutory reviews held in timescale has been attributed to on-going sickness issues within the IRO service although there is also an issue in respect of a smaller number of Reviews not being held due to social workers not having completed their pre-Review reports. with the return of some IROs from sick leave it is anticipated that performance will improve in the coming months
 Performance in respect of Statutory Visits has also declined slightly with long-term sick leave continuing to be an issue that is impacting on performance. there are also 4 social workers currently on long-term sick-leave across the LAC Service and there has been some difficulty in securing appropriately skilled agency social workers to back-fill these posts.
 The demand for social workers to supervise contact is on-going and this is having a marked impact on many performance indicators. This impact is likely to persist until the numbers of looked after children reduce or there is additional resource allocated to the Contact Service. This issue is also beginning to have an impact on retention of social workers, especially in the Court and Permanence teams, and there have been some recent cases where social workers have stated they are actively seeking alternative employment as they can not manage the competing demands of contact supervision and Court report filing deadlines.

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-18	150 of 173	86.7%	597 of 608	98.2%	539 of 608	88.7%
	Feb-18	119 of 134	88.8%	590 of 607	97.2%	534 of 607	88.0%
	Mar-18	148 of 154	96.1%	614 of 630	97.5%	560 of 630	88.9%
	Apr-18	113 of 132	85.6%	606 of 627	96.7%	533 of 627	85.0%
	May-18	115 of 146	78.8%	594 of 637	93.2%	494 of 637	77.6%
	Jun-18						
	Jul-18						
	Aug-18						
	Sep-18						
	Oct-18						
	Nov-18						
	Dec-18						
	Jan-19						
Feb-19							
Mar-19							
YTD	2018/19	228 of 278	82.0%	-	-	-	
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		94.9%	95.2%		82.6%	
	2015/16		83.3%	98.1%		80.2%	
	2016/17	652 of 714	91.3%	74.0%		69.1%	
	2017/18	1502 of 1658	90.6%	97.5%		88.9%	



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PLACEMENTS

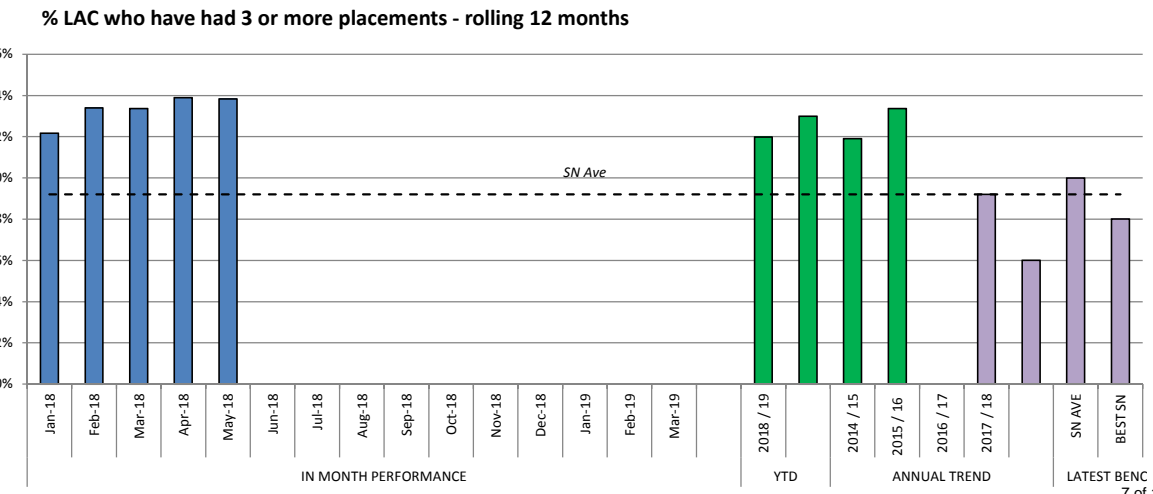
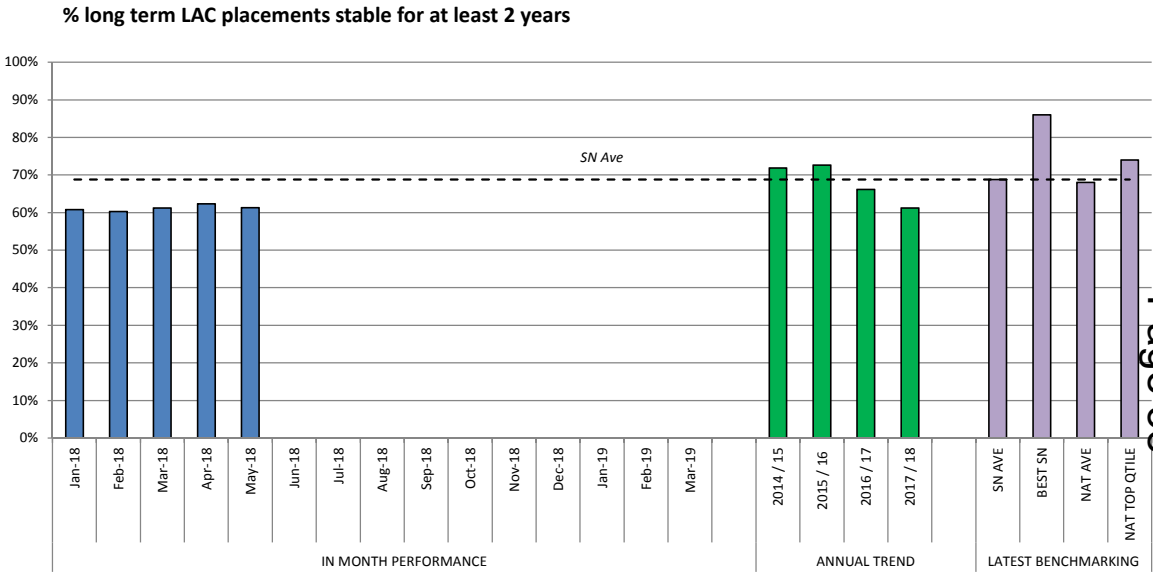
DEFINITION	A LAC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (LAC) and is placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.
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PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance remains relatively stable at present but it is even more positive to note that despite the numbers of LAC increasing from 603 at the end of January to 642 at the end of May, the percentage of children in family based settings has remained fairly constant.

The first audit of the impact of the Intensive Intervention Programme has been completed which evidences that whilst 14 LAC had 2 or more placement moves prior to them accessing the IIP this has reduced to 4 young people since the IIP intervention. Similarly the numbers going missing from care has reduced from 7 to 3. A full Review of the programme will be presented to DLT in July and then disseminated for wider consideration.

		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-18	93 of 153	60.8%	73 of 600	12.2%	82.4%	5.5%	293 of 603	48.6%		
	Feb-18	91 of 151	60.3%	81 of 605	13.4%	81.5%	5.0%	302 of 607	49.8%		
	Mar-18	90 of 147	61.2%	83 of 621	13.4%	81.0%	4.3%	315 of 628	50.2%		
	Apr-18	91 of 146	62.3%	86 of 619	13.9%	81.5%	4.7%	317 of 627	50.6%		
	May-18	92 of 150	61.3%	88 of 636	13.8%	81.0%	4.9%	319 of 642	49.7%		
	Jun-18										
	Jul-18										
	Aug-18										
	Sep-18										
	Oct-18										
	Nov-18										
	Dec-18										
	Jan-19										
Feb-19											
Mar-19											
YTD	2018 / 19										
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%		
	2017 / 18	90 of 147	61.2%	83 of 621	13.4%	81.0%	4.3%	315 of 624	50.5%		
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%						



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.

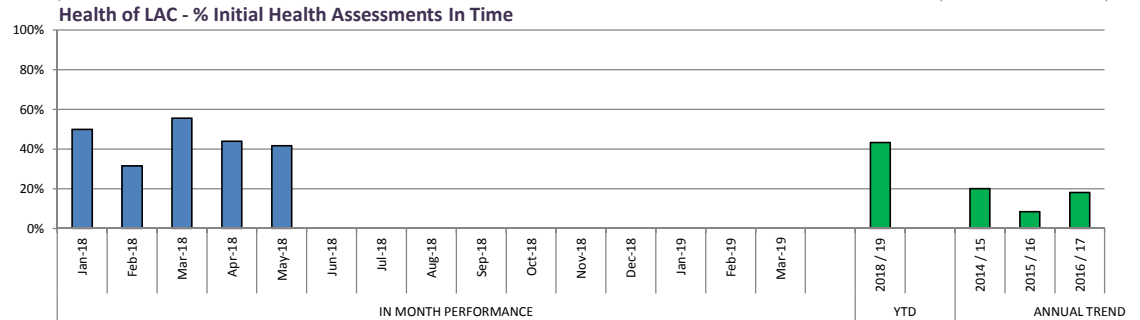
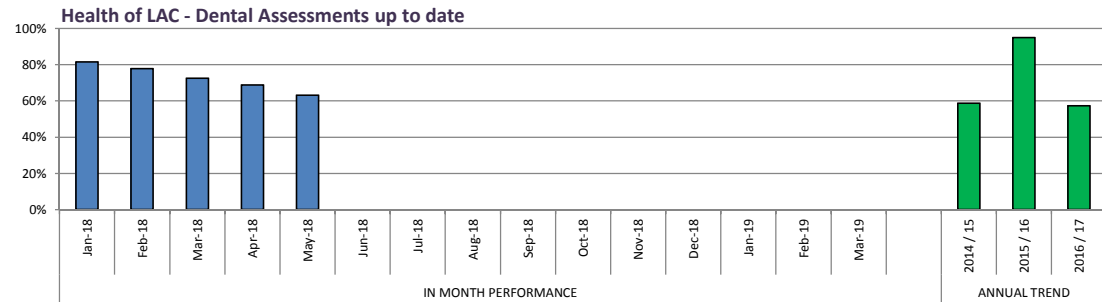
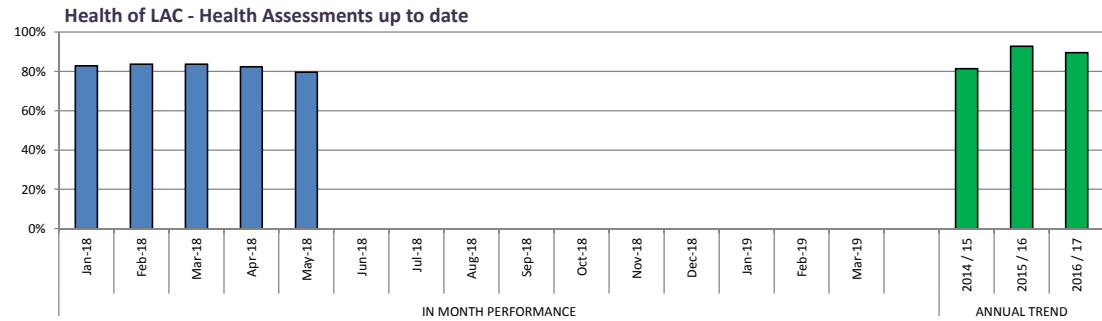
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Once again the ostensibly declining performance can be attributed to delayed inputting onto the Liquid Logic case file as the LAC health team are reporting performance of 86% in respect of HNAs. Giving the LAC Health Team the facility to update Liquid Logic would resolve this delay and this is part of the Liquid Logic work plan.

Despite yet another series of awareness sessions with the Duty, Assessment and Locality social workers, performance in respect of Initial Health Assessments continues to decline and this has been raised with the respective Heads of Service.

An audit will also be done of the 7 outstanding or late IHAs in order to identify the issues that are impeding current performance.

		6.9	6.10	6.11	
		Health of LAC - Health Assessments up to date	Health of LAC - Dental Assessments up to date	Health of LAC - No. Initial Health Assessments In Time	Health of LAC - % Initial Health Assessments In Time
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-18	82.9%	81.5%	9 of 18	50.0%
	Feb-18	83.7%	77.8%	6 of 19	31.6%
	Mar-18	83.7%	72.5%	10 of 18	55.6%
	Apr-18	82.4%	68.8%	11 of 25	44.0%
	May-18	79.6%	63.2%	5 of 12	41.7%
	Jun-18				
	Jul-18				
	Aug-18				
	Sep-18				
	Oct-18				
	Nov-18				
	Dec-18				
	Jan-19				
	Feb-19				
	Mar-19				
YTD	2018 / 19	-	-	16 of 37	43.2%
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%
	2017 / 18	83.7%	72.5%	132 of 237	55.7%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				
	BEST SN				
	NAT AVE				
	NAT TOP QTILE				

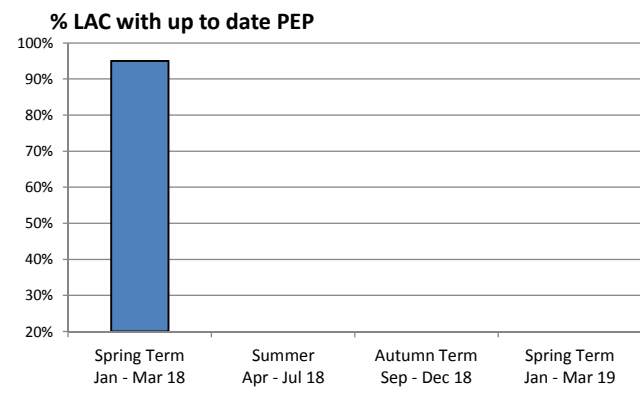
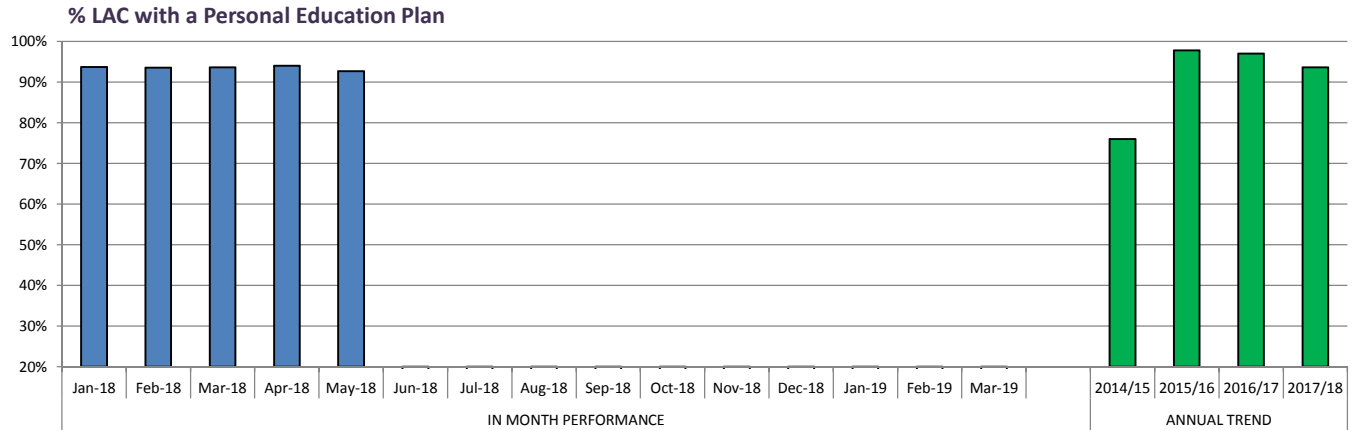


LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS

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 There is no current indication that termly performance in respect of PEP's will not achieve at least the 95% of last term although the biggest risk to this remains the number of children admitted to care too late in the term to arrange the 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-18	446 of 476	93.7%	
	Feb-18	446 of 477	93.5%	
	Mar-18	454 of 485	93.6%	95.0% (Spring Term)
	Apr-18	454 of 483	94.0%	
	May-18	454 of 490	92.7%	
	Jun-18			
	Jul-18			(Summer Term)
	Aug-18			
	Sep-18			
	Oct-18			
	Nov-18			
	Dec-18			(Autumn Term)
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
	Mar-19			(Spring Term)
YTD	2018/19	-	-	-
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		76.0%	-
	2015/16		97.8%	-
	2016/17		97.0%	98.9% (Summer 2017)
	2017/18		93.6%	(Summer 2018) (Summer 2018)



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

Performance in all of the indicators has improved over the course of the month possibly as a result of some Personal Advisors returning from sick leave which ensures that the reported data is more up to date.

There is, however, a potential risk to future performance in that as from April 1st, Leaving Care Services have the statutory duty as set down in the Children and Social Work act 2017, to offer support to care leavers up to the age of 25. This is likely to have an impact on capacity within the team although plans are being formulated in order to mitigate this impact.

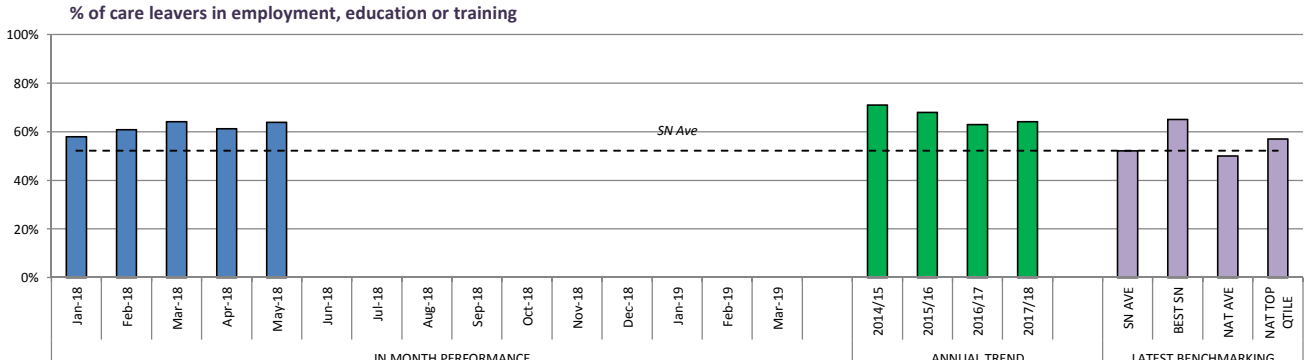
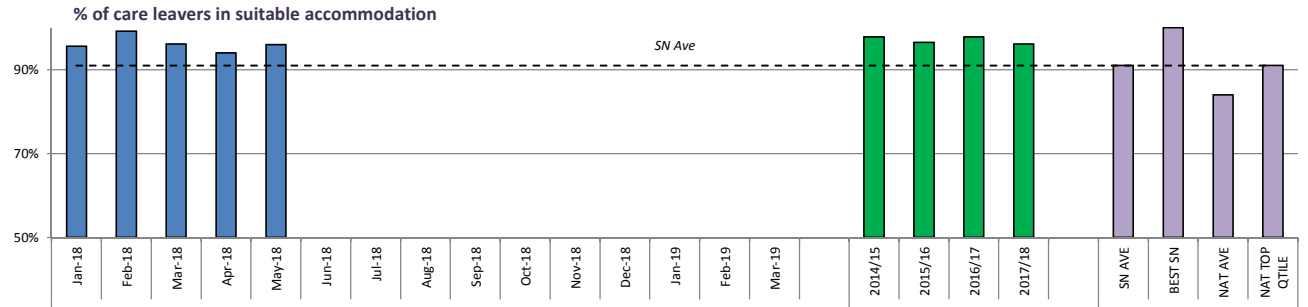
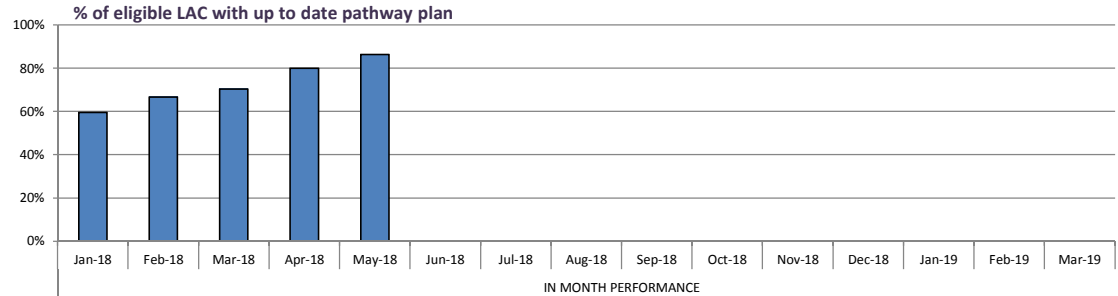
	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
Number of care leavers					
% of eligible Care Leavers with a pathway plan					
% of eligible Care Leavers with up to date pathway plan					
% of care leavers in suitable accommodation					
% of care leavers in employment, education or training					

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE		7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
	Jan-18	238	94.5%	59.5%	95.6%	57.9%
	Feb-18	246	93.9%	66.7%	99.2%	60.9%
	Mar-18	256	93.9%	70.3%	96.1%	64.1%
	Apr-18	266	93.7%	80.0%	94.0%	61.3%
	May-18	249	96.3%	86.4%	96.0%	63.9%
	Jun-18					
	Jul-18					
	Aug-18					
	Sep-18					
	Oct-18					
	Nov-18					
	Dec-18					
	Jan-19					
	Feb-19					
Mar-19						

YTD	2018/19	-	-	-	-	-
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ANNUAL TREND		7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
	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%
2017/18	256	93.9%	70.3%	96.1%	64.1%	

LATEST BENCHMARKING		7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
	SN AVE				91.0%	52.2%
	BEST SN				100.0%	65.0%
	NAT AVE				84.0%	50.0%
NAT TOP Q TILE				91.0%	57.0%	



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 recruitment of foster carers is demonstrating improved performance. In 2017/18, 17 new foster families were approved providing 27 new foster placements. Conversion rate from expression of interest to approval has increased from 11% to 16%.

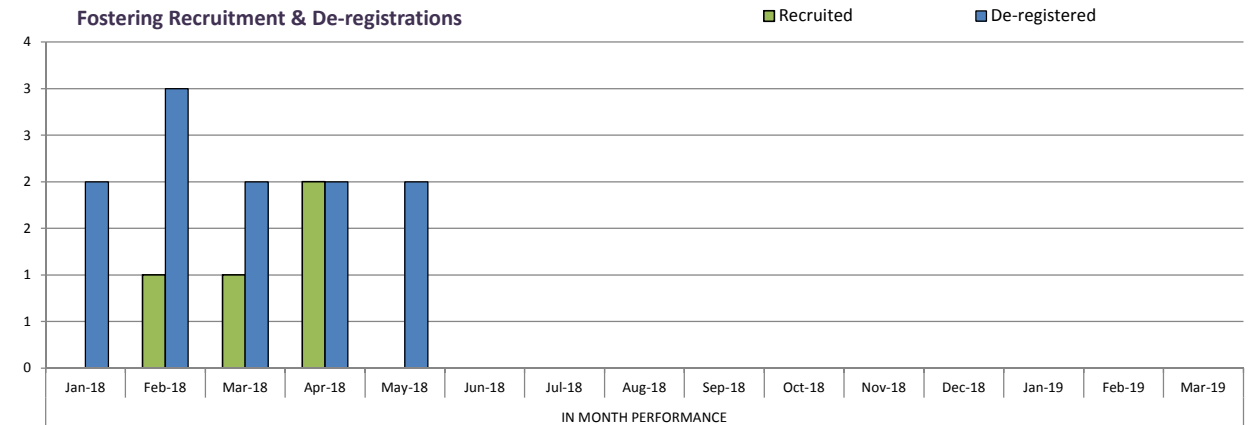
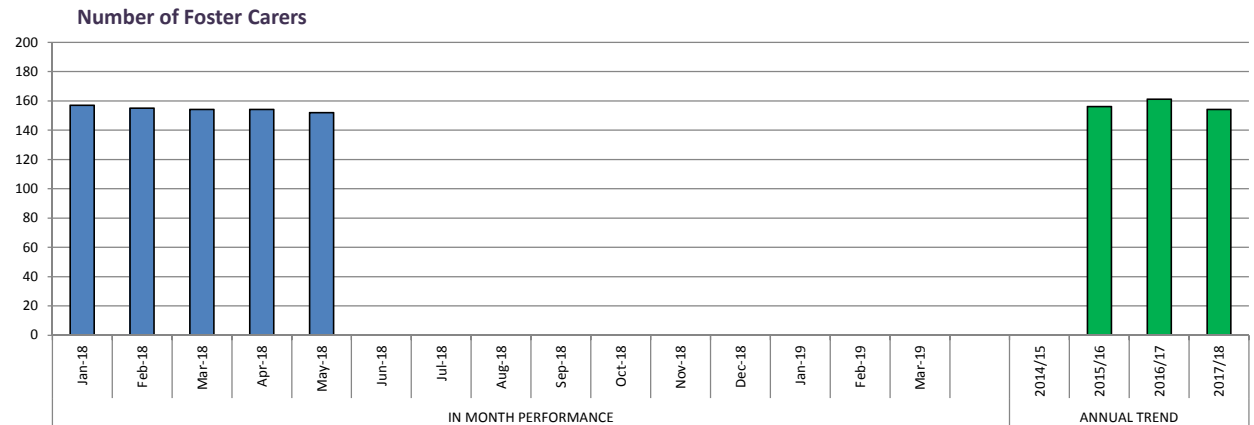
As at the 1st June 3 new foster families had been approved by Panel (5 placements) with 15 more foster families booked onto Foster panel for approval (20 placements) with 4 more assessments needing allocation. As a result the Fostering Service will also surpass last year's performance. Significantly 6 of the 15 assessments will be able to offer placements for adolescents.

There were a further 33 enquiries over the course of May which was supported by a very positive Foster Carer Fortnight during May. The current conversion rate should provide a minimum of a further 3 new foster families. The recruitment of foster carers is therefore demonstrating improved performance.

The launch of Challenge 63 proved to be a major disappointment with only 2 elected members engaging to any degree and one of those being one of the organisers. This will be raised via CPP in order to encourage greater commitment when the scheme is re-launched.

Over the course of the past 12 months 4 foster carers have resigned after having been approved for less than 2 years. Whilst some of these resignations can be attributed to unforeseeable circumstances including illness and bereavement the Fostering Service will review all of these cases to ascertain if there are any lessons to be learned

		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-18	398	66.0%	157	0	2
	Feb-18	399	65.7%	155	1	3
	Mar-18	414	65.9%	154	1	2
	Apr-18	411	65.6%	154	2	2
	May-18	420	65.4%	152	0	2
	Jun-18					
	Jul-18					
	Aug-18					
	Sep-18					
	Oct-18					
	Nov-18					
	Dec-18					
	Jan-19					
Feb-19						
Mar-19						
YTD	2018/19	-	-	-	2	4
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	-	-	-	-	-
	2015/16	-	-	156	13	16
	2016/17	353	72.3%	161	32	22
	2017/18	414	65.9%	154	16	25



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 As identified last month the Scorecard performance remains vulnerable to significant swings given the cohort is so small and the 5 adoptions achieved thus far have had such an impact with the A1 performance declining from an average of 370 days to 469 days and the A2 from 146 to 260.

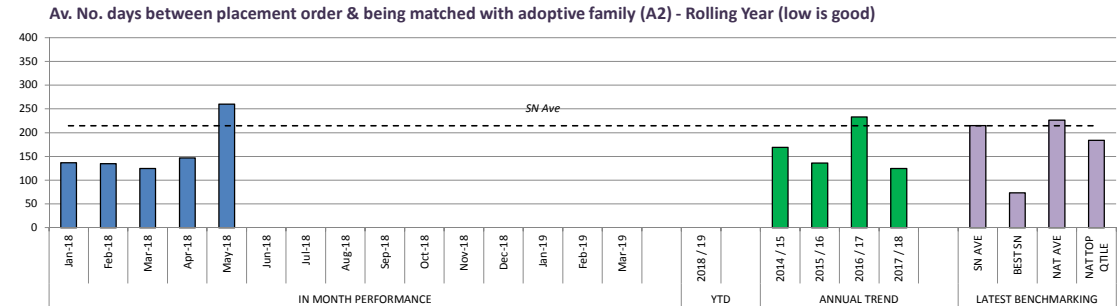
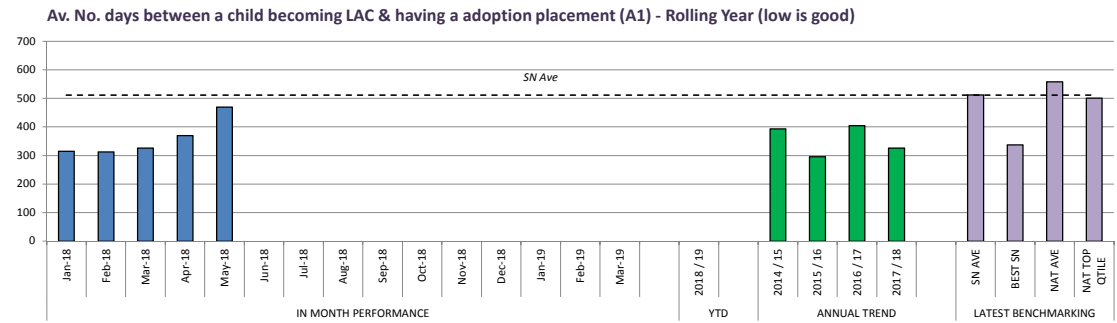
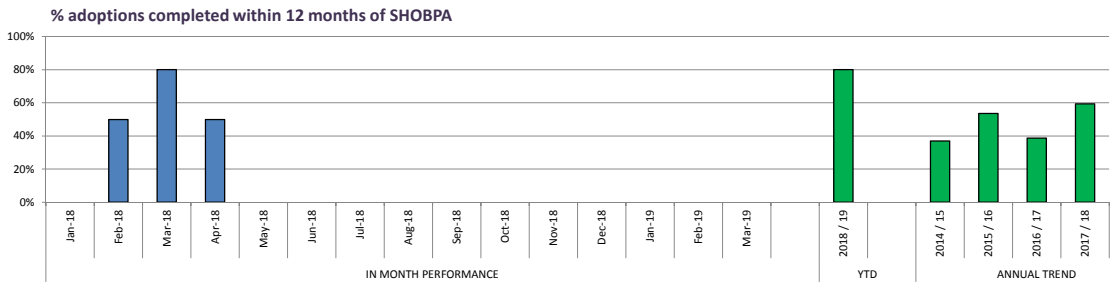
It is clear that court timescales are having an impact on this performance as adopters are reporting that where it used to take 6 weeks between them lodging their adoption order application and being heard in court this has now extended to an average of 12 weeks. Despite this, the team are well placed to surpass last year's performance of 27 adoptions given that in addition to the 5 adoptions achieved there are currently;

- 24 children already living in their adoptive placement (6 of whom have a date set for the Adoption Hearing, 6 with their application lodged with Court but no date yet set. A further 9 eligible for lodging having been in placement for more than the required 10 weeks and 3 placed for less than 10 weeks),
- 10 children with a match identified,
- 10 with a potential match,
- 8 further visits organised for the initial meeting with adopters who have expressed an interest.

There have been 3 sets of adoptive parents fully approved so far this year with 12 more at stage 1 and 7 at stage 2 and so once again last year's performance looks likely to be surpassed.

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

	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5	
	Number of adoptions	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	Av. No. days between a child becoming LAC & having a adoption placement (A1) (ytd. ave)	Av. No. days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family (A2) (ytd. ave)	
Jan-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	
Apr-18	2	1	50.0%	370.0	146.5	
May-18	3	0	0.0%	469.0	260.2	
Jun-18						
Jul-18						
Aug-18						
Sep-18						
Oct-18						
Nov-18						
Dec-18						
Jan-19						
Feb-19						
Mar-19						
YTD	2018 / 19	5	4	80.0%	-	-
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
	2017 / 18	27	16	59.3%	325.3	124.8
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				511.6	214.7
	BEST SN				337.0	73.0
	NAT AVE				558.0	226.0
	NAT TOP QTILE				501.1	183.6



*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

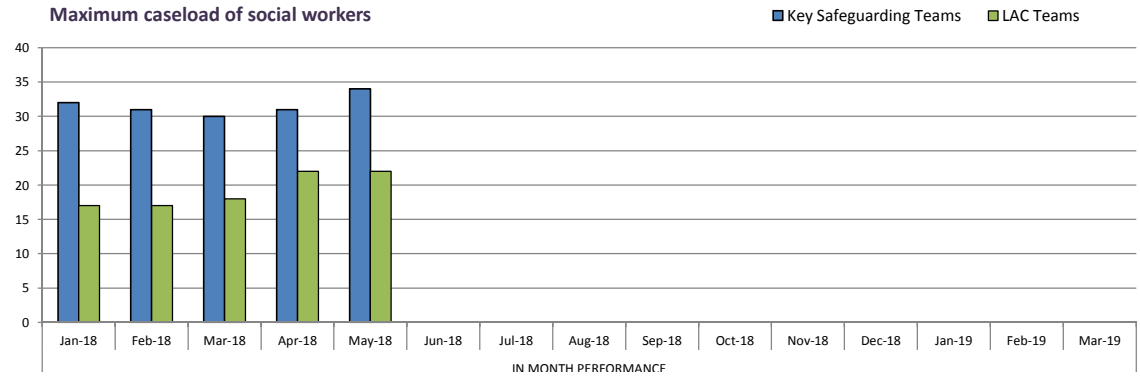
Taking into account the reduced caseloads of 'Assessed and Supported Year in Employment' (ASYE) social workers and 'Advanced Practitioner' (APs) (but not the 3 social workers currently on long-term sick leave) average caseloads for LAC teams 1-3 remain at 15. This is still not reflected in the reported performance data. In addition, the audit undertaken in April 18 evidenced that on average across the 5 teams 20% of social worker capacity is 'lost' by virtue of them having to supervise contact or due to the time spent driving to and from out of authority placements. This means that in real terms the average caseload for LAC 1-3 is the equivalent of 18. More concerning the average caseload for teams 4-5 is 13 (with a similar 20% uplift for contact and travelling) and this is being impacted by the increasing delays in adoptions being progressed due to the court more readily agreeing to final appeals by birth parents meaning that the throughput of cases is delayed.

The IRO Handbook recommends that IRO's should have between 50 and 70 children whom they review. Within RMBC our 9 IRO's currently have an average of 69.9 children. In real terms due to high level of IRO sickness, three IRO's have 70 or more, and our agency IRO is providing some support to cover individual meetings over and above her allocated case loads. The real pressure in the team is coming from the on-going allocations linked to high admissions to care. In order to support the IRO's with caseloads, and covering staff sickness we have agreed a 12 month secondment to the team to support a workers development and reflect that we aim to reduced the number of Looked after children in the coming months.

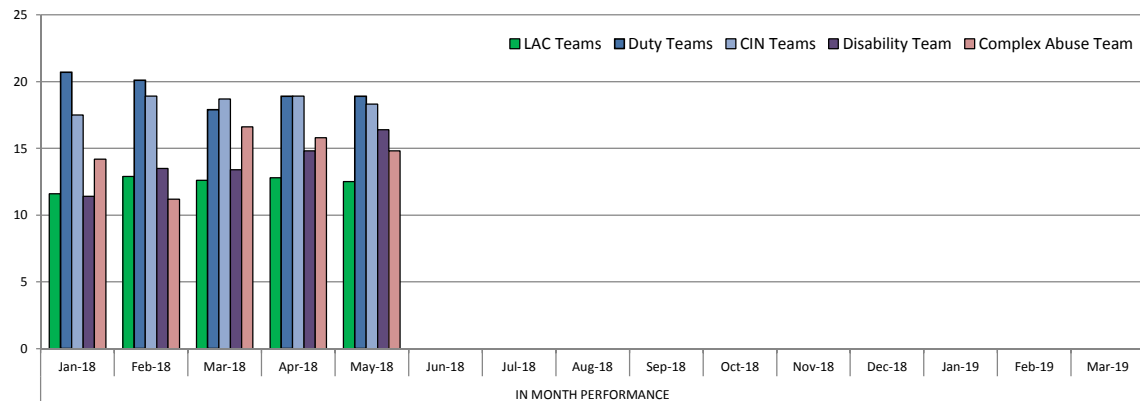
We currently have 8 CP conference Chairs who also cover LADO responsibilities on a duty basis. Given we have 645 children subject to a CP Plan this means 71.6 per CP Conference Chair. Currently the team is able to respond to the demand for conferences and the number of LADO have reduced. We will actively review our agency commitments over the next three months in line with the number of child re subject to a CP Plan and the demand for ICPC's.

		11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4		11.5	11.6	11.7	11.8
		Number of agency SW with a caseload	Maximum caseload of social workers in key Safeguarding Teams	Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC Teams	Av. no. cases in LAC Teams		Av. no. cases in Duty Teams	Av. no. cases in Locality Teams (CiN)	Av. no. cases in Children's Disability Team	Av. no. cases in Complex Abuse Team (Duty 6)
					Teams 1-3	Teams 4 & 5				
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-18	New Definition 2018/19	32	17	11.6	9.7	20.7	17.5	11.4	14.2
	Feb-18		31	17	12.9	10.7	20.1	18.9	13.5	11.2
	Mar-18		30	18	12.6	11.8	17.9	18.7	13.4	16.6
	Apr-18	17.3% (56)	31	22	12.8	14.4	18.9	18.9	14.8	15.8
	May-18	16.4% (52)	34	22	12.5	12.8	18.9	18.3	16.4	14.8
	Jun-18									
	Jul-18									
	Aug-18									
	Sep-18									
	Oct-18									
	Nov-18									
	Dec-18									
	Jan-19									
	Feb-19									
	Mar-19									
	YTD	2018/19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2015/16	-	29	19	14.1	15.8	18.0	19.1	-	-
	2016/17	-	30	17	11.6	13.3	17.7	15.4	-	-

Maximum caseload of social workers



Average number of cases per team



Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting Directorate Leadership team

Report Title Lifelong Links

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

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report Mel Meggs

Report Author(s) Ian Walker

Ward(s) Affected All

Summary Lifelong Links is a DfE pilot project currently being implemented by 7 local authorities including North Yorkshire County Council and Kent County Council. The programme has been introduced from the USA where it was found that the young people involved achieved positive outcomes in terms of placement stability and making and sustaining life-long connections. The DfE want to extend this trial to 12 local authorities and there have recently been awareness raising sessions attended by representatives from the LAC Service where the potential value of the project was recognised.

Recommendations DLT is recommended to endorse the proposal that RMBC become part of the extended pilot project and implement the Lifelong Links scheme for those looked after young people who it is assessed would benefit from it.

List of Appendices Included None

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

Lifelong Links

1. Recommendations

1.1 DLT is recommended to endorse the proposal that RMBC become part of the extended pilot project and implement the Lifelong Links scheme for those looked after young people who it is assessed would benefit from it.

2. Background

2.1 As Isabelle Trowler reported in 'Putting Children First' (2016), "Relationships and long term social connection is the cornerstone to child and family welfare." She has endorsed the Lifelong Links project in April 2018 stating that supporting lifelong connections for LAC was one of the most interesting ideas around. Furthermore, The Care Inquiry (2013) stated, "The greatest failing of the care system: It too often breaks rather than builds relationships for children."

2.2 To address this the aim of Lifelong Links is to create a lifelong support network for children and adolescents in the care system given that young people are likely to benefit from being connected to a supportive adult and that good contact between them and the wider family leads to higher levels of support when they leave care. The project is aimed at LAC who are under the age of 16 who have been in care for less than 3 years and where there is no plan for them to live with their family or to be adopted or achieve permanence. Evidence from the USA demonstrated that 50% of the young people involved in the project had no placement changes as compared to 33% of the control group and that 81% of young people were able to establish long-term connections not previously available to them. Further potential benefits have been identified in the pilot as being:-

- Improved emotional wellbeing
- Reduced likelihood of going missing
- Improved educational and employment opportunities
- Stronger sense of identity
- Greater placement stability
- Stronger relationships
- Reduced risk of risk taking behaviours
- Improved emotional wellbeing

2.3 The Family Rights Group has secured funding to develop the UK model of Lifelong Links for a 3 year trial which will be independently evaluated by the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford. Thus far there are 7 trail sites in England that were set up in April 2017 and the FRG are looking to expand this trail to 5 further local authorities. It is proposed that Rotherham CYPS becomes part of this second wave.

2.4 The process is very much a voluntary one and requires the full consent of the young person themselves. Once a young person has been identified as being involved in the project the first stage is to complete the Mobility Mapping process. This is very much a family finding process that has very close links with the Signs of Safety model of practice and as such Lifelong Links would

dovetail appropriately with the Rotherham Family Approach. This mapping will involve a wide-scale audit of the young person's case file, access to social media and interviews with the young person themselves in order to identify as many adults who have had a positive impact on that young person as possible. These adults could include extended family with whom contact has been lost, teachers, previous carers and social workers, sports or arts coaches, parents of friends, community or youth club workers. This process will lead to the development of a full genogram and young person timeline which will help them reconnect with their history.

- 2.5 Following this mapping process being completed the Co-ordinator will plan a Family Group Conference with the child and the referrer who will usually be the young person's social worker. The Family Group Conference or series of FGCs will then be convened and a plan agreed for the future involvement of the network into the young person's life. This plan is then incorporated into the young person's Care Plan and reviewed through the Statutory Reviewing process. The Family Group Conference service have confirmed that they would be able to assimilate the demand within existing resources for the anticipated additional 10 to 12 Conferences per annum this project will require.
- 2.6 Although the process is a relatively straightforward one it will enable the young person to have a much clearer concept of their life-story and personal history. It has long been recognised that Life story work is an important way of helping a child to integrate their past into the present, in order to help them to move into the future. As a result Lifelong Links should contribute to the positive outcomes being achieved by LAC and Care leavers.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 There is no financial support to be accessed by being part of the extended pilot but nor are the additional resource requirements prohibitive. The Lifelong project only requires a Family Finder/Co-ordinator and approximately 10 to 12 Family Group Conferences per year. The Edge of Care Service has already stated that it could readily assimilate this additional demand into the current service and the Family Finder/Co-ordinator would be an existing member of CYPS from either the Adoption Service or Early Help Service who will receive the relevant training in order to develop the necessary skills to undertake the Mobility mapping and Family Group Conference process.
- 3.2 The requirements of Rotherham CYPS will be to implement Lifelong Links in accordance with the standards framework developed by the Family Rights Group so that it can meet the accreditation criteria within 18 months of joining the programme. In order to achieve this Rotherham CYPS will have to give the commitment to work with the evaluation team and FRG to ensure model fidelity and assess the impact so the effectiveness of the approach can be assessed as well as sustaining commitment to the approach beyond the trail phase. As a result the quality of performance management processes within applicant authorities is required to be of the highest standard so that they are 'data-ready' from the date of sign up. It would seem clear that RMBC would readily be able to fulfil this criteria there will need to be senior management buy-in including attendance at national Steering Group meetings and the promotion of the

approach internally and championing it externally by mentoring its introduction in another authority.

- 3.3 In return for committing to the project Rotherham would receive specialist training for the Family Finder/Co-ordinator and ongoing mentoring from the first phase trial sites. Staff involved in the project will receive support from the FRG including from a Development Officer who will ensure appropriate guidance and resources are available. There will also be the opportunity to be part of the independent evaluation led by the Rees Centre and to be part of the shared learning from the other local authorities involved across England as part of a national network.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 Given that the LAC service is already involved in implementing 13 separate practice improvement projects, DLT may consider that this further proposal may be too much of an additional pressure on capacity for it to be a viable option at this stage. However, given that Lifelong Links fits so well with Signs of Safety and would enhance the Rotherham Family Approach it could also be argued that this is too good an opportunity to miss to improve the experience of some looked after children and improve their potential outcomes.

- 4.2 As a result it is recommended that Rotherham CYPS applies to become part of phase two of the Lifelong Links project.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is no requirement to undertake any consultation as part of this project. However, any young person who participates in the project will do so on a voluntary basis and so they will be fully consulted prior to the Mobility Mapping stage being initiated.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 Subject to DLT approval and being accepted onto the next phase of the scheme the relevant training and skills sharing will commence in September 2018 with the first FGCs being planned to take place in the Autumn. It is planned that the full review of the project will be completed by April 2020.

- 6.2 Ian Walker, Head of Service, will be responsible for the implementation of this decision.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 Other than the need for existing staff to be given the additional responsibility to be the Lifelong Links co-ordinator and for the Family Group Conferences to be arranged within existing resource availability there are no additional financial or procurement implications.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications noted. Legal advice has been obtained which confirms that accessing social media sites to trace extended family members and other social contacts may constitute a breach of data protection legislation. However, this is unlikely to be an issue so long as only the public page is accessed and that there is no regular pattern of access that could be classed as excessive.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from the Lifelong Links project. The additional responsibility can be absorbed through existing roles

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The Lifelong Links project is designed to improve the outcomes for looked after children and Care Leavers and to have an impact on their lives well into their adulthood

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 Lifelong Links is designed to promote the equality and Human Rights of looked after children and care leavers.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1 Partners and other Directorates may have to give the commitment to give consent for individual members of their workforce to be able to attend the Family Group Conference. Given that only 10 to 12 FGCs are planned to take place every year the implications arising from this should not be too onerous.
- 12.2 Depending on how it is decided the Co-ordinator post will be provided it may be that one Early Help Service worker may be heavily involved in this project.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There is a risk that Rotherham MBC is not selected to be part of the next phase of the pilot study although it could be argued that Rotherham is in a strong position given the high level of commitment already shown to the regional information sessions that have recently taken place.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Ian Walker, Head of Service

Approvals Obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Mick Wildman	29 th May 2018
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Neil Concannon	24 th May 2018
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)	N/a	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Amy Leech	23 rd May 2018

Ian Walker
Head of Service

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