

## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

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

**Date: Tuesday, 2nd July, 2019**

**Time: 3.30 p.m.**

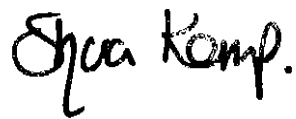
### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Declarations of Interest.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th April 2019 (Pages 1 - 13)
6. Looked After Children's Promises  
- Judith Badger. Strategic Director, Strategic Director, Finance and Customer Services
7. Extensions and Adaptations to Homes of Foster Carers, Special Guardian and Adopters (Revised Policy) (Pages 14 - 24)
8. Corporate Parenting Performance Report (Pages 25 - 46)
9. Champions' Feedback
10. Looked After Children Update

11. Date and time of the next meeting: -  
Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, at 3.30 p.m.

**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), M. S. Elliott (Minority Party representative), P. Jarvis (Vice-Chair of the Improving Lives Select Commission) and J. Elliot (representative on the Fostering and Adoption Panels).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sharon Kemp,  
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**  
**Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

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

Also present were:- Tracey Arnold, David Bailey, Lynda Briggs, Peter Douglas, Luke Fox, Jodie Glover, Catherine Hall, Tina Hohn, Christian Palfrey, Sharon Sandall, Jon Stonehouse, Ian Walker and Cathryn Woodward.

Members of the Looked After Children Council present were Adorabella, Angelina, Brogan, Jordan, Kaylen, and Zuzanna supported by Lisa Duvalle.

Apologies for absence were received from Alisa Barr and Mary Jarrett.

**58.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

**59.           MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2019**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

It was noted that The Muslim Foster Care Project (Minute No. 52) was now known as the "Diversity Scheme for Foster Parents". 85-90 members of the local muslim community had been in attendance at the recent launch event to receive information presented by the Fostering Service and Mercy Mission resulting in approximately 24 expressions of interest. They had since been contacted by Mercy Mission resulting in 9 potential viable foster carers.

Those that were not ready to become foster carers at the present time had been encouraged to become host families for celebrations such as Eid and independent visitors.

**60.           FOSTERING RECRUITMENT/YOUNG INSPECTORS REPORT**

Ian Walker, Head of Service, presented the Young Inspectors report on fostering recruitment as a result of feedback received from foster carers.

Foster carers had reported that, when making an initial enquiry to the Rotherham Fostering Recruitment Team, they had been given the hard facts and was painted a too negative picture thus putting people off.

As a result of the feedback, work had taken place with Ashlea Harvey, Young Inspector Co-ordinator, and 5 Young Inspectors who undertook an inspection via the website and a telephone mystery shopping exercise.

It had resulted in some learning for the Recruitment Duty Team in respect of engaging people in the process first before working through the risks and potential pitfalls. It was known that the use of social media and website accessibility was poor and needed to be reviewed; this would form part of the refreshed Marketing Strategy.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The action log had not been fully populated as yet due to the lack of capacity but would feed into the Marketing Strategy
- The Young Inspectors had conducted their own analysis; it would be used to develop the action plan
- The Young Inspectors would hold the Service to account if actions were not implemented
- Feedback had been provided to staff/during their individual training sessions

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

(2) That when completed, the action plan be submitted to the Panel.

## **61. REVISED FOSTER CARER FEES AND ALLOWANCES**

Ian Walker, Head of Service, presented a report setting out the revised foster carer fees and allowances which had not been revised since 2016.

The lack of sufficient foster placements meant that Rotherham relied upon the use of independent fostering agencies or residential provision which had led to significant pressure on the external placement budget. In-house placements were more likely to maintain placement stability as the Social Work support was more readily accessible and maintain links for the child with family and community.

Consultation had taken place with the Foster Carer Forum on the elements of the current fees and allowances. Whilst financial incentives were a consideration, foster carers had said that they regarded the level of support received from their Fostering Social Worker as critical to their fostering experience.

The outcome of the consultation and review was that the proposed 'offer' incorporated financial incentive and ongoing good quality support, training and development for Rotherham's foster carers.

The report had been considered by the Children and Young People's Services Directorate Leadership Team and agreed the implementation and changes to foster carer fees and allowances as follows:-

- An additional skill level fee to be paid to the carer when caring for more than one child
- The weekly allowance, to cover the expense involved in caring for a child, to remain the same (slightly above national minimum average recommended)
- Changes to payments to foster carers for birthdays, Christmas/cultural celebrations and holiday pay for the child in placement

Councillor Jarvis reported that she had recently visited the City of Lincoln Council which had a very good recruitment rate of foster carers. Their marketing was very impressive and had a dedicated person who understood care and fostering.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Commissioning Team were in the process of revising the Sufficiency Plan and completely revamping the Marketing Strategy
- There was now dedicated time within the Marketing Team
- There was to be an increased focus on social media and internet accessibility
- Presently the marketing and initial contact was done through the Social Workers. Work was to be carried out with social enterprise for the first 2 parts of the process and only when a “hot lead” would it be passed to a Social Worker
- A number of enquiries were being received from IFA organisations primarily because of the level of support offered to the Authority’s children in their care
- The fees were a factor but not the only factor; it was the support provided
- The Social Workers would have to be more challenging in respect of their foster carers and ensuring they engaged/continued with their training and if not, submitted to the Fostering Panel for review of the skill payment
- In order for foster carers to increase their skill range they would have to increase the age range of Looked After Children
- A dip sample would be carried out to ensure foster carers were receiving the appropriate skill payment for their foster children
- Was there a Local Offer for those foster carers who might want to change?
- Level 4 foster carers were those who took older teenagers/the more challenging placements. There would be an expectation that those foster carers/at least one of them would be available in the foster home 24/7
- Were emergency foster carers paid on a retainer or would they be paid scale 4?

It was noted that the report would be considered by Cabinet in June.

Resolved:- (1) That the revised foster carer fees and allowances be noted.

(2) That information on the Local Offer be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

(3) That the query with regard to the rate of pay for emergency foster carers be clarified and fed back to Councillor Cusworth.

## **62. NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ADVISER FOR CARE LEAVERS ANNUAL REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report by the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, Mark Riddell, who was appointed to work with all local authorities helping them to implement the new care leaver provisions introduced through the Children and Social Work Act.

The chapters in the report included:-

- Better prepared and supported to live independently
- Improved access to education, training and employment
- Experiencing stability and feeling safe and secure
- Improved access to health support
- Achieving financial stability
- Aims and Ambitions for 2019-20

The report celebrated his findings of what was working well and identified good practice relating to provision for care leavers that all local authorities would find useful. The report also identified key challenges that local authorities would need to address in order to provide consistently high quality services for care leavers that fully reflected the corporate parenting principles they should be embedding across services for care leavers.

Rotherham had been included in Mr. Riddell's visits to local authorities. He would be invited again at the end of the summer/beginning of the autumn to ascertain his opinion on whether Rotherham had progressed and offer any challenges going forward.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- There was now dedicated EET support from the Early Help Services and would be part of the panel and find work experience opportunities for the young people
- Every young person would have their own bank account before they left care and training was to be delivered to foster carers regarding helping the young people with budgeting
- All the young people would be in some level of poverty when looking at the affordability of housing and where their money would be spent; it was increasingly challenging to find accommodation that was affordable. It was very difficult to manage on £57.90 when

considering rent, food, utility bills etc. The Service would support and help where it could

- There were also difficulties on where the young person was on their benefit journey and sometimes the delay in Housing Benefit and Universal Credit

It was noted that the Improving Lives Select Commission was to conduct a piece of work on Universal Credit. It would be ensured that the issue of care leavers was fed into the work.

Peter Douglas reported that at the Virtual Heads Conference, Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester), had been very interested in care leavers' issues being fed up to City Mayors.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

### **63. THE HOUSE PROJECT (HP)**

Consideration was given to a report on the House Project (HP), a concept developed originally by Stoke on Trent City Council in response to recognition that young people leaving the care of the local authority faced significant barriers to accessing permanent, safe, secure and suitable accommodation.

The key elements of the project were the offer of suitable, safe and long term post-care housing alongside a holistic and bespoke package of training and support that focussed upon increasing young people's independent living and personal skills and their participation in education, employment and training.

In accordance with Minute No. 154 of the Cabinet and Commissioners Decision Making Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, when it was approved that the Authority become part of the next phase of DfE Innovation Funded Projects to explore the feasibility of developing an alternative housing solution for its care leavers; the Leaving Care Service had launched the HP in October 2018:-

- 10 young people had been selected for the HP; 2 placed in foster care, 5 in residential children's homes and 3 in semi-independent accommodation
- The HP worked closely with the young people's placements ensuring inclusivity for those out of authority to be part of the 6 month HP independent programme
- It had capacity to be flexible and creative with the support it could offer to help those that were out of authority return back to Rotherham
- A further 60 young people were placed in out of authority residential children's homes; the HP would aim to support 3/5 out of authority

placements each year

- The 6 month independence programme commenced in January and would run until July, 2019
- The 10 young people met weekly and saw their project facilitators once a week for one-to-one working sessions. The Service was also in the process of securing a Psychology Service to support the project
- Partnerships had been developed within the Council and had worked with Housing to secure 10 properties that would be leased to the Leaving Care Service. Once a young person was ready, and those supporting them agreed, the property would return to the Housing and Communities portfolio and the young person would become a Council tenant
- Work with the Virtual Schools for those returning from out of authority to support a smooth transition. The HP group of 10 would deliver a presentation to the designated teacher network event on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, to create awareness of the project to training providers
- Attendance at the 6 weekly National House Project Young Persons Steering Group
- Feedback from the National House project was that they were pleased with the progress made and how well Rotherham knew its young people
- Participation and Young Person's Apprentice position advertised, ringfenced to care leavers
- Refurbishment work on the 10 properties would be completed by the end of the 6 month induction. The 10 young people would try their flats out for short periods of time before fully moving into them
- Work to secure the second cohort of 10 young people would commence in October 2019

The report was to be considered by the Children and Young People's Service Directorate Leadership Team and requested to approve:-

1. That the Council approve the extension of the House Project, including the extension of the 3 staff members from March 2020 to March 2022.
2. That it be acknowledged that Rotherham Care Leavers would continue to be responsible for the design, development and delivery of the project and would be supported by a range of officers from across the Council to ensure the project was delivered within the principles and practices of RMBC as well as the vision and principles



of the project.

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- 6 females and 4 males made up the first cohort of 10
- The Council properties consisted of one bedroom properties – there were not many bedsits available
- Work had taken place with the young people, Social Workers and family members with regard to the areas they would like and where there was stock
- Discussions had taken place previously with regard to the ringfencing of properties to care leavers when modular housing had been considered
- Work took place with the Local Housing Officer when a property became available so they understood the project and the support they could offer as it was acknowledged that not all neighbourhoods/streets would be appropriate
- The expectation of engagement in the renovation of the property would be considered on an individual basis

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

(2) That the Assistant Director of Housing and Councillor Beck, Cabinet Member for Housing, be invited to a future Panel meeting to discuss new housing and modular housing.

(3) That where care leavers were moving into an area, they be provided with the contact details of the relevant Ward Members who they could contact for support if required.

(4) That Ward Members be informed if a care leaver was to move into their area, but not necessarily the address, so they had an awareness.

#### **64. OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT**

Consideration was given to a powerpoint presentation on the recent Ofsted focussed visit as follows:-

- What's working well
- Improving placement stability
- A 'Good' Adoption Service
- What we are doing about it
- Informal feedback – going well
- Areas for further action

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Rethink required of Challenge 63
- Elected Members could contact Foster Recruitment when there were

events in their Wards that could be used for the purposes of publicity

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

**65. BIG HEARTS BIG CHANGES - MARKET MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Ian Walker, Head of Service, presented a report on a market management project, Big Hearts Big Changes, aiming to increase the range of options available to provide sufficiency of accommodation for Rotherham's Looked After Children.

The current Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy had not produced a net gain in foster carers as the pace of de-registrations had outstripped the approval of new carers. Although a new Strategy had been prepared, it was acknowledged that current and planned activity may not provide the pace and volume of recruitment required. The Market Management Project Group had explored a number of options that had the potential to significantly accelerate progress towards increasing the number of Rotherham foster carers.

The Children and Young People's Services Directorate Leadership Team were to consider a number of proposals which were set out in the report submitted.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

**66. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE - FEBRUARY 2019**

Consideration was given to the report presented by Cathryn Woodward, Performance and Data Officer Social Care, provided a summary of performance for key performance indicators across Looked After Children Services for February, 2019. 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 stated that in February there had been the first increase in the month end number of LAC since October. The post-Christmas period often saw a spike in referrals resulting in CiN, CP and an eventual rise in LAC numbers together with children being less likely to be adopted or achieve permanent over the Christmas period.

The second phase of the Right Child Right Care project had begun in January 2019 where 228 children had been identified as potential candidates for discharges from care in 2019. 48 of those would turn 18 and the remaining 180 fell under the identified categories of Adoption, Aged 14-16 years, Long Term Matched, placed with Family and Friends or in placement for more than 18 months. Other children at baseline fell under the categories but, when assessed, not deemed appropriate for

them at the current time. 10 children had also been identified for participation in the Lifelong Links programme with the aim of improving outcomes for those children who did not have a plan to live with their family or secure permanence through adoption by helping them to make lifelong links with people who were important to them.

The report also drew attention to:-

- 26 children admitted to care and only 6 ceased to be Looked After giving a total of 645 LAC at the end of the month. The rate of LAC per 10,000 population was 113.3% from a high of 114.8% in August. However, Rotherham was still exceptionally high in comparison to statistical neighbours
- The percentage of children who ceased to be Looked After due to permanence remained at 29% for the financial year an increase on the previous 2 years of 27.9% (2016/17) and 27.3% (2017/18)
- The percentage distribution by legal status remained consistent with 52% of children subject to full Care Orders, 30% on an Interim Care Order, 11% on Placement Orders with Care Order and 5% under Section 20
- The proportion of LAC with an up-to-date care plan was 87% compared with 89.5% at the same point in 2017/18 with a slightly lower number of LAC (628) Care Plans would be the area of focussed activity for March in order to further improve performance
- 93.9% Statutory Reviews within timescale
- 97.4% statutory visits
- 62.5% of LAC of LAC were in long term stable placements
- 13.4% of the LAC had experienced 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months. This was a slight improvement since the start of the year (14.4%) but a slight performance decrease since the summer (12.1%)
- 82.9% of LAC placed in family based settings including internal fostering, independent fostering, pre-adoption placements and those placed with parent/family/friends
- All Initial Health Assessments undertaken during February were completed in time
- 84.3% of LAC had an up-to-date assessment as at the end of February. This was a decline in performance compared to previous months but slightly higher than the 2017/18 year end figure of 83.7%

- Dental assessment had been a key focus in performance activity and had seen 91.9% of LAC with an up-to-date Dental Assessment
- 97% of LAC had a PEP meeting during the 2018-19 Autumn term
- At the end of February, 94.6% eligible LAC population had a PEP
- There had been a realignment of the performance reporting for the Care Leavers cohort to reflect the requirements of legislation. Performance would now be reported on the wider cohort of young people identified as care leavers. This gave a cohort of 300 care leavers at the end of February, a significant increase from 239 at the end of November
- 83.9% of Care Leavers had a Pathway Plan with 82.9% having an up-to-date Plan. The cases without a Pathway Plan tended to be young people aged 16 the majority of which would have an in-date care plan and would be addressed by transitioning young people to a Pathway Plan on Liquid Logic
- 97.3% of care leavers living in suitable accommodation
- The number of care leavers who were in Education, Employment or Training had slightly improved to 65% and placed Rotherham in the top quartile
- 67.6% of LAC were in foster placements
- 148 inhouse fostering households. However, despite approving a new household in February, there had been 2 de-registrations in January and one in February
- 10 new foster families approved with a further 13 assessments ongoing
- 31 children had been adopted, an increase on the 27 achieved for the whole of 2017-18 with a third completing the process within 12 months of the children receiving their formal decision that they should be adopted
- The average for the children adopted this year had been 212.5; the national average was 220 days
- 22 families successfully approved this year, a significant increase on the 14 approved in 2017-18
- Average caseloads for LAC teams 1-3 had continued to increase throughout the year and was at a high of 19.2. Teams 4 and 5 had

increased to an average of 16.5 cases

- There had been some long term sickness which was being covered by colleagues in Team 4 for the foreseeable future

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised/highlighted:-

- Evidence that a themed focus for a month had a marked impact upon performance - the focus on dental assessments during the month of February had seen a drastic improvement
- 13 Initial Health Assessments had been completed within timescale
- The Consultant Paediatrician had agreed to offer more after-school health assessments and also offer a significant number of community-based assessments
- Commitment to extend the lifework beyond those in the adoption pathway. Every Social Worker had a best practice model to work to and needed to make sure they have the capacity and skills to implement it

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

#### **67. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN UPDATE APRIL 2019**

Adorabella, Angelina, Brogan Jordan, Kaylen and Zusanne, supported by Lisa Duvalle, gave a powerpoint presentation on the work of the LAC Council which highlighted:-

- Hosted a Child Friendly Rotherham Workshop
- Total Respect Training  
All the professional places for the training had been filled for April
- Sharing our Good Practice  
The 'Previous Things' DVD had been shown at the Sheffield Film Festival in February
- Fundraising – Tesco Food Trolley fortnightly
- Caring Language Campaign – Challenging Care System Jargon  
The LAC, together with 13 other local authorities, were conducting research around the language used within Social Care. It aimed:-  
To raise awareness of Rotherham LAC Council's recommendations for changes in 'Care Language'  
To change the current use of Care Language by professionals in Rotherham  
To stop teachers and other professionals from exposing students' care status to peers or other parents

- Free Leisure Pass Campaign  
The pass would give Looked After Children and care leavers aged 13-21/24 the opportunity to engage in free leisure activities across the Borough. A number of other authorised had agreed to this but none in South Yorkshire
- Treasurer Election  
Brogan had been elected Treasurer  
Adorabella had been elected Vice-Treasurer
- Lil'LAC Club Activities  
Tina Hohn (Virtual School) and Sharon Kemp (Chief Executive, RMBC) had recently visited and engaged in activities

Discussion ensued with the following issues raised:-

- Public Health should be involved in the Free Leisure Pass Campaign due to the health and mental health benefits
- The young people felt that a meeting should not be called a "LAC Review" but "Paul's Review" etc.
- Lynda Briggs was to meet with the LAC Council on 1<sup>st</sup> May from a Health perspective. She would have the assessment paperwork for the young people to review the language contained within it

It was noted that the Improving Lives Select Commission was currently undertaking a review of Rothercard where the issue of free leisure passes had been raised not only for LAC but also foster carers or birth children within that family.

Representatives of the Virtual School acknowledged that it needed to address caring language and ensure that schools and professionals used the appropriate language. They would take the issue up with Head Teachers and convey the difficulties and impact of using the wrong language.

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

(2) That the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment be invited to a future Panel meeting to discuss the Free Leisure Pass Campaign.

**68. DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS: -**

Resolved:- That meetings take place during 2019/20 as follows:-

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2019  
15<sup>th</sup> October  
17<sup>th</sup> December

4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

31<sup>st</sup> March

all commencing at 3.30 p.m.

## Summary Sheet

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting** Corporate Parenting Panel

**Report Title** Extensions and Adaptations to Homes of Foster Carers, Special Guardian and Adopters – (revised policy)

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

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report** Jon Stonehouse

**Report Author(s)** Ian Walker, Head of Service

**Ward(s) Affected** All

**Summary** This policy was initially agreed by Cabinet in 2012. There was an extension to the policy in May 2015 when it was agreed that the Council would borrow c£550k over each of the three subsequent years; a total of £1.65m. A number of carers have received this financial support over the course of the past three years and the budget is now almost exhausted. There is evidence that this policy can add benefit to the Council in terms of creating additional foster placements or supporting a child to be discharged from care where otherwise sufficient bedroom space or other adaptations would be a prohibitive factor. However, over the course of the past three years there has also been some evidence of 'mission creep' in that not all of the financial support provided seems to fulfil the criteria of the policy as was initially intended. As a result, this redraft of the policy is designed to ensure that it better meets the requirements of the demand management strategy currently being implemented within CYPS.

**Recommendations** To note:-

DLT is recommended to note the contents of this report and to endorse the changes in the policy that are designed to better support the demand management strategy.

DLT is also recommended to endorse the proposal to make the necessary financial arrangements to extend the policy for a further 4 years. Throughout this period it is intended to establish a more forensic analysis of the impact of the policy on the numbers of looked after children and on the placements budget.

**List of Appendices Included** None



**Background Papers** None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**  
None

**Council Approval Required** Yes

**Exempt from the Press and Public** No

## **Extensions and Adaptations to Homes of Foster Carers, Special Guardian and Adopters – (revised policy)**

### **1. Recommendations**

1.1 DLT is recommended to note the contents of this report and to endorse the changes in the policy that are designed to better support the demand management strategy.

1.2 DLT is also recommended to endorse the proposal to make the necessary financial arrangements to extend the policy for a further 4 years. Throughout this period it is intended to establish a more forensic analysis of the impact of the policy on the numbers of looked after children and on the placements budget.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The original policy was approved by Cabinet in 2012 and was extended in May 2012 when it was agreed to:-

- Approve further borrowing of funding of approximately £550k for each of the next 3 years, £1.65m in total, to continue to provide home extensions and adaptations to the homes of foster carers and adopters in line with the scheme originally approved by Cabinet in April 2012.
- Approve the use of funds borrowed in line with this scheme to part fund home purchases for foster carers and adopters where to do so would be more cost effective for the Council in meeting the needs of children than extending or adapting an existing home.

2.2 It would appear that, over time, the implementation of this policy has extended beyond the initial remit and that as a result the financial benefit to the Council and the emotional benefit to the young people involved is not always clear. In addition social workers within CYPS do not seem to be totally clear of the terms of the policy and as a result have made some unrealistic commitments to carers. This redraft will tighten up the terms in which such a financial commitment will be made by the Council and, once launched, will ensure that social workers will have a clearer concept of the circumstances in which such financial support will be offered.

### **3. Key Issues**

#### **Determining Criteria**

3.1 This policy sets out the criteria adopted by the Local Authority to provide funding to Local Authority foster carers and adopters to extend their home, or to part fund new home purchases, where it is necessary to do so to meet the needs of looked after children. This policy will also be applicable to people within the family and friends network of the child who would offer care to that child to either prevent the child from becoming looked after or to support a child ceasing to be looked after but for the lack of available bedroom space. The policy is therefore not designed simply to enhance the lifestyle of either the carers or of the looked after child other than in the case of children with a disability when the funding may be used to address the challenges they may encounter due to their disability. In addition, it is increasingly apparent that there a number of legacy issues whereby previous senior managers have made commitments to families that would not fit in with this more restrictive

eligibility criteria. Each of these cases will be decided on their merits but DLT need to be aware that there is a significant risk of the formal Complaints Process or even legal challenge being invoked should these applications be refused.

3.2 The policy covers all requests for home extensions and adaptations from Rotherham Local Authority foster carers, adopters and prospective Special Guardians. The policy also covers all such requests from foster carers, adopters and Special Guardians registered with other local authorities, and independent or voluntary agencies where the foster carers or adopters are caring for or considering caring for Rotherham looked after children *on a permanent basis* i.e. where the extension/adaptation would support the discharge of a child from care.

3.3 This revised policy is designed to support the Local Authority in meeting its legal duty to provide sufficient accommodation for looked after children. There is also a requirement for the Local Authority to ensure that looked after children are placed in foster, special guardianship or adoptive homes with their siblings, unless a Together or Apart Assessment has been completed that concludes it is not in the best interests of one or all siblings not to do so.

3.4 The policy is designed to be intrinsically linked with the principles of the Demand Management Strategy and Placement Sufficiency Strategy by either increasing the number of placements available or by reducing the numbers of looked after children. It will therefore only be applicable where the funding provided will be used to provide the additional bedroom space that will:-

- Support a looked after child (LAC) to remain/move to an in-house placement as opposed to being placed with an external Out of Authority residential placement/IFA.
- Support extended family members/family friends to care for a child via an SGO/CAO where that child would otherwise become/remain LAC.
- Support extended family members/family friends to assume parenting responsibilities via SGO/CAO of a child who is currently LAC thus supporting them to be discharged from care. (For the purposes of this report all adults securing SGO/CAOs will be referred to as being 'Special Guardians').
- Support existing foster carers to increase their bedroom capacity to enable them to offer additional placement(s). This may include prospective carers in the process of being approved although no financial commitment will be made until their status as foster carers is approved by Panel.
- Support adoptive parents to adopt a child where the match identified is the most appropriate one but where that match could not be progressed due to a lack of bedroom space. This scenario is likely to occur but will not be limited to situations where a child is already adopted and their birth-parent subsequently has another child who also has a plan for adoption but where the adoptive parents would otherwise have insufficient bedroom space to adopt the further child.
- Support existing or prospective foster carers or Short Breaks carers to provide accessible and suitable accommodation for children who are wheelchair users/need stair-lift etc where they would be unable to provide that care without that adaptation *and where all other funding sources have been exhausted*.
- Provide DLT with the requisite confidence that the proposed funding application will be of benefit to the strategic objectives of CYPS.

3.5 This policy, which allows for funding to be provided to enable foster carers, special guardians and adopters to increase their bedroom capacity, or in some circumstances to obtain an alternative larger home, is designed to increase the Local Authority's capacity to accommodate looked after children locally. In particular it should provide for additional capacity to secure permanence for sibling groups with foster carers and adopters. Alternatively the policy can be implemented to support a child to be discharged from care via a plan for permanence where bedroom space would otherwise be a prohibitive factor.

3.6 Ordinarily the need for additional space is limited to bedroom capacity and as a result the local authority would seek only to fund a one storey extension because, as has already been stated, this funding is not designed to enhance the lifestyle of the carers. As a result carers will have the choice as to whether to fund the additional storey themselves or to review the existing functions of the rooms in their house with the provision of an additional room funded through this policy.

3.7 Consideration of the provision of funding for home extensions/adaptations and part funding of new home purchases for foster carers and adopters will be given in the following circumstances:

- Where siblings are placed in a foster placement and the best plan for them, as endorsed via a statutory looked after children review, is to remain placed together in that placement, and where such a permanence plan cannot be implemented without the provision of an extension or alternative home due to an inadequate number of bedrooms.
- Where the best plan for a child, as endorsed via a statutory looked after children review, is to move to be fostered permanently by the foster carer of a sibling of his or hers, but where this plan cannot be implemented without the provision of an extension or alternative home due to inadequate bedroom space
- Where an existing foster carer has opted to continue to offer a home to a previously fostered child under the Staying Put arrangements but in doing so no longer has bedroom space to offer the foster placement which they are approved for and the carer would be enabled by the provision of additional bedroom space to offer further foster placements to adolescents who might otherwise be placed in Fostering Plus placements or independent sector provision.
- Where the best plan for a child, as endorsed via a statutory looked after children review, is to be placed for adoption with a sibling of theirs but this plan cannot be implemented without the provision of an extension or alternative home due to inadequate bedroom space.
- Where a home extension or adaptation or alternative home is essential to provide a permanence placement (SGO/CAO) to divert or discharge a child from being looked after and where this plan cannot be implemented in full due to a lack of bedroom space.
- Where, at the point of a child being admitted to care, an extended family member/family friend presents to assume the care of that child and where

they would be otherwise appropriate to do so but for the lack of bedroom space being prohibitive ie as a direct alternative to that child becoming LAC.

- Where situations fall outside of the criteria set out above but where it is thought the proposal may be appropriate, the social worker should discuss the situation with the Head of Service for LAC prior to progressing the full approval process via DLT.

3.8 Ordinarily the Pathways to Care will not be utilised for the purchase of additional equipment including bedroom furniture or larger cars. If the social work team assess that such additional support is required to support the placement then this funding should be secured via the SGO/CAO/Adoption Support Plan which will then require Head of Service approval.

### **Approval process**

3.8 Social Workers should make no commitment to any person who may possibly be eligible to financial support under this Policy prior to DLT approval having been formally provided.

3.9 The proposed carer should be advised not to initiate any building work until the funding for the extension work is approved. Furthermore, it should be made clear to them that the local authority will not accept liability for any work commenced or costs incurred prior to full approval, in writing, being given.

3.10 The allocated social worker for the child should establish that an adaptation/extension or assistance towards buying a suitable property is required, with all other options having been exhausted. This should be agreed in discussions between the child's social worker, their team manager and/or the service manager for the case holding team and the Head of Service for LAC. A management decision record should then be placed on the child's casefile outlining the rationale for the decision.

3.11 Alternately the adaptation may be part of the child's Statutory Reviewing process in which case the Review minutes should have a clear record of the rationale for implementing the Pathways to Care process. These minutes should then be shared with the Head of Service for LAC to endorse the proposed access to the Pathways to Care policy.

3.12 In light of any ongoing disagreement the matter should be escalated to the Assistant Director for consideration.

3.13 Once agreed the allocated social worker should liaise with the CYPS Asset Manager (Rob Holsey) regarding the proposed extension. This needs to be in the form of the Pathways to Care Application Form (cf appendix 1). This application will then be considered by a monthly multi-agency group consisting of the Asset Manager, the Head of Service for Looked After Children and Service Manager for Fostering in order to assess whether the proposed work complies with this policy. Once this has been agreed a site visit will then be arranged by the Asset Management Team in order to assess the feasibility of the plan.

3.14 Once it is agreed that the plan is a viable one, the allocated social worker will present a full report to DLT utilising the report template for use with Commissioner and Formal Meetings. A copy of the feasibility study should be incorporated into the report and the report will clearly identify that the cost of the work has been identified as being able to be funded through existing budget. Taking into account the feasibility study DLT will set a budget for the works which will be set against the Pathways to Care budget.

3.15 Following DLT approval being obtained the social worker will then inform the CYPS Asset Manager so that the tendering process and the commissioning of the building work can be initiated.

3.16 However, if the agreed tender is subsequently found to exceed the amount agreed by DLT by more than 20% then the report will have to be re-presented to DLT by the social worker and the Assets Management Team in order to get this additional amount approved.

3.17 From this point the Assets Management team will assume lead responsibility for overseeing the work and verifying that it has been completed to the required standards. They will also be responsible for all financial transactions and oversight of the building project.

3.18 Any projects agreed will be subject to legally binding contracts between the foster carers/adopters/special guardians and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council with a sliding scale of payback should the increased capacity not be delivered or in the event of placement breakdown or carers terminating their registration.

3.19 In the event that the foster carers/adopters, at their instigation, cease to offer the child placement/s for which the funding had been provided within a period of 10 years following the provision of funds the monies will be repayable to the Council at their discretion on the following basis:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year-100% repayable
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year- 90% repayable
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year- 80% repayable
- 4<sup>th</sup> Year – 70% repayable
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year – 60% repayable
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year – 50% repayable
- 7<sup>th</sup> Year – 40% repayable
- 8<sup>th</sup> Year – 30% repayable
- 9<sup>th</sup> year – 20% repayable
- 10<sup>th</sup> year – 10% repayable

3.20 Given that no repayment charge shall be incurred where the young person has reached adulthood and has chosen of their own accord to move out of the family home then the circumstances in which this policy is implemented for older children will have to be carefully considered to ensure there is likely to be some cost benefit to the local authority and some meaningful and tangible benefit to the young person. The main criteria for these recharges being incurred will be where any decision

made by the foster carers (eg to change their approval status or to move house) that reduces their fostering capacity.

3.21 No repayment charge will be incurred where the local authority has intervened to remove the child from the carers/extended property. As a result, it will be essential that the viability assessment of the proposed arrangements is as robust as possible so that there can be the requisite degree of confidence that placement will be a lasting one.

3.22 All foster carers and adopters will be required to access independent legal advice before signing the legal agreement and before funds can be released and provide written evidence that this advice supports the application.

### **Provision of Funding**

3.23 In the case of home extensions or adaptations, where funding is agreed it will not be provided directly to the foster carer/adopter but will be used to pay contractors directly.

3.24 In the case of home extensions and adaptations that any building works are compliant with current planning law and Building Regulations.

3.25 In the case of home extensions or adaptations, funding will be provided on the condition that the works are carried out only by Council approved building contractors following a competitive process.

3.26 In respect of an adaptation to a property outside of the RMBC area builders should be sought either from RMBC approved list or from the resident local authority's approved list where this is available. In out of area cases where we cannot identify suitable firms from the council's approved list, a waiver of contract procedures will be needed to facilitate the use of builders located in the area.

3.27 In the case of home extensions and adaptations and new home purchases, funding will only be provided to cover the costs of the most cost effective way to achieve the required additional living space.

### **Communication and Review**

3.28 This revised policy will be communicated via DLT and the Senior Management Team meeting from where it will be disseminated amongst the CYPS team managers.

3.29 This revised policy will formally reviewed 6 and then 12 months after its launch.

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

- 4.1 DLT could decide not to extend this policy and simply allow it to lapse. However, it could be argued that to do so may only have a negative impact on the Placement Sufficiency Strategy and the Demand Management Strategy both of which would carry significant financial risks.
- 4.2 As a result DLT is recommended to approve this revised policy and for a more accurate record of both expenditure and impact to be maintained to evidence the financial benefits to the Council.

#### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 This report has been written in consultation with colleagues from the Finance Department and the Assets Management Team.

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

- 6.1 Subject to full approval being given then the policy should be in a position to be implemented by the start of the financial year 2019/20.

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

- 7.1 Extensions and adaptations to properties is seen as a method of providing cost effective placements for children and enabling them to continue to reside in the local area. The current capital scheme is fully committed, with a recommendation to council to extend the scheme for a further four financial years at £640k per year, £2.56m in total.

7.2 The current average cost of an in-house fostering placement is £15k. The average cost of an IFA placement is £44k. The annual cost avoidance between the two types of placement would be £29k.

7.3 The average cost of properties improved, or in the process of improving (21), since April 2015 is 77k (ranging from £30k to £200k). This means that the average project would payback in just over 2.5 years (based on avoiding an IFA placement).

7.4 The extension and adaptation of carer accommodation is part of the directorates overall budget strategy to reduce CYPS placement costs.

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

- 8.1 The Local Authority has a duty to provide sufficient accommodation for looked after children as set out in the Children Act 1989. Section 22G of the 1989 Act requires local authorities to take strategic action in respect of those children they look after and for whom it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation within their local authority area. In those circumstances, section 22G requires local authorities, so far as is reasonably



practicable, to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for those children that meets their needs and is within their local authority area.

8.2 The power to provide funding for home extensions and new home purchases in this case is to be found in The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002.

8.3 In addition, agreements of this nature are made in accordance with the provisions of Section 17(6) and Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a general duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families. Where a child is assessed as having certain needs, the local authority should meet those needs through the provision of services to secure the welfare of the child. The range of services that the local authority can provide are not prescribed or limited to any list and essentially local authorities can provide anything which they consider necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area. Under section 17(6) Children Act 1989 the services provided by a local authority in the exercise of function conferred on them by this section may include providing accommodation and giving assistance in kind or in cash.

8.4 s22C(7) Children Act 1989 is clear that a Local Authority should give preference to a placement with an individual who is a relative, friend or other connected person over placement with a foster carer. This policy will allow the Local Authority to comply with this duty if the placement is assessed as appropriate if it were not for the lack of available bedroom space.

8.5 ss22C(8) Children Act 1989 provides that a Local Authority must ensure that a child's placement allows the child to live near their home and enables siblings to reside together. This policy will allow the Local Authority to comply with this duty if the placement is assessed as appropriate if it were not for the lack of available bedroom space.

8.6 The power to provide funding for home extensions and new home purchases in this case is to be found in The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002.

## **9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 There are no anticipated Human Resources issues arising from this revised policy.

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

10.1 The effective implementation of this policy will have a positive implication for looked after children as it will either enable them to be placed with their siblings, be placed closer to their home or to be discharged from care to their permanent family.

**11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 As a result of the increased capacity provided to place children closer to home, with siblings or to be discharged from care this policy will fully support their human rights and, in the case of children with a disability, enhance their right to equality of care

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

12.1 There will be some financial risk to the wider Rotherham MBC as a result of the anticipated financial commitment. However, more effective management oversight should minimise these risks and, by virtue of reducing reliance on more costly privately provided placements this policy may prove to be cost effective.

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 The main risk would appear to be that placements are not sustained for an appropriate period of time subsequent to the extension/adaptation being completed. However, this risk has been mitigated by extending the pay-back period from 5 to 7 years.

**14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Ian Walker, Head of Service, Looked After Children

Approvals Obtained from:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Neil Hardwick	
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Rebecca Pyle	10/1/19
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)	N/a	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Amy Leech	10/1/19

Ian Walker, Head of Service.

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

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

## **Council Report**

Corporate Parenting Performance

### **Title**

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

**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)**

Cathryn Woodward (Performance and Data Officer – 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 (LAC) 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 Monthly Performance Report – April 2019

### **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 – April 2019

## 1. Recommendations

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

## 2. Background

- 2.1 This report provides evidence to the council's commitment to improvement and providing performance information to enable scrutiny of the improvements and the impact on the outcomes for children and young people in care. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 2.2 Targets, including associated 'RAG' (red, amber, green rating) tolerances, are included. These have been set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, recent performance levels and, importantly, Rotherham's improvement journey.
- 2.4 Please note that all benchmarking data is as at the latest data release by the DfE and relates to 2017/18 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 April appeared to bring the first fruits of Right Child Right Care (phase 2) with 29 discharges from care achieved over the month and only 16 admissions giving a net reduction of 13 children in total and an overall number of 627 by the end of the month, the equal lowest figure for the previous year. These discharges from care meant that all of those planned were achieved within April suggesting some growing confidence within the Family Court regarding RMBC's permanence planning. As a result, 13 children have been discharged via permanence (SGO's) over the course of 2019 thus far which is not far short of half of the total figure achieved in 2018/19.

### 3.2 Looked After Children Profile

- 3.2.1 In February, we had 16 children admitted to care and 29 children ceased to be looked after. This gave us a total of 627 LAC at the end of the month.

- 3.2.2 The rate of LAC per 10k population reduced slightly to 110.1%. However, we remain exceptionally high in comparison to our statistical neighbours at 87.8%.
- 3.2.3 The percentage of our children who ceased to be looked after due to permanence begins this new financial year at 27.6%. For comparison, our previous 2 years were 31.7% for 2018-19 and 27.3% for 17/18. Permanence includes SGO, Residence Order and Adoption.
- 3.2.4 Table 1 provides a breakdown of the LAC population 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 difference being the lower proportion aged over sixteen (18% compared to 23%).

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

Age Band	Number	% of total	Latest National comparative data (Mar-18)
Under 1	46	7%	6%
1 – 4	93	15%	13%
5 - 9	129	21%	19%
10 - 15	248	40%	39%
16+	111	18%	23%
Total	627		

- 3.2.5 The average age of children admitted to care remains at 6. This is of relevance because CYPS performance data evidences that the younger a child comes into care the shorter the time they spend in care, the greater the chance of them moving to permanence and the less expensive their placement costs.
- 3.2.6 The percentage distribution by legal status remains a consistent picture with 55% of children subject to full care orders, 28% on an Interim Care Order, 11% are on Placement Orders and 5% under Section 20. We have 1% (4 children) who are Accommodated with breaks.

### 3.3 LAC Plans

- 3.3.1 Our target for up to date care plans is 95%. As reported at the last Corporate Parenting, we had a focus on care plans in March to drive up performance from a low of 83.9% in January. At the end of April we had 94.7% of children with an up to date care plan. Despite the improvement in performance for Care Plans there is still work to do in getting social workers to translate this detailed knowledge of their children into similarly detailed Care Plans and this is going to be an area of focus in June's LAC Service Development Day.

### 3.4 Reviews

3.4.1 There has been a slight increase in performance regarding Statutory Reviews throughout the beginning of 2019 which has arrested a declining performance. At the end of April we had 93.4% of cases reviewed within timescale.

### 3.5 Visits

3.5.1 Statutory visits has declined slightly to 95.5% at the end of April compared to 97.8% in February. Whilst performance has dipped, it remains in the mid-90s and are therefore not yet an area of significant concern.

### 3.6 Placements

3.6.1 As is evidenced by research the best indicator of a positive outcome for looked after children is the extent to which they have been supported to remain living in the same placement or with as few placement disruptions as possible. Placement stability is most likely to be achieved by good matching processes; high levels of support provided to foster carers; and strong relationships being developed by social workers with their young people to ensure they are best placed to address any issues as and when they arise.

3.6.2 Long-term placement stability has remained very consistent despite the increasing number of LAC discharging from care via an SGO. At the end of April we had 62.3% of children in long term placements for at least 2 years.

3.6.3 Reassuringly, the number of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves has reduced to 12.5%, with the actual number of children affected reducing from 91 to 78.

3.6.4 The percentage of children placed in a commissioned placement has increased slightly by 1.3% but the actual numbers of children involved has remained the same. As a result the % of LAC in family based settings has decreased slightly by 0.7% to 81.5% at the end of April. Family based includes internal fostering, independent fostering, pre-adoption placements and those placed with parent/family/friends.

### 3.7 Health and Dental

3.7.1 The yearend figure for 2018/19 initial health assessments undertaken within 20 working days of entering care was 51.7%. During April, 72.2% of initial health assessments were undertaken in time.

3.7.2 Overall, 80.8% of LAC had an up to date health assessment as at the end of April (note: this figure was re-run 17/06/2019 for the purpose of this report to take in to account delayed inputting). This is a decline in performance compared to previous months.

3.7.3 Dental assessments also declined in performance in April to 82.6% of LAC with an up to date dental assessment.

### 3.8 LAC Education

3.8.1 The expanded educational performance report has now been completed with measures in absence rates, exclusions and less than 25 hour entitlements now included. It is planned that the Virtual School Governing Body will discuss and agree performance targets at its next meeting.

3.8.2 Rotherham has a local standard to ensure that each Personal Education Plan (PEP) is of good quality and refreshed every term (rather than the annual minimum standard).

3.8.3 At the end of April, 95.9% of eligible LAC population had a Personal Education Plan and 96.7% of LAC had a PEP meeting during the spring term 2018-19.

3.8.4 At the end of April, 16.6% of LAC were classed as persistent absentees (more than 10% of sessions missing). This is above the statistical neighbour figure of 10%.

3.8.5 Of the children who have been in care for 12 months or more, 10.4% had at least one fixed term exclusion as at the end of April. For this measure, we sit below the statistical neighbour average of 13.7%.

3.8.6 At the end of April, we had 3.5% of children receiving less than their 25 hour statutory entitlement and 3.7% of children on reduced timetable arrangements.

### 3.9 Care Leavers

3.9.1 There was a realignment of the performance reporting in December of the Care Leavers cohort to reflect the requirements of legislation. Therefore RMBC is now reporting performance on the wider cohort of young people identified as care leavers than we did in the past. This gives us a cohort of 303 Care Leavers at the end of April.

3.9.2 The performance of this larger cohort remains consistent with 85.3% of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan and 77.6% with an up to date Pathway Plan. The cases without a Pathway Plan tend to be young people aged 16. The majority of these young people will



have an in date care plan and it will be addressed by transitioning young people to a pathway plan on Liquid Logic.

3.9.3 We continue to perform higher than the statistical neighbour average of 88.3% of care leavers in suitable accommodation with 96% of our care leavers living in suitable accommodation.

3.9.4 In April we had a reduction of the number of care leavers who are in Education, Employment or training to 60.1%. This is still above statistical neighbour averages of 56%, but will be investigated further.

## 3.10 Fostering

3.10.1 At the end of April we had 66% of our LAC in fostering placements (both in house and IFA households). This figure excludes relative and friend placements.

3.10.2 During April, we recruited 4 households and deregistered 2. This is a net increase of 2 households for the year to date, giving us a total of 150 in house fostering households.

3.10.3 Overall there are 14 approvals already projected for 2019/20. There are 7 active assessments currently on-going with 2 more on hold, and 3 IFA carers considering a potential move to RMBC.

3.10.4 The Foster Carer Diversity Scheme has thus far led to 4 new foster families being allocated for assessment and a further 3 viability visits looking positive for progression to the full assessment.

## 3.11 Adoptions

3.11.1 Rotherham's policy is to persevere in seeking adoptive placements for 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.

3.11.2 For the year 2018-19 we achieved permanence through adoption for 32 children. This was an increase on the 27 we achieved in the previous year.

3.11.3 A third of the children adopted complete the process within 12 months of the children receiving their formal decisions that they should be adopted. 72% (23 children) of all children adopted were in the 'hard to place' categories which reflects some of the delays in finding permanence.

3.11.4 The national target for the number of days between a child entering care and having an adoption placement is 426 days. The average for our 32 adoptions was 386.9 days and well within the target.

3.11.5 The national target for the number of days between a child receiving a placement order and being matched to an adoptive family is 121 days. The average for the children adopted in 2018/19 was 212.4. However, note that the national average for last year was 220 days.

3.11.6 Looking forward to 2019-20, we have had 1 adoption in April and a further 36 children already placed with their prospective adoptive families.

3.11.7 For adopter recruitment, we successfully approved 22 families 2018-19, a significant increase on the 14 approved in the previous year.

3.11.8 Looking forward in to 2019-20, we have 14 prospective adopters already at stage 1 of the recruitment process and 3 in stage 2.

### 3.12 Caseloads

3.12.1 LAC average caseloads have reduced for the first time in many months from 19.4 to 18.8 in the long-term teams and from 15.3 to 14.4 in the Court and Permanence Teams, largely as a direct consequence of the success of the Demand Management Strategy. However, workloads still remain high due to the continuing demands of supervising contact and out of authority visits.

## 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)**

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# Corporate Parenting Monthly Performance Report

## As at Month End: April 2019

**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:** 21/05/19

**Created by:** Performance & Quality Team

# Performance Summary

As at Month End: April 2019

\*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)	2018 / 19			2019 / 20		DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND					LATEST BENCHMARKING			
				Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-19	YTD 2018/19	DATA NOTE			Red	Amber	Target Green	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QNTILE THRESHOL
6.1	Number of Looked After Children	Info	Count	646	642	<b>627</b>	-	As at mth end	↓			n/a	407	432	488	627	642					
6.2	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Rate per 10,000	113.4	112.7	<b>110.1</b>	-	As at mth end	↑			99.1	70	76.6	86.6	110.8	112.7	87.8	62.0	64.0	-	
6.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Info	Count	30	14	<b>16</b>	16	Financial Year	↑			n/a	175	208	262	330	271					
6.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	11	16	<b>29</b>	29	Financial Year	↑			n/a	160	192	215	194	249					
6.5	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Adoption)	High	Percentage	54.5%	31.3%	<b>27.6%</b>	27.6%	Financial Year	↓		<33%	33%>	35%+	37.5%	40.1%	27.9%	27.3%	31.7%				
6.6	Number of SGOs started (Legal Status)	High	Count	2	4	<b>2</b>	2	Financial Year	↓				-	-	-	67	33					
6.7	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order	High	Percentage	11.1%	25.0%	<b>6.9%</b>	6.9%	Financial Year	↓				-	-	9.8%	8.2%	13.3%	12.3% (2017)	22.0% (2017)	12.0% (2017)	17.0% (2017)	
6.8	LAC cases reviewed within timescales	High	Percentage	93.7%	91.2%	<b>93.4%</b>	93.4%	Financial Year	↑		<90%	90%>	95%+	94.9%	83.3%	91.3%	90.6%	88.5%				
6.9	% of children adopted	High	Percentage	0.0%	0.0%	<b>3.4%</b>	3.4%	Financial Year	↑	YTD	<20%	20%>	22.7%+	26.3%	22.4%	14.4%	13.9%	12.9%	19.2%	32.0%	13.0%	19.0%
6.10	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments	High	Percentage	87.4%	84.8%	<b>76.3%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<90%	90%>	95%+	81.4%	92.8%	89.5%	83.7%	84.8%				
6.11	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	High	Percentage	90.7%	88.2%	<b>82.6%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<90%	90%>	95%+	58.8%	95.0%	57.3%	72.5%	88.2%				
6.12	Health of Looked After Children - Initial Health Assessments carried out within 20 working days	High	Percentage	100.0%	54.5%	<b>72.2%</b>	72.2%	Financial Year	↑				20.0%	8.4%	18.2%	55.7%	51.7%					
6.13	% of LAC with a PEP	High	Percentage	96.0%	97.2%	<b>95.9%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<90%	90%>	95%+	76.0%	97.8%	97.0%	93.6%	96.2%				
6.14	% of LAC with up to date PEPs (Report Termly - End Jul, Dec, Mar)	High	Percentage	-	96.7%	-	-	As at term end	n/a		<90%	90%>	95%+	-	-	98.9%	97.4%	Aug 19				
NEW	LAC Overall absence - % of sessions lost due to absence	Low	Percentage	-	6.5%	<b>6.2%</b>	-	As at mth end	new				5.0%	4.1%	5.7%	4.7%	Aug 19	4.7%	3.5%	4.5%	3.8%	
NEW	% of LAC who are classed as persistent absentees	Low	Percentage	-	14.2%	<b>16.6%</b>	-	As at mth end	new				11.7%	12.2%	13.3%	11.7%	Aug 19	10.0%	7.1%	10.6%	8.8%	
NEW	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	Low	Percentage	-	10.1%	<b>10.4%</b>	-	As at mth end	new				11.8%	13.1%	15.5%	TBC	Aug 19	13.7%	9.0%	11.8%	9.6%	
NEW	% of LAC receiving less than the 25 hour statutory entitlement	Low	Percentage	-	-	<b>3.5%</b>	-	As at mth end	new				-	-	-	-	-					
NEW	% of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements	Low	Percentage	-	-	<b>3.7%</b>	-	As at mth end	new				-	-	-	-	-					
6.20	% of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	High	Percentage	87.0%	98.0%	<b>94.7%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<93%	93%>	95%+	98.8%	98.4%	79.1%	89.5%	98.0%				
6.21	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of National Minimum standard	High	Percentage	97.8%	96.4%	<b>95.5%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<95%	95%>	98%+	95.2%	98.1%	74.0%	97.5%	96.4%				
7.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	297	299	<b>303</b>	-	As at mth end	↑			n/a	183	197	223	256	299					
7.2	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan	High	Percentage	85.3%	85.4%	<b>85.3%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<93%	93%>	95%+	-	69.8%	99.3%	93.9%	85.4%				
7.3	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan	High	Percentage	78.5%	80.0%	<b>77.6%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓				-	-	-	70.3%	80.0%					
7.4	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	96.6%	96.3%	<b>96.0%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<95%	95%>	98%+	97.8%	96.5%	97.8%	96.1%	96.3%	88.3%	94.0%	84.0%	91.0%
7.5	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	High	Percentage	65.7%	64.2%	<b>60.1%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<70%	70%>	72%+	71.0%	68.0%	62.9%	64.1%	64.2%	56.0%	73.0%	51.0%	59.0%
8.1	% of long term LAC in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years	High	Percentage	62.2%	62.6%	<b>62.3%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓		<68%	68%>	70%+	71.9%	72.7%	66.2%	61.2%	62.6%	67.6%	78.0%	70.0%	74.0%
8.2	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Percentage	14.0%	13.2%	<b>12.5%</b>	-	Rolling Year	↑		13%+	13%<	10.8%<	12.0%	13.0%	11.9%	13.4%	12.7%	10.6%	8.0%	10.0%	8.9%
8.3	% of LAC in a family based setting (Council Plan Indicator)	High	Percentage	82.8%	82.2%	<b>81.5%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓				85%>	-	-	81.1%	81.0%	82.2%				
8.4	% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	Low	Percentage	8.2%	6.9%	<b>6.5%</b>	-	As at mth end	↑				-	-	5.3%	4.3%	6.9%					
8.5	% of LAC in a Commissioned Placement	Low	Percentage	51.2%	52.3%	<b>53.6%</b>	-	As at mth end	↓				-	43.6%	43.2%	50.5%	52.3%					

\*'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)	2018 / 19		2019 / 20		DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND					LATEST BENCHMARKING					
				Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-19	YTD 2018/19			DATA NOTE	Red	Amber	Target Green	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOL	
FOSTERING	9.1	Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Count	436	427	414	-	As at mth end	↓				-	-	353	414	427					
	9.2	% of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Percentage	67.5%	66.5%	66.0%	-	As at mth end	↓				-	-	72.3%	66.0%	66.4%					
	9.3	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	High	Count	149	149	150	-	As at mth end	↑				-	156	161	154	149					
	9.4	Number of Foster Carers Recruited	High	Count	1	1	4	4	Financial Year	↑				-	13	32	16	11					
	9.5	Number of Foster Carers Deregistered	Info	Count	1	1	2	2	Financial Year	↑				-	16	22	25	21					
ADOPTIONS	10.1	Number of adoptions	High	Count	3	0	1	1	Financial Year	↑				-	43	31	27	32					
	10.2	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Count	1	0	0	0	Financial Year	→				-	23	12	16	11					
	10.3	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	33.3%	-	0.0%	0.0%	Financial Year	n/a	Red	<83%	83%>	85%+	37.0%	53.5%	38.7%	59.3%	34.4%				
	10.4	Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A1)	Low	YTD Average	385.3	386.9	372.8	-	Financial Year	↑	Green	511+	511<	487<	393.0	296.0	404.0	325.3	386.9	479.7	362.0	520.0	455.0
	10.5	Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)	Low	YTD Average	212.5	212.4	162.8	-	Financial Year	↑	Red	127+	127<	121<	169	136	232.9	124.8	212.4	205.6	89.0	220.0	171.8
CASELOAD S	11.4	Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC	Low	Average count	23	23	23	-	As at mth end	→	Red	21+	20<	18<	-	19.2	17.0	18.0	23.0				
	11.5	Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 1-3	Within Limits	Average count	19.2	19.4	18.8	-	As at mth end	↓	Green	1+ above range	1 above range	14-20	-	-	-	12.6	19.4				
		Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 4 - 5	Within Limits	Average count	16.5	15.3	14.4	-	As at mth end	↓	Green	1+ above range	1 above range	14-20	0	-	-	11.8	15.3				

# 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**

April appeared to bring the first fruits of Right Child Right Care (phase 2) with 29 discharges from care achieved over the month and only 16 admissions giving a net reduction of 13 children in total and an overall number of 627 by the end of the month, the equal lowest figure for the previous year. These discharges from care meant that all of those planned were achieved within April suggesting some growing confidence within the Family Court regarding RMBC's permanence planning. As a result, 13 children have been discharged via permanence (SGO's) over the course of 2019 thus far which is not far short of half of the total figure achieved in 2018/19.

Whilst May looks like it may bring a further slight increase the trend continues to be a downward one with reductions achieved in 6 of the last 8 months and 27 discharges already planned for June. Further to that the average age of children admitted to care has reduced further to 6.3 years down from 7.8 last month and 8.2 the previous month.

**Data Note:** An issue has arisen within the Liquid Logic system which is impacting on the reporting LAC children. For some children who have left care and have had previous care episodes, the same 'end date' is copying into the previous episodes within the system. This has been reported, however, until this is rectified we will be unable to accurately report on measures regarding children ceasing care.

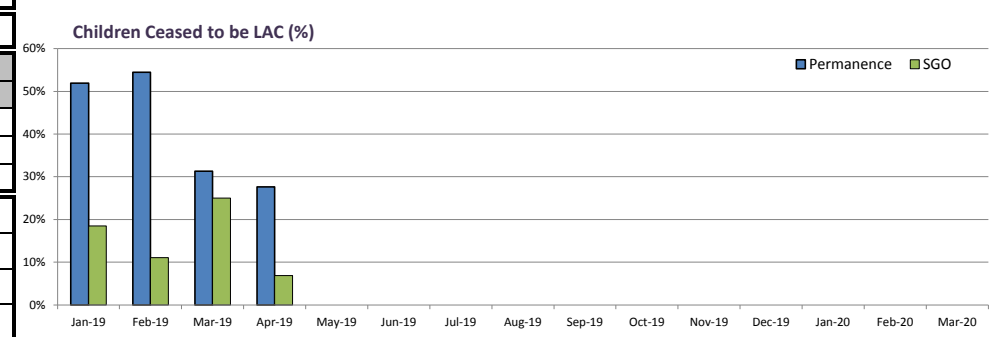
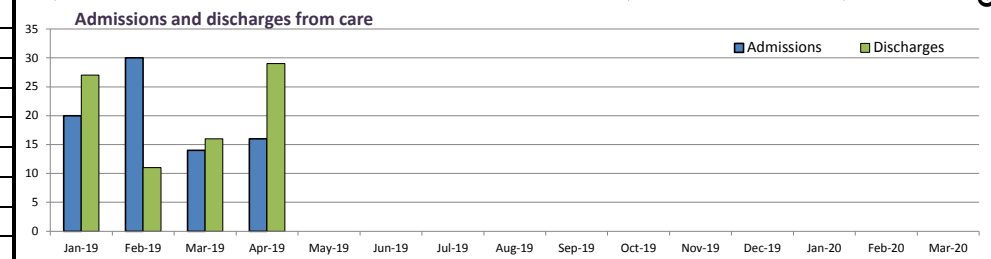
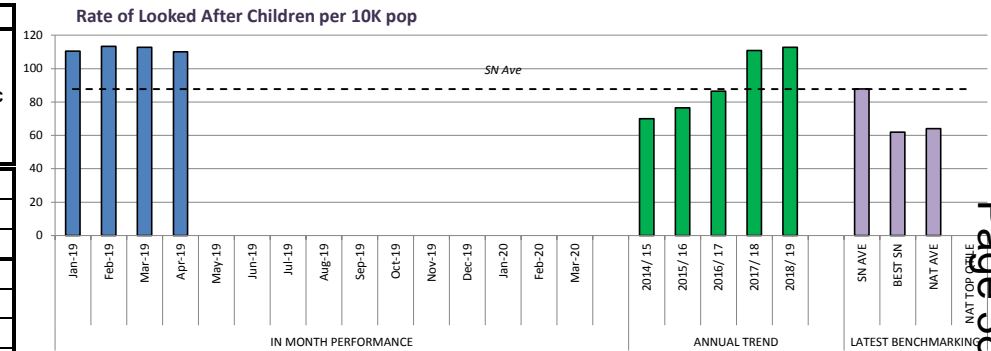
	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7
	Rate of children looked after per 10K pop	Number of LAC	Admissions of children looked after (Episodes)	No. of children who have ceased to be LAC (Episodes)	% of children ceased to be LAC due to permanence	Number of SGO's started (Legal Status)	% of children ceased to be LAC due to an SGO

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-19	110.5	629	20	27	51.9%	5	18.5%
	Feb-19	113.4	646	30	11	54.5%	2	11.1%
	Mar-19	112.7	642	14	16	31.3%	4	25.0%
	Apr-19	110.1	627	16	29	27.6%	2	6.9%
	May-19							
	Jun-19							
	Jul-19							
	Aug-19							
	Sep-19							
	Oct-19							
	Nov-19							
	Dec-19							
	Jan-20							
	Feb-20							
Mar-20								

YTD	2019/20	-	-	16	29	27.6%	2	6.9%
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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	110.8	627	330	194	27.3%	67	8.2%
	2018/ 19	112.7	642	271	249	31.7%	33	13.3%

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	87.8						12.3% (2017)
	BEST SN	62.0						22.0% (2017)
	NAT AVE	64.0						12.0% (2017)
	NAT TOP QTILE	-						17.0% (2017)





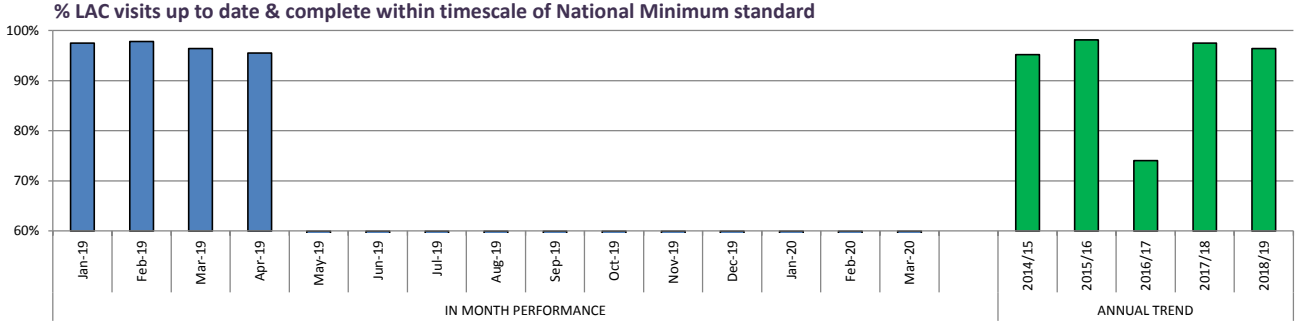
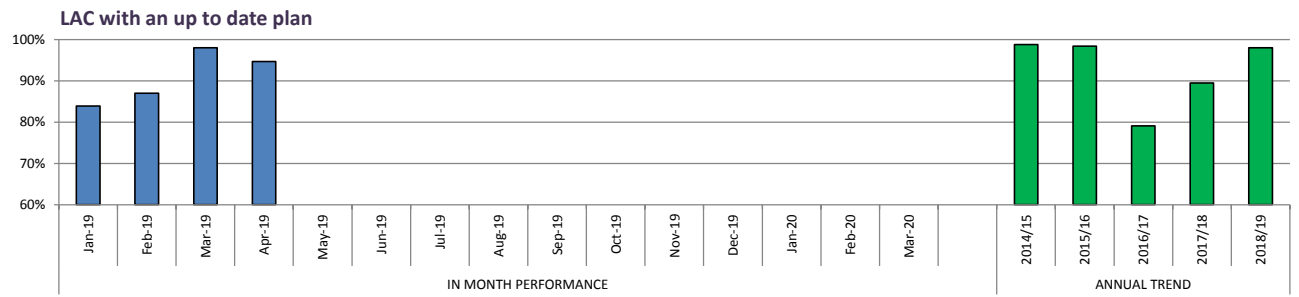
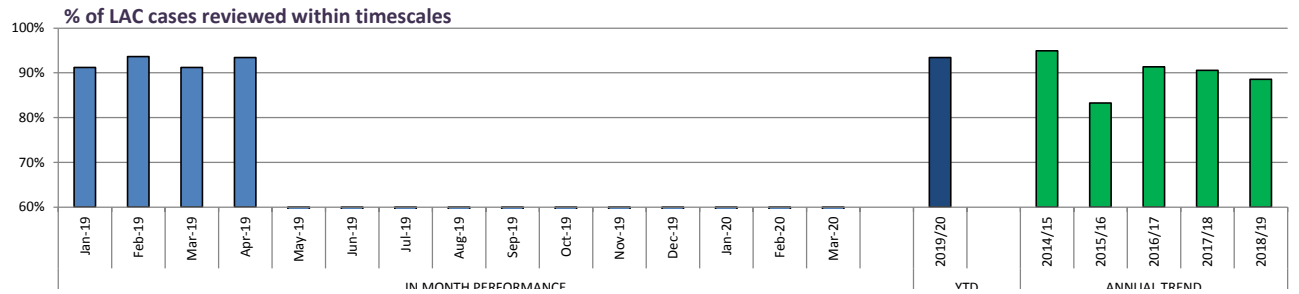
# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - REVIEWS, PLANS & VISITS

**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**  
 There has been a slight increase in performance regarding Statutory Reviews which has arrested a declining performance. Senior managers in the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and LAC Service will be meeting before the end of the month to undertake a more detailed audit in order to provide a greater understanding as to why this has been one of the consistently weaker aspects of performance within the LAC Service.  
 Whilst performance in respect of Statutory Visits and Care Plans has dipped slightly they are both still in the mid-90s and are therefore not yet an area of significant concern. Despite the relatively good performance for Care Plans there is still work to do in getting social workers to translate this detailed knowledge of their children into similarly detailed Care Plans and this is going to be an area of focus in June's LAC Service Development Day.

	6.8	6.20	6.21
% of LAC cases reviewed within timescales			
LAC with an up to date plan			
% LAC visits up to date & complete within timescale of National Minimum standard			

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	6.8		6.20		6.21	
	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19
Jan-19	124 of 136	91.2%	83.9%	614 of 630	97.5%	
Feb-19	148 of 158	93.7%	87.0%	633 of 647	97.8%	
Mar-19	135 of 148	91.2%	98.0%	619 of 642	96.4%	
Apr-19	114 of 122	93.4%	94.7%	599 of 627	95.5%	
May-19						
Jun-19						
Jul-19						
Aug-19						
Sep-19						
Oct-19						
Nov-19						
Dec-19						
Jan-20						
Feb-20						
Mar-20						
<b>YTD</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>114 of 122</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		94.9%	98.8%		95.2%
	2015/16		83.3%	98.4%		98.1%
	2016/17	652 of 714	91.3%	79.1%		74.0%
	2017/18	1502 of 1658	90.6%	89.5%		97.5%
	2018/19	1660 of 1875	88.5%	98.0%		96.4%



# 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.

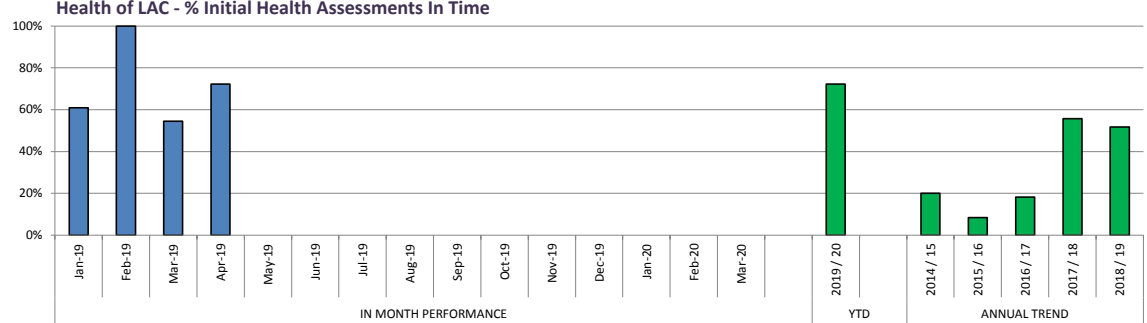
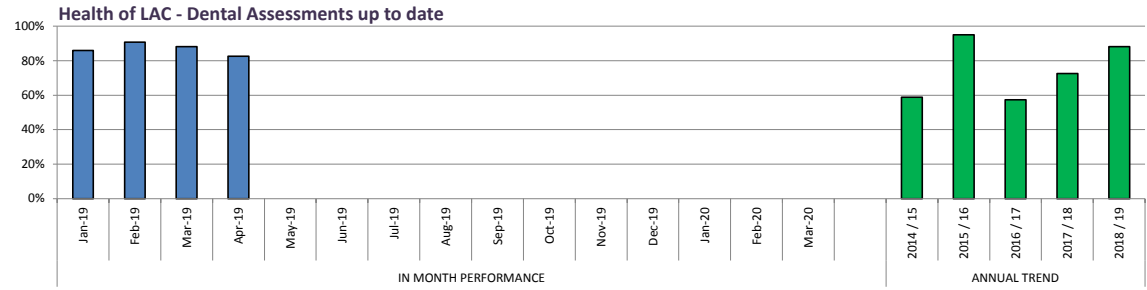
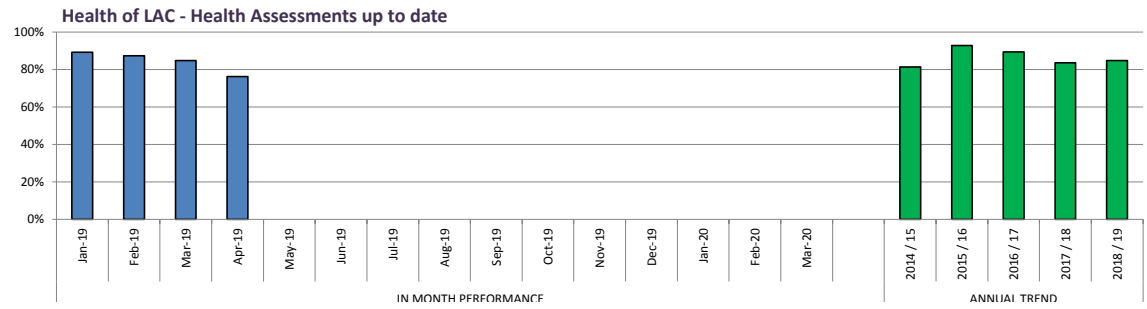
**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

Review Health Needs Assessment (HNA) performance has declined further, but it does seem that there is a systems issue coming into play in that reports for Review HNAs for children placed out of the RMBC area seem to take longer to be returned to the social worker and therefore the inputting of these onto the system is delayed e.g. in May it appeared that within LAC 1; 23 assessments had not taken place when in fact all bar 3 children had had their HNA but the report had not yet been sent to the social worker. There needs to be further analysis undertaken to understand if this is replicated across the service and to identify possible solutions.

In April there were 5 of the 18 Initial Health Assessments (IHA) that took place outside of the 20 working day timescale due to a number reasons. If the current performance is maintained throughout the year we will report the best IHA performance for the previous 5 years by more than 20%.

Dental checks have declined slightly but as usual there is an anticipated 5% increase when the report is re-run mid-month.

		6.10	6.11	6.12		
		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	
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Jan-19	89.3%	86.0%	14 of 23	60.9%	
	Feb-19	87.4%	90.7%	14 of 14	100.0%	
	Mar-19	84.8%	88.2%	12 of 22	54.5%	
	Apr-19	76.3%	82.6%	13 of 18	72.2%	
	May-19					
	Jun-19					
	Jul-19					
	Aug-19					
	Sep-19					
	Oct-19					
	Nov-19					
	Dec-19					
	Jan-20					
	Feb-20					
	Mar-20					
	<b>YTD</b>	2019 / 20	-	-	13 of 18	72.2%
	<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	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%	
2018 / 19		84.8%	88.2%	135 of 261	51.7%	
<b>LATEST BENCHMARKING</b>	SN AVE					
	BEST SN					
	NAT AVE					
	NAT TOP QTILE					



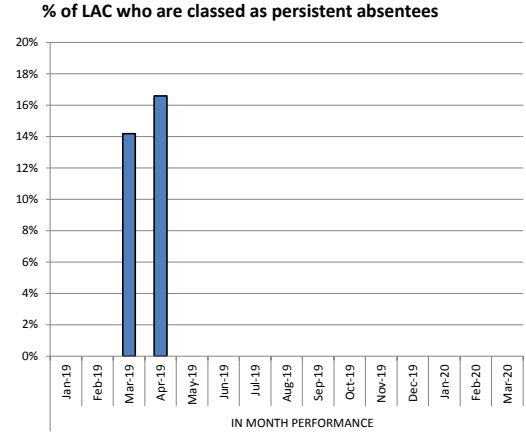
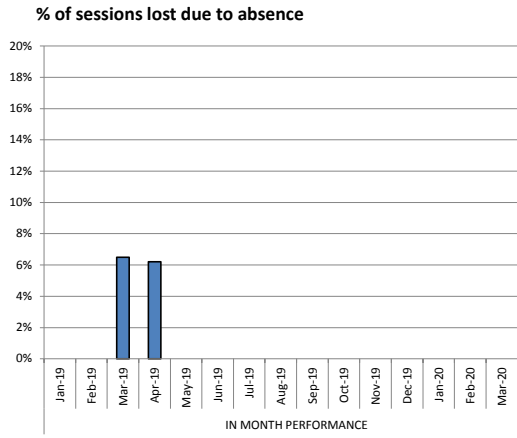
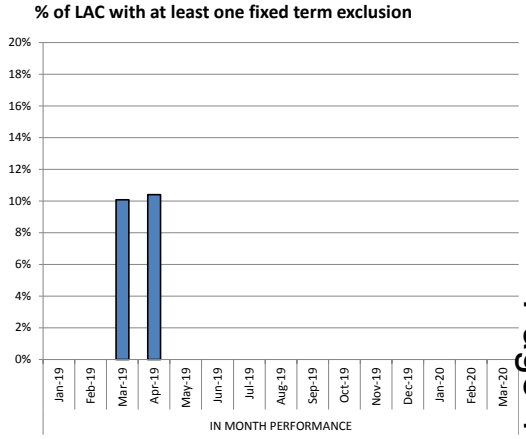
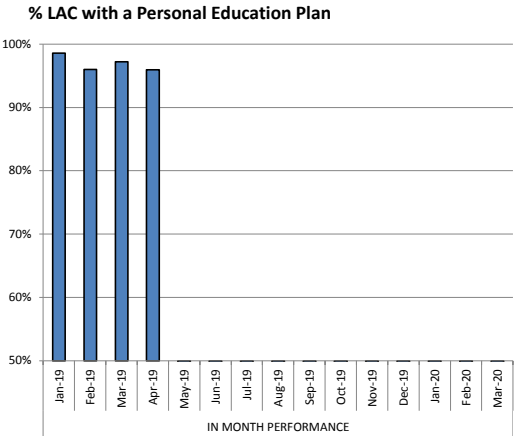
# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS

**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** At the end of the Spring term Personal Education Plan (PEP) performance for LAC with a PEP reached 97.25% and PEPs up to date 96.7%, continuing the high performance of previous months and the Virtual School deserve a great deal of credit for this given the relative size of their team.

The expanded educational performance report has now been completed with measures in absence rates, exclusions and less than 25 hour entitlements now included. It is planned that the Virtual School Governing Body will discuss and agree performance targets at its next meeting.

		6.13		6.14	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
		% LAC with a Personal Education Plan	% LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan (Termly)	LAC Overall absence - % of sessions lost due to absence (LAC continuous for at least 12 months)	% of LAC who are classed as persistent absentees (missing 10%+ sessions)	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion (LAC continuous for at least 12 months – School Census)	% of LAC receiving less than the 25 hour statutory entitlement	% of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-19	483 of 490	98.6%	96.7% Spring Term 2019	-	-	-	-	-
	Feb-19	482 of 502	96.0%		-	-	-	-	-
	Mar-19	487 of 501	97.2%		6.5%	14.2%	10.1%	-	-
	Apr-19	471 of 491	95.9%	Summer Term 2019	6.2%	16.6%	10.4%	3.5%	3.7%
	May-19								
	Jun-19								
	Jul-19								
	Aug-19			Autumn Term 2019					
	Sep-19								
	Oct-19								
	Nov-19								
	Dec-19								
	Jan-20			Spring Term 2020					
Feb-20									
Mar-20									
YTD	2019/20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL TREND	2014/15		76.0%	-	5.0%	11.7%	11.8%	-	-
	2015/16		97.8%	-	4.1%	12.2%	13.1%	-	-
	2016/17		97.0%	98.9%	5.7%	13.3%	15.5%	-	-
	2017/18		93.6%	97.4%	4.7%	11.7%	TBC	-	-
	2018/19		96.2%	Aug 19	Aug 19	Aug 19	Aug 19	-	-
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		-	-	4.7%	10.0%	13.7%	-	-
	BEST SN		-	-	3.5%	7.1%	9.0%	-	-
	NAT AVE		-	-	4.5%	10.6%	11.8%	-	-
	NAT TOP QTILE		-	-	3.8%	8.8%	9.6%	-	-



# CARE LEAVERS

**DEFINITION** A care leaver is defined as a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after away from home by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after away from home by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date. Suitable accommodation is defined as any that is not prison or bed and breakfast.

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

The number of Care Leavers supported by the Leaving Care Team currently stands at the highest ever (303), an increase of 45 from this time last year which is the equivalent of 2 Personal Adviser caseloads which have had to be assimilated within the team. As a result some of the team's performance has dipped slightly with up to date Pathway Plans reducing from 80% to 77% since the previous month.

Performance in respect of care leavers who are in suitable accommodation has also dipped very slightly but is still well above the national average. Whilst also still above the national average performance in respect of care leavers who are in Employment, Education or Training (EET) has dropped more significantly and this warrants a deeper examination.

**Data Note:** Following data validation in December 18, it was found that a number of cases were not being counted correctly within the Leaving Care cohort. This has now been rectified in Liquid Logic which has caused the cohort number to increase.

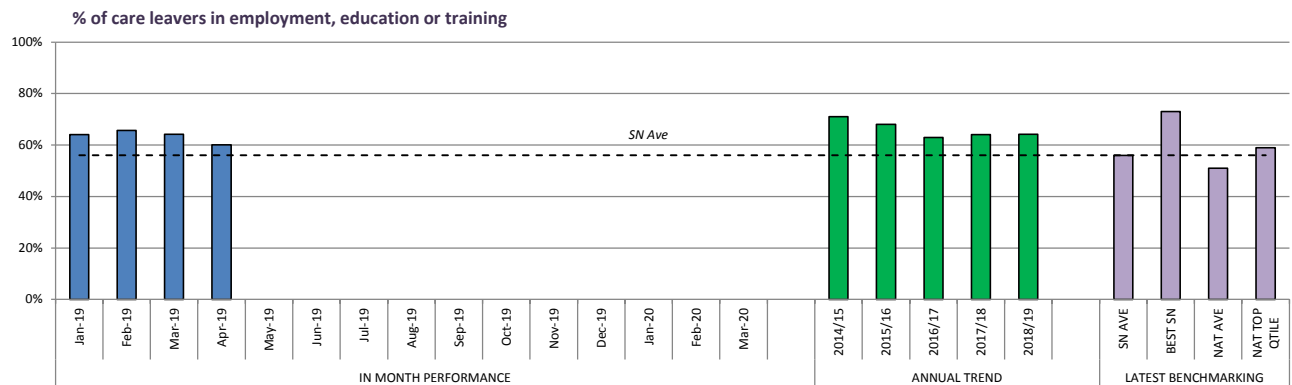
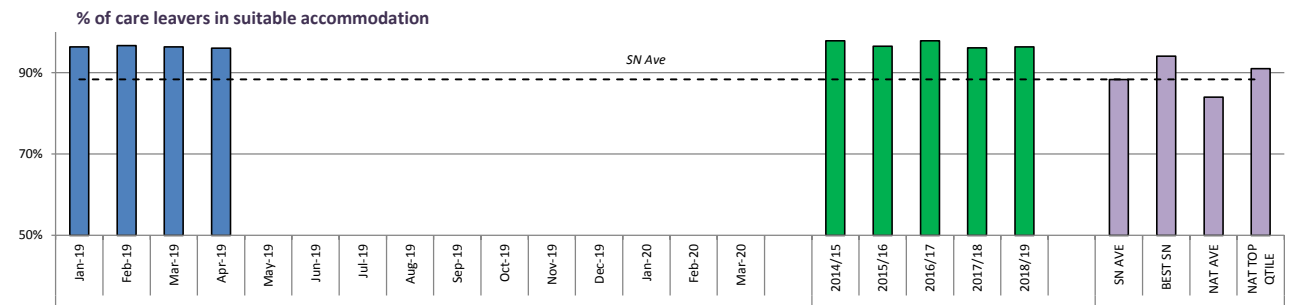
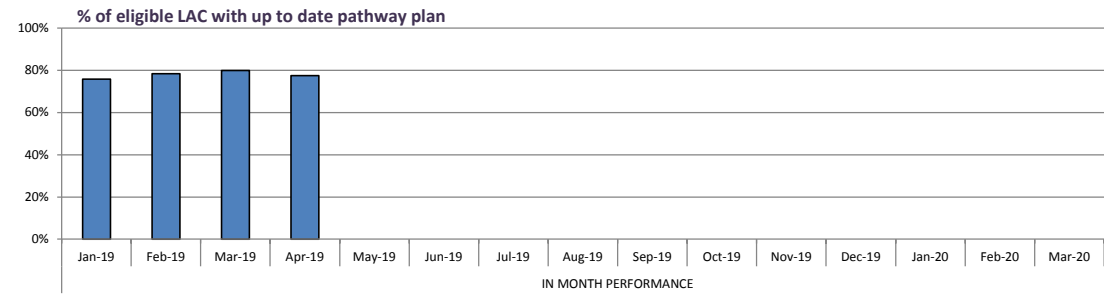
	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
<b>Number of care leavers</b>		<b>% of eligible Care Leavers with a pathway plan</b>	<b>% of eligible Care Leavers with up to date pathway plan</b>	<b>% of care leavers in suitable accommodation</b>	<b>% of care leavers in employment, education or training</b>

<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Jan-19	298	84.4%	75.9%	96.3%	64.1%
	Feb-19	297	85.3%	78.5%	96.6%	65.7%
	Mar-19	299	85.4%	80.0%	96.3%	64.2%
	Apr-19	303	85.3%	77.6%	96.0%	60.1%
	May-19					
	Jun-19					
	Jul-19					
	Aug-19					
	Sep-19					
	Oct-19					
	Nov-19					
	Dec-19					
	Jan-20					
	Feb-20					
	Mar-20					

<b>YTD</b>	2019/20	-	-	-	-	-
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<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	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%
	2018/19	299	85.4%	80.0%	96.3%	64.2%

<b>LATEST BENCHMARKING</b>	SN AVE				88.3%	56.0%
	BEST SN				94.0%	73.0%
	NAT AVE				84.0%	51.0%
	NAT TOP QTILE				91.0%	59.0%



# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PLACEMENTS

## DEFINITION

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

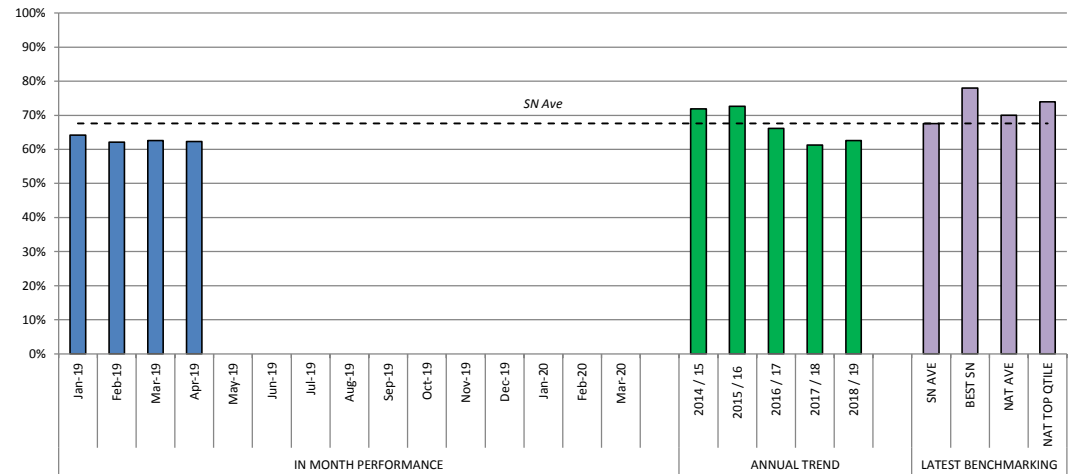
## PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Long-term placement stability has remained very consistent despite the increasing number of LAC who are discharged from care via an SGO, as has the number of children in family based settings, although the actual number of children has increased to 99 - the highest of the year so far. More re-assuring the number of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves has reduced to 12.5%, the lowest of the year thus far with the actual number of children affected reducing from 91 to 78.

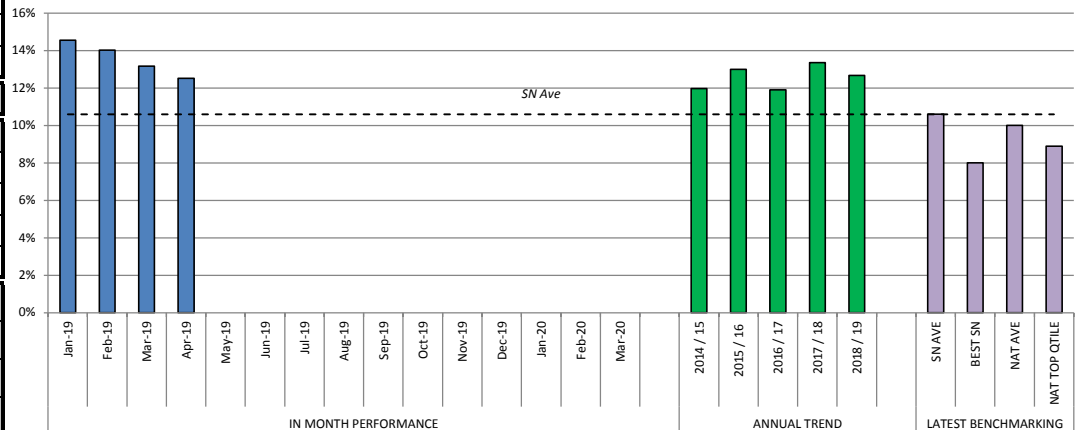
The percentage of children placed in a commissioned placement has increased slightly by 1.3% but the actual numbers of children involved has remained the same. As a result the % of LAC in family based settings has decreased slightly by 0.7%

	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		% 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)	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-19	93 of 145	64.1%	91 of 625	14.6%	82.5%	7.8%	339 of 629	53.9%	
	Feb-19	92 of 148	62.2%	90 of 642	14.0%	82.8%	8.2%	331 of 646	51.2%	
	Mar-19	92 of 147	62.6%	84 of 638	13.2%	82.2%	6.9%	336 of 642	52.3%	
	Apr-19	99 of 159	62.3%	78 of 623	12.5%	81.5%	6.5%	336 of 627	53.6%	
	May-19									
	Jun-19									
	Jul-19									
	Aug-19									
	Sep-19									
	Oct-19									
	Nov-19									
	Dec-19									
	Jan-20									
Feb-20										
Mar-20										
YTD	2019 / 20		-		-		-		-	
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%	
	2018 / 19	92 of 147	62.6%	81 of 639	12.7%	82.2%	6.9%	336 of 643	52.3%	
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		67.6%		10.6%					
	BEST SN		78.0%		8.0%					
	NAT AVE		70.0%		10.0%					
	NAT TOP QTILE		74.0%		8.9%					

% long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years



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



# FOSTERING

## DEFINITION

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

## PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

There are 7 active assessments currently on-going with 2 more on hold, and 3 IFA carers considering a potential move to RMBC. Overall there are 14 approvals already projected for 2019/20 and the Foster Carer Diversity Scheme has thus far led to 4 new foster families being allocated for assessment and another 3 viability visits looking positive for progression to the full assessment.

The Fostering Team are reporting 17 approvals providing 24 new placements for 2018/19 which has flagged a recording issue explaining the difference from that contained in this report. Further work is currently being undertaken in order to rectify this discrepancy. However, this is still a net loss given there were 21 de-registrations/resignations over the same period.

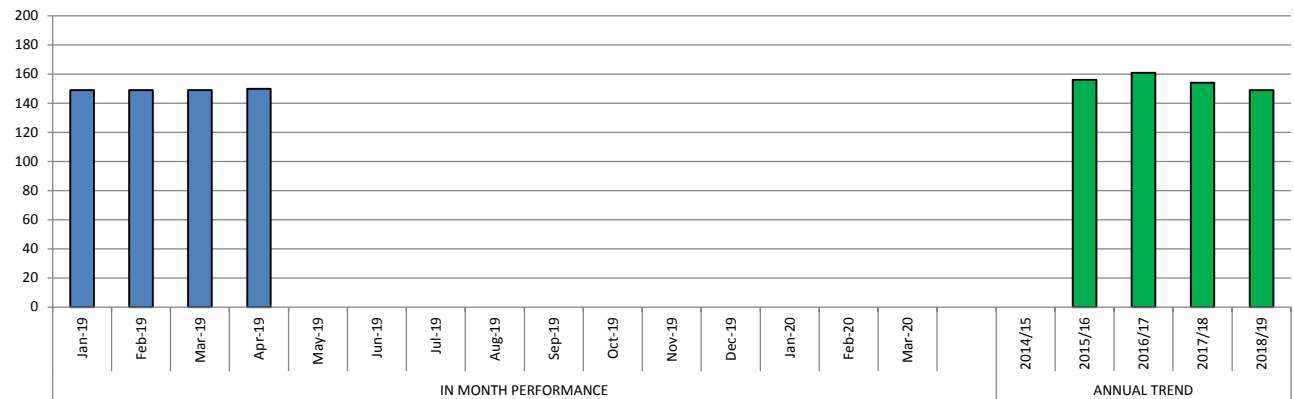
	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5
	Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend)	% of total LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend)	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	Number of Foster Carers Recruited (Households)	Number of Foster Carers De-registered (Households)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-19	428	68.0%	149	0	2
	Feb-19	436	67.5%	149	1	1
	Mar-19	427	66.5%	149	1	1
	Apr-19	414	66.0%	150	4	2
	May-19					
	Jun-19					
	Jul-19					
	Aug-19					
	Sep-19					
	Oct-19					
	Nov-19					
	Dec-19					
	Jan-20					
	Feb-20					
Mar-20						

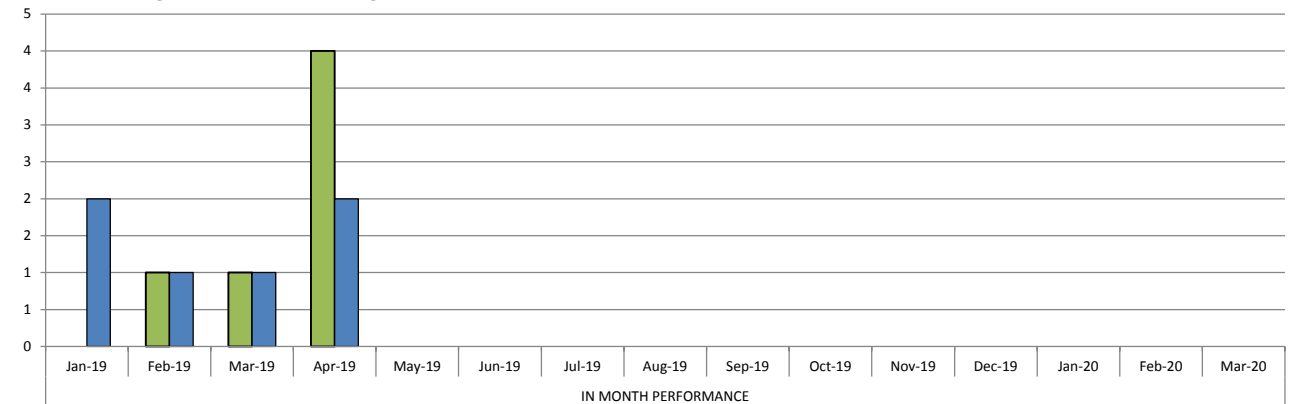
YTD	2019/20	-	-	-	4	2
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ANNUAL TREND	2014/15	-	-	-	-	-
	2015/16	-	-	156	13	16
	2016/17	353	72.3%	161	32	22
	2017/18	414	66.0%	154	16	25

Number of Foster Carers



Fostering Recruitment & De-registrations



# ADOPTIONS

## DEFINITION

Following a child becoming a LAC, it may be deemed suitable for a child to become adopted which is a legal process of becoming a non-biological parent. The date it is agreed that it is in the best interests of the child that they should be placed for adoption is known as their 'SHOBPA'. Following this a family finding process is undertaken to find a suitable match for the child based on the child's needs, they will then be matched with an adopter(s) followed by placement with their adopter(s). This adoption placement is monitored for a minimum of 10 weeks and assessed as stable and secure before the final adoption order is granted by court decision and the adoption order is made. Targets for measures A1 and A2 are set centrally by government office.

## PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

A total of 32 children were adopted over the course of 2018/19 which is an improvement on the 27 achieved last year. Given there was only one adoption completed in April there was only minimal impact on the A1 and A2 scorecard although both of these were positive and this brings RMBC into the top quartile for both measures.

Only 11 of the 32 adoptions were completed within 12 months of the SHOBPA decision but this is primarily because RMBC does not implement time limited searches but will continue to seek adoptive placements to secure the best form of permanence for our children and 72% (23 children) of the children adopted in 2018/19 were in the 'hard to place' categories.

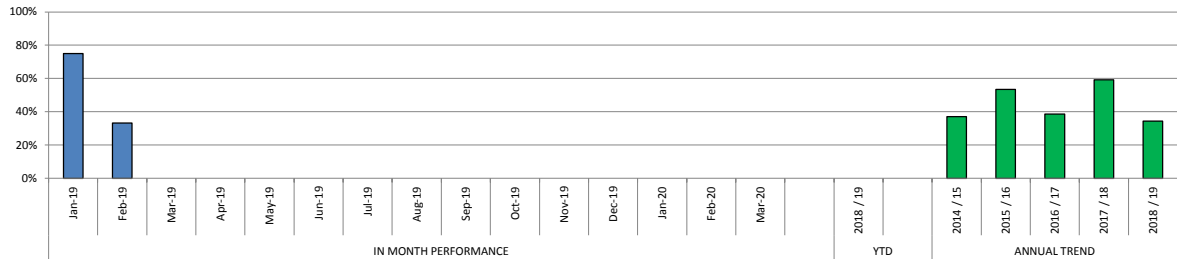
In addition there are 36 children currently placed in their adoptive placement and 22 adopters were approved over the course of the year with 14 more at stage 1 and 3 in stage 2 - this is a significant improvement on the 14 adopters approved in 2017/18.

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

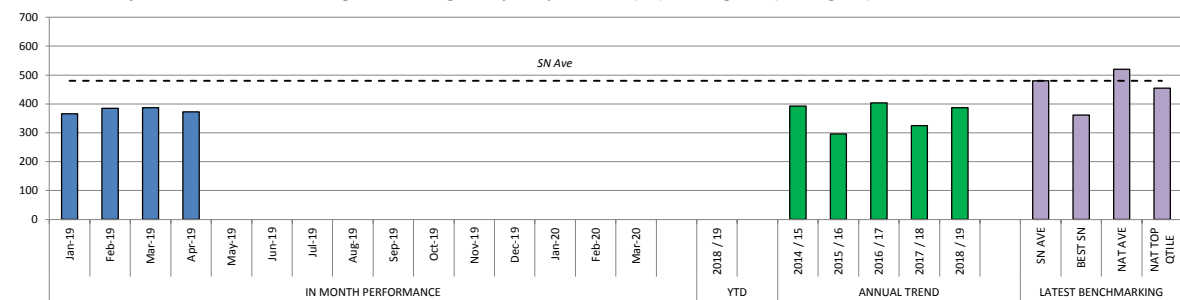
	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5
	Number of adoptions	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	Av. No. days between a child becoming LAC & having a adoption placement (A1) (ytd. ave)	Av. No. days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family (A2) (ytd. ave)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-19	4	3	75.0%	365.5	197.8
	Feb-19	3	1	33.3%	385.3	212.5
	Mar-19	0	0	-	386.9	212.4
	Apr-19	1	0	0.0%	372.8	162.8
	May-19					
	Jun-19					
	Jul-19					
	Aug-19					
	Sep-19					
	Oct-19					
	Nov-19					
	Dec-19					
	Jan-20					
Feb-20						
Mar-20						
YTD	2018 / 19	1	0	0.0%	-	-
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
	2018 / 19	32	11	34.4%	386.9	212.4
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				479.7	205.6
	BEST SN				362.0	89.0
	NAT AVE				520.0	220.0
	NAT TOP QTILE				455.0	171.8

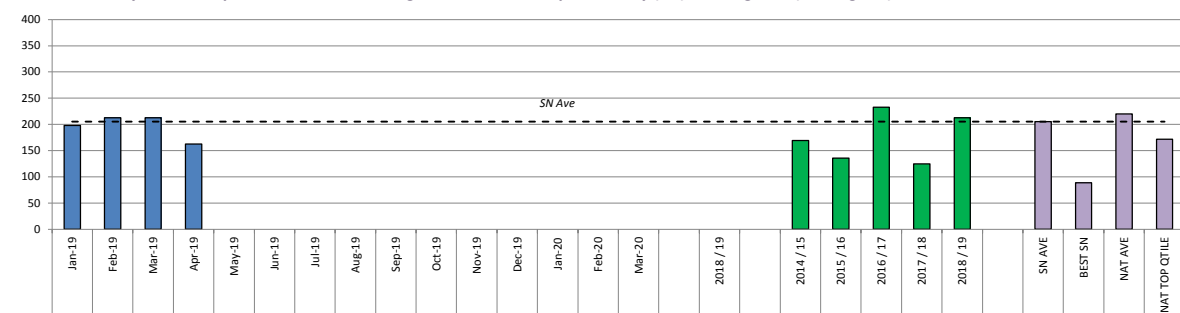
% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA



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



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



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

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

## CASELOADS

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

**PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS** LAC average caseloads have reduced for the first time in many months from 19.4 to 18.8 in the long-term teams and from 15.3 to 14.4 in the Court and Permanence Teams, largely as a direct consequence of the success of the Demand Management Strategy. However, workloads still remain high due to the continuing demands of supervising contact and out of authority visits. This will need to be kept under close review especially in the Court and Permanence Teams given a number of social workers in the teams have successfully obtained promotions/alternative positions and the fact that it has proven to be a challenge to recruit to these posts in the recent past.

**Data Note:** Please note that for February 19 onwards an adjustment has been made to the Insight reports for when calculating average caseloads. The report now makes an adjustment on FTE for Advanced Practitioners and Newly Qualified Social Workers as follows: AP's: 0.4 of their contracted FTE and NQSW's: 0.6 of their contracted FTE. This may have caused some noticeable increases in average caseloads from February 19 onwards.

		11.3	11.4	
		Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC Teams	Av. no. cases in LAC Teams	
			Teams 1-3	Teams 4 & 5
<b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b>	Jan-19	23	16.0	15.0
	Feb-19	23	19.2	16.5
	Mar-19	23	19.4	15.3
	Apr-19	23	18.8	14.4
	May-19			
	Jun-19			
	Jul-19			
	Aug-19			
	Sep-19			
	Oct-19			
	Nov-19			
	Dec-19			
	Jan-20			
	Feb-20			
Mar-20				
<b>YTD</b>	2019/20	-	-	-
<b>ANNUAL TREND</b>	2014/15	-	-	-
	2015/16	19	-	-
	2016/17	17	-	-
	2017/18	18	12.6	11.8
	2018/19	23	19.4	15.3

