

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date and Time :- Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 3.30 p.m.
Venue:- Virtual Meeting
Membership:- Councillors Cusworth, Elliot, M. Elliott, Jarvis and Watson (Chair)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.

To receive the apologies of any Panel Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 03 November 2020 (Pages 2 - 3)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 3 November 2020, and approve them as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest.

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Exclusion of the press and public.

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

5. Corporate Parenting Performance Report (Pages 4 - 22)

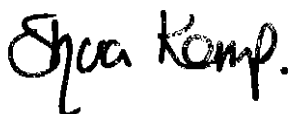
To receive a report in respect of Corporate Parenting performance data through October 2020.

6. Urgent Business

To determine any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

7. Date and time of the next meeting

The next virtual meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on 2 March 2021, commencing at 3.30 p.m.



Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Tuesday 3 November 2020**

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

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Cusworth.

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cusworth and Lee Durrant.

66. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2020.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 September 2020, were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

68. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

The Chair confirmed that there was no reason to exclude members of the press or public from observing any of the items on the agenda.

69. LAC OCTOBER UPDATE

Consideration was given to an update from the Looked After Children's Council, providing details of the young peoples' activities and how the young people have responded to the challenges presented by COVID-19. Since the previous update, the LAC Council have been supported individually, having 1:1 catch up meetings face to face, talking on the phone, texting, facetimeing and even emailing each other. They continue to work together to explore other models of group engagement that will sit alongside increased individual support to better meet the needs of the LAC Council & Lil LAC Club throughout the second wave.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

70. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a performance report and an appendix containing data and figures in respect of various performance measures. 25 children had come into care in the month reported, which was an increase of 14 from the previous month. 91.5 % of children had a plan in place, which was a slight decrease from the previous month. 3 children

had been adopted, with 2 new fosterers approved and 4 deregistering. Stable placements had also experienced a slight decrease, but there were the lowest numbers of the year of children having multiple placement moves. 19 children have been adopted so far this year. Health figures have held relatively steady, with a slight increase in the numbers of current health assessments. The dental care rate, which has been an area of attention, has been picked up by the health and wellbeing partnership workstream. 98.6% of health reviews were done in time and a high percentage kept up to date. Care leaving figures had varied only slightly. There were 616 LAC at the end of the reported period.

Some children refuse to have the health assessment, but they still can access health services. During the pandemic with dentists' offices being closed, it has been difficult for these appointments to take place. From January, children will have access to a new dental service in collaboration with the dental school. LAC nurses will be trained to provide more information about dental care and problems. The Health improvement team have put together dental packs for LAC. For independent or semi-independent young people not living in a foster care home, they will be given a toothbrush and toothpaste delivery once a year. Data collection regarding dental checks was also being reviewed.

It was also noted that it was being investigated to find out why a few children did not receive their health assessment within the prescribed 20 days. This information will be helpful in understanding why the figures were as they are.

Resolved:-

1. That the update be noted.

71. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair confirmed that there were no items to be considered today as a matter of urgency.

72. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair confirmed that the next virtual meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel would be held on 5 January 2021 at 3.30 pm.

Council Report

Corporate Parenting Performance

Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – 5th January 2021

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)
Rebecca Wall (Head of 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 – Oct 2020

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 – Aug 2020

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 2018/19 outturn
- 2.5 The narrative supplied within the report has been informed by the Assistant Director for Children's Services and the Head of Children in Care.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Through this reporting period all services and interventions offered by the council have been impacted upon by Covid -19. The narrative offered below will reflect some of the challenges this has posed for the Looked After Children of Rotherham and how RMBC CYPS have worked to minimise the negative impact to ensuring effective care planning continues to support each young person's stability and progress.
- 3.2 Looked After Children Profile
 - 3.2.1 During October we had 12 children entering care and 16 children discharging from care, leaving us with a decreased number of 610 LAC at month end. Although we had a decrease, it is still higher than our relatively static numbers around 603 during the first half of the year. 37.5% of those leaving care, left due to permanence.
 - 3.2.2 This decrease slightly reduced our 10k population rate to 106.0% at the end of October. This is still very high, in comparison, our statistical neighbours are at 92%.

3.2.3 Of those who left care, 2 children secured SGO's in October, taking the 2020/21 year to date number to 13. These figures continue to reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on court and progression to final hearings. Court dates are continuing to be planned in for both final hearings and adoption applications so this is expected to increase through the next few months.

3.3 LAC Plans, Reviews and Visits

3.3.1 96.9% of LAC reviews were held within timescale during October 2020. When compared to previous months in 2020/21 and indeed 2020 to date, this is the highest of recent performance.

3.3.2 LAC with an up to date plan increased to 93.3% in October 20 from 88.8% (September 20), and this sees a return to better performance nearing the April 2020 high of 94.5%.

3.3.3 LAC visits in time showed a slight reduction in October at 97.5% from 98.2% in September. Additionally, there were a further 2 visits undertaken virtually in October due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.4 Placements

3.4.1 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.

3.4.2 The number of children and young people experiencing long term placement stability increased in October with 155 long term looked after children having a placement stable for at least 2 years, out of a cohort of 229 (67.7%). This is the highest performance has been in 2020 to date.

3.4.3 The percentage of children having 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months has increased again in October to 8.2% from 7.6% in Sep 20. This is a slight increase and reflects a small number of children & young people and their carers (50/610) who have had placement disruptions. This is in comparison to 47/615 for September and seems to be, in part, from a cumulative impact on placements linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.4.4 The percentage of children in a family based placement continues to consistently range between 81-82% (October 20 was 81.3%). Similarly, LAC in a commissioned placement ranges between 50-52% (October 20 was 51.1%).

3.5 Fostering

- 3.5.1 The number of LAC in a fostering placement has seen a decline in October with 397 children (65.1% of LAC) in foster care; a reduction from 417 in Sep 20 (67.5%). This does include some of the young people exiting care for permanent family arrangements but reflects that there has also been some pressure on fostering families.
- 3.5.2 A further 2 new foster carers were recruited during October. There were no deregistrations in the same month taking the number of foster carers to 151. The number of foster care households at the start of 20/21 was 150 (April 20) so overall the number is staying consistent.

3.6 Adoptions

- 3.6.1 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.
- 3.6.2 Up until September Covid-19 had significantly impacted on the 2020/21 performance for adoptions due to courts being closed. However, September (9) and October (11) have seen 20 adoptions completed, which brings the year to date total to 23. Court dates for adoption hearings are continuing to be agreed, which will support a positive year end picture reflecting that, while courts have been impacted upon, the work behind this to support transitions has continued.
- 3.6.3 The national target (A1) for the number of days between a child entering care and having an adoption placement is a maximum of 426 days. The A1 measure for 2020/21 is currently reporting at 398.5 days for the 23 children adopted so far this year. Note that this will change as more adoption orders are granted throughout the year and timeliness is affected by the impact of Covid-19.
- 3.6.4 The national target (A2) for the number of days between a child receiving a placement order and being matched to an adoptive family is a maximum of 121 days. The A2 measure is currently reporting at 176.2 days for the 23 children adopted this year. Again, this will fluctuate as more adoption orders are granted over the coming months.

3.7 Health and Dental

- 3.7.1 Health checks had remained relatively consistent at the start of the 2020 calendar year but since the Covid-19 pandemic beginning in

March 2020, health checks have seen a gradual decline to 87.7% in October from 90.4% in April. This has been noted and work is ongoing to support the improvement of timeliness of consent, which has been a recent barrier and challenge.

- 3.7.2 Dental checks are continuing the linear downward trend since the beginning of the year. Current data shows that only 34.1% were up to date at the end of October. However, there is a known delay in inputting so this figure is likely to increase slightly. The September figure is currently showing at 46%. The Covid-19 pandemic enforced the closure of dentists, giving a further impact on this measure. Dentists have reopened for emergency treatment only and this continues to be an area of focus for our looked after children and has been picked up and explored via the health and wellbeing partnership workstream.
- 3.7.3 Performance for Initial Health Assessments undertaken in October slightly increased to 85.7% (12/14) of children receiving their assessment in time. The cases where there have been challenges have been carefully reviewed so we understand these.

3.8 LAC Education

- 3.8.1 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).
- 3.8.2 The Summer Term PEP completion rates show a slight increase in LAC with a PEP (98.9%) and a significant increase in the number of PEPs in time (96.5%) when compared to the previous Spring term. These figures also show an improvement on last year's performance (97.5% with a PEP and 95.0% with an up to date PEP). This is due in part to the impact of home working supporting increased capacity for the advisers.
- 3.8.3 Since the start of Covid-19 in March 20, there have been no further exclusions and as such the figure has remained the same.
- 3.8.4 During Covid-19 schools closed with vulnerable pupils and key worker's children being able to attend if required. Monitoring for LAC (including whether children physically attended or were being educated by their foster carer etc) was undertaken by the Virtual School and this was reported on a weekly basis to CYPS DLT and the strategic GOLD meeting.
- 3.8.5 Autumn term 2020/21 performance will be available in January 2021.

3.9 Care Leavers

3.9.1 The number of care leavers has stabilised over the last few months and sits at 333 at the end of October.

3.9.2 The performance of Pathway Plans increased slightly to 94.6% of care leavers having a plan but has reduced to 74.7% having an up to date plan at the end of October. This has been flagged as a key area of work to address with managers.

3.9.3 Care leavers in suitable accommodation has positively increased over the summer months to 96.1% at the end of October, the highest performance of 2020.

3.9.4 Education, Employment and Training (EET) slowly but progressively increased to 62.8% in September but slightly decreased to 62.2% in October. There is an ongoing programme linked with Unravel and Affinity to support building skills around education and employment skills for Care Leavers.

3.1 Caseloads

3.1.1 In October the maximum caseload of workers in the LAC teams reduced to by 5 to 20, the lowest number of 2020. The average number of cases in LAC teams was slightly higher than earlier months with 18.2 in October compared to 17.4 in April 2020.

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. Corporate Parenting Panel members 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 Subgroup 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)

Rebecca Wall, Head of Children in Care
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Ailsa Barr, Assistant Director Safeguarding Children
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Corporate Parenting Monthly Performance Report

As at Month End: October 2020

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: 02/12/20

Created by: Performance & Quality Team

Performance Summary

As at Month End: October 2020

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)	2020 / 21				DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND					LATEST BENCHMARKING				
				Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	YTD			Red	Amber	Target Green	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOLD	
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	6.1	Number of Looked After Children	Info	Count	616	615	610	-	↓			n/a	432	488	627	642	595					
	6.2	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Rate per 10,000	107.1	106.9	106.0	-	↑	Red		99.1	76.6	86.6	110.8	112.7	104.5	92.0	59.0	65.0	-	
	6.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Info	Count	25	20	12	110	↓			n/a	208	262	330	271	214					
	6.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	12	22	16	95	↓			n/a	192	215	194	254	259					
	6.5	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order, Adoption)	High	Percentage	16.7%	50.0%	37.5%	28.0%	↓	Green	<33%	33%>	35%+	40.1%	27.9%	27.3%	31.5%	32.4%				
	6.6	Number of SGOs started (Legal Status)	High	Count	5	1	2	13	↑				-	-	67	62	73					
	6.7	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order	High	Percentage	8.3%	4.5%	0.0%	7.4%	↓				-	9.8%	8.2%	13.1%	16.2%	12.3% (2017)	22.0% (2017)	12.0% (2017)	17.0% (2017)	
	6.8	LAC cases reviewed within timescales	High	Percentage	98.7%	94.4%	96.9%	96.0%	↑	Green	<90%	90%>	95%+	83.3%	91.3%	90.6%	88.6%	90.8%				
	6.9	% of children adopted	High	Percentage	8.3%	40.9%	68.8%	24.2%	↑	Green	<20%	20%>	22.7%+	26.3%	14.4%	13.9%	12.6%	11.2%	17.3%	42.0%	12.0%	16.6%
	6.10	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments	High	Percentage	86.6%	87.2%	87.7%	-	↑	Red	<90%	90%>	95%+	92.8%	89.5%	83.7%	91.8%	88.2%				
	6.11	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	High	Percentage	55.1%	46.0%	34.1%	-	↓	Red	<90%	90%>	95%+	95.0%	57.3%	72.5%	88.4%	82.2%				
	6.12	Health of Looked After Children - Initial Health Assessments carried out within 20 working days	High	Percentage	72.2%	78.9%	85.7%	78.7%	↑				8.4%	18.2%	55.7%	51.1%	86.4%					
	6.13	% of LAC with a PEP (Termly)	High	Percentage	-	-	-	-	n/a		<90%	90%>	95%+	76.0%	97.8%	97.0%	93.6%	97.5%				
	6.14	% of LAC with up to date PEPs (Termly)	High	Percentage	-	-	-	-	n/a		<90%	90%>	95%+	-	-	98.9%	97.4%	95.0%				
	6.15	LAC Overall absence - % of sessions lost due to absence	Low	Percentage	-	-	-	-	n/a				5.0%	4.1%	5.7%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%	3.5%	4.5%	3.9%	
	6.16	% of LAC who are classed as persistent absentees	Low	Percentage	-	-	-	-	n/a				11.7%	12.2%	13.3%	11.7%	8.6%	10.0%	7.1%	10.6%	8.8%	
	6.17	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	Low	Percentage	-	-	-	-	n/a				11.8%	13.1%	15.5%	12.5%	tbk	13.7%	9.0%	11.8%	9.6%	
	6.18	% of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements	Low	Percentage	-	-	-	-	n/a				-	-	-	-	-					
	6.19	% of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	High	Percentage	91.2%	88.8%	93.3%	-	↑	Yellow	<93%	93%>	95%+	98.4%	79.1%	89.5%	98.0%	92.6%				
	6.20	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of National Minimum standard	High	Percentage	96.3%	98.2%	97.5%	-	↓	Yellow	<95%	95%>	98%+	98.1%	74.0%	97.5%	96.9%	93.4%				
CARE LEAVERS	7.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	331	336	333	-	↓			n/a	197	223	255	298	313					
	7.2	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan	High	Percentage	94.5%	92.8%	94.6%	-	↑	Yellow	<93%	93%>	95%+	69.8%	99.3%	94.4%	87.4%	94.2%				
	7.3	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan	High	Percentage	79.9%	81.2%	74.7%	-	↓				-	-	81.5%	82.0%	73.1%					
	7.4	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	94.0%	95.2%	96.1%	-	↑	Yellow	<95%	95%>	98%+	96.5%	97.8%	94.5%	93.6%	93.0%	86.6%	94.0%	85.0%	92.0%
	7.5	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	High	Percentage	61.0%	62.8%	62.2%	-	↓	Red	<70%	70%>	72%+	68.0%	62.9%	62.4%	62.8%	59.7%	56.0%	73.0%	51.0%	59.0%
PLACEMENTS	8.1	% of long term LAC in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years	High	Percentage	62.6%	66.5%	67.7%	-	↑	Red	<68%	68%>	70%+	72.7%	66.2%	61.2%	61.2%	62.1%	68.5%	77.0%	69.0%	73.0%
	8.2	% of LAC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months (Council Plan Indicator)	Low	Percentage	7.8%	7.6%	8.2%	-	↓	Green	13%+	13%<	10.8%<	13.0%	11.9%	13.4%	13.3%	11.1%	10.0%	6.0%	10.0%	8.0%
	8.3	% of LAC in a family based setting (Council Plan Indicator)	High	Percentage	81.8%	81.6%	81.3%	-	↓	Yellow			85%>	-	81.1%	81.0%	81.9%	81.5%				
	8.4	% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	Low	Percentage	4.9%	4.4%	4.3%	-	↑				-	5.3%	4.3%	7.2%	5.4%					
	8.5	% of LAC in a Commissioned Placement	Low	Percentage	51.1%	50.7%	51.1%	-	↓				43.6%	43.2%	50.5%	52.3%	51.9%					
FOSTERING	9.1	Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Count	416	417	397	-	↓				-	353	414	427	405					
	9.2	% of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Percentage	67.5%	67.8%	65.1%	-	↓				-	56.3%	64.5%	66.5%	68.1%					
	9.3	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	High	Count	147	149	151	-	↑				156	161	154	149	147					
	9.4	Number of Foster Carers Recruited	High	Count	1	3	2	13	↓				13	32	16	11	18					

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					Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	YTD			Red	Amber	Target Green	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	STAT NEIGH AVE	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	NAT TOP QTILE THRESHOLD
	9.5	Number of Foster Carers Deregistered	Info	Count	4	1	0	8	↓				16	22	25	21	20					
ADOPTIONS	10.1	Number of adoptions	High	Count	1	9	11	23	↑				43	31	27	32	29					
	10.2	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Count	1	1	1	4	→				23	12	16	11	9					
	10.3	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	100.0%	11.1%	9.1%	17.4%	↓	Red	<83%	83%>	85%+	53.5%	38.7%	59.3%	34.4%	31.0%				
	10.4	Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A1)	Low	YTD Average	109.3	344.8	398.5	-	↓	Green	511+	511<	487<	296.0	404.0	325.3	386.9	391.5	436.4	352.0	486.0	419.5
	10.5	Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)	Low	YTD Average	79.7	145.0	176.2	-	↓	Red	127+	127<	121<	136	232.9	124.8	212.4	146.0	205.6	89.0	220.0	171.8
Caseloads	11.4	Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC	Low	Average count	25	25	20	-	↑	Yellow	21+	20<	18<	19.2	17.0	18.0	23.0	29.0				
	11.5	Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 1-3	Within Limits	Average count	17.8	18.4	18.2	-	↓	Green	1+ above range limit	1 above / below range limit	14-20	-	-	12.6	19.4	17.9				

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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

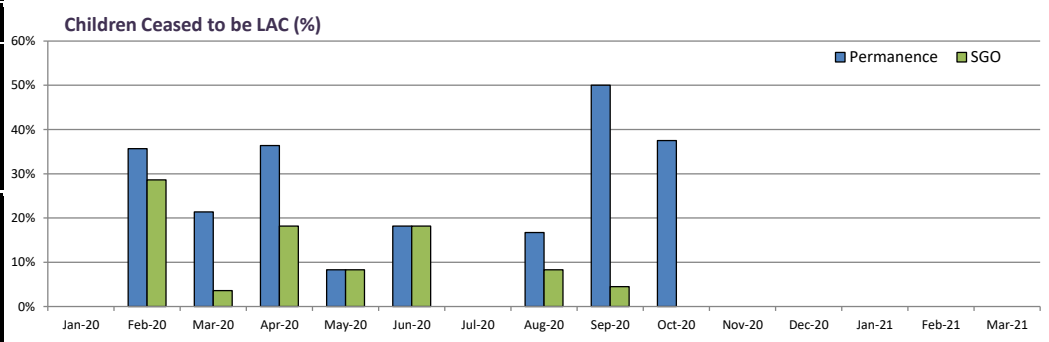
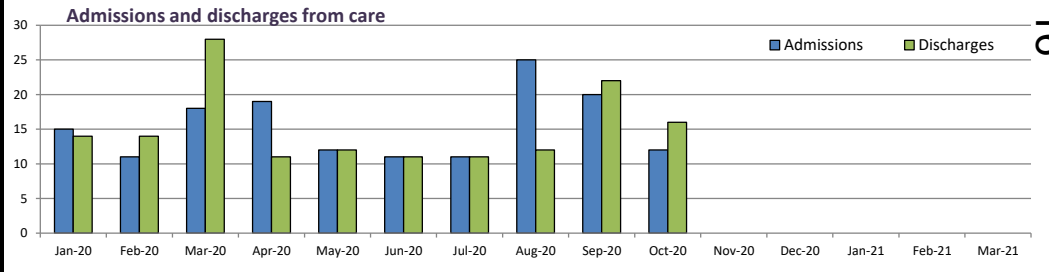
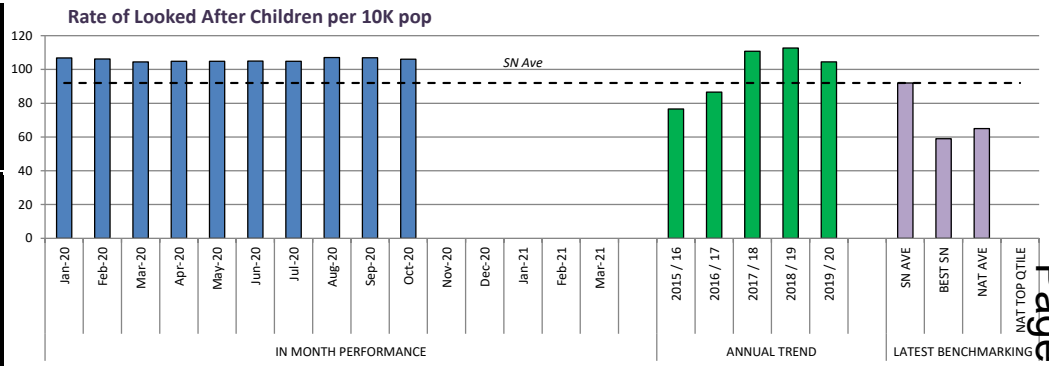
LAC numbers had remained relatively static at the start of the financial year but saw an increase in August & September 20 reaching 618. October 20 however has seen a reduction of 5 and the cohort is now 610.

12 children became looked after and a further 16 children ceased to be looked after in October 20, with 37.5% of these children leaving care to permanence.

2 SGO's were started in October 20 bring the year to date total to 13. These figures continue to reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on court and progression to final hearings and adoption applications being granted. Court dates are continuing to be planned in for final hearings and adoption applications so this is expected to increase through the next few months.

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 (Episodes)	Number of SGO's started (Legal Status)	% of children ceased to be LAC due to an SGO
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-20	106.8	608	15	14	0.0%	6	0.0%
	Feb-20	106.2	605	11	14	35.7%	6	28.6%
	Mar-20	104.5	595	18	28	21.4%	5	3.6%
	Apr-20	104.8	603	19	11	36.4%	2	18.2%
	May-20	104.8	603	12	12	8.3%	1	8.3%
	Jun-20	105.0	604	11	11	18.2%	1	18.2%
	Jul-20	104.8	603	11	11	0.0%	1	0.0%
	Aug-20	107.1	616	25	12	16.7%	5	8.3%
	Sep-20	106.9	615	20	22	50.0%	1	4.5%
	Oct-20	106.0	610	12	16	37.5%	2	0.0%
	Nov-20							
	Dec-20							
	Jan-21							
Feb-21								
Mar-21								
YTD	2020 / 21	-	-	110	95	28.0%	13	7.4%
ANNUAL TREND	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	254	31.5%	62	13.1%
	2019 / 20	104.5	595	214	259	32.4%	73	16.2%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	92.0						12.3% (2017)
	BEST SN	59.0						22.0% (2017)
	NAT AVE	65.0						12.0% (2017)
	NAT TOP QTILE	-						17.0% (2017)



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - REVIEWS, PLANS & VISITS

DEFINITION The purpose of a 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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

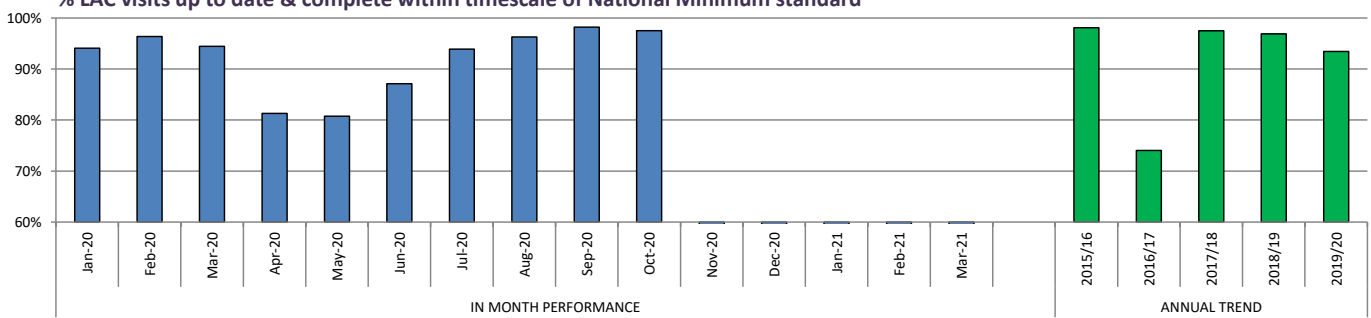
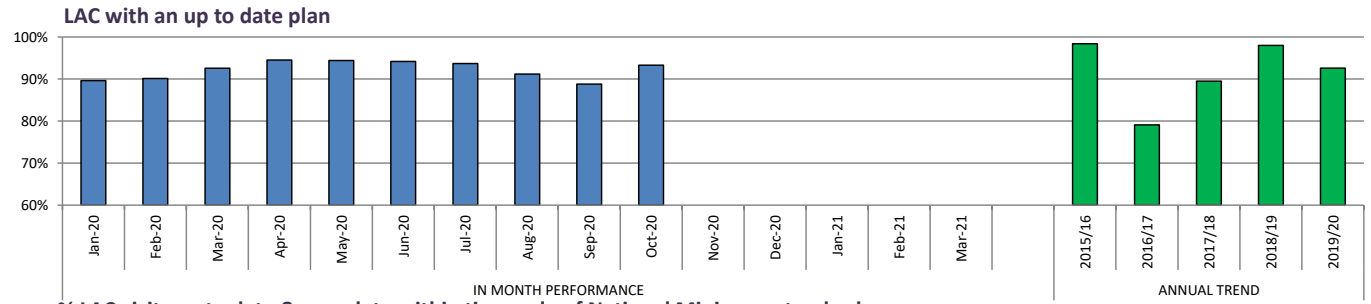
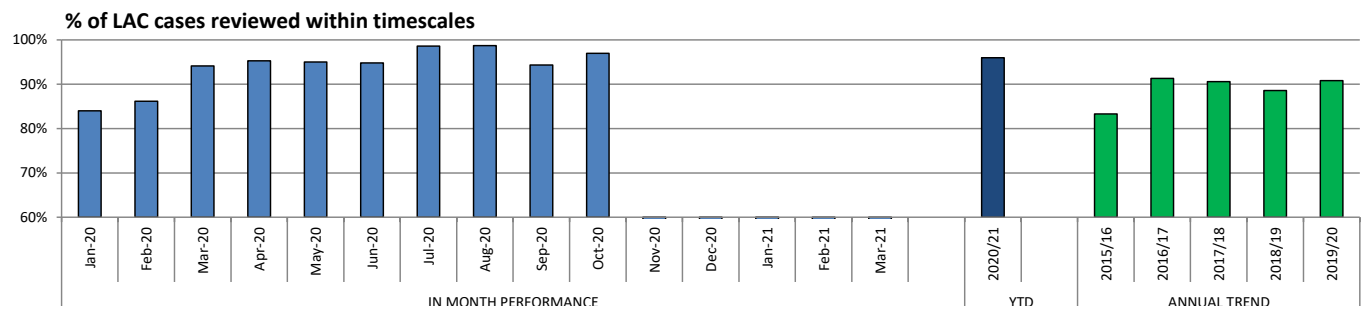
96.9% of LAC reviews were held within timescale during October 2020. When compared to previous months in 2020/21 and indeed 2020 to date, this is the highest of recent performance.

LAC with an up to date plan increased to 93.3% in October 20 from 88.8% (September 20), and this sees a return to better performance nearing the April 2020 high of 94.5%.

LAC visits in time (NMS) showed a slight reduction in October 20 with 97.5% being in time (September 20 was 98.2%). This figure does not include any virtual visits carried out since the Covid-19 lockdown began on 23/03/20. When virtual visits are included this stands at 97.9% (594/607) for October 20, with 2 virtual visits recorded.

6.8	6.19	6.20
% 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	Jan-20	105 of 125	84.0%	89.6%	573 of 609	94.1%
	Feb-20	106 of 123	86.2%	90.1%	583 of 605	96.4%
	Mar-20	176 of 187	94.1%	92.6%	563 of 596	94.5%
	Apr-20	142 of 149	95.3%	94.5%	492 of 605	81.3%
	May-20	133 of 140	95.0%	94.4%	487 of 603	80.8%
	Jun-20	128 of 135	94.8%	94.2%	528 of 606	87.1%
	Jul-20	141 of 143	98.6%	93.7%	571 of 608	93.9%
	Aug-20	76 of 77	98.7%	91.2%	595 of 618	96.3%
	Sep-20	184 of 195	94.4%	88.8%	606 of 617	98.2%
	Oct-20	127 of 131	96.9%	93.3%	592 of 607	97.5%
	Nov-20					
	Dec-20					
Jan-21						
Feb-21						
Mar-21						
YTD	2020/21	931 of 970	96.0%	-		-
ANNUAL TREND	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	1668 of 1883	88.6%	98.0%		96.9%
	2019/20	1612 of 1775	90.8%	92.6%		93.4%



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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

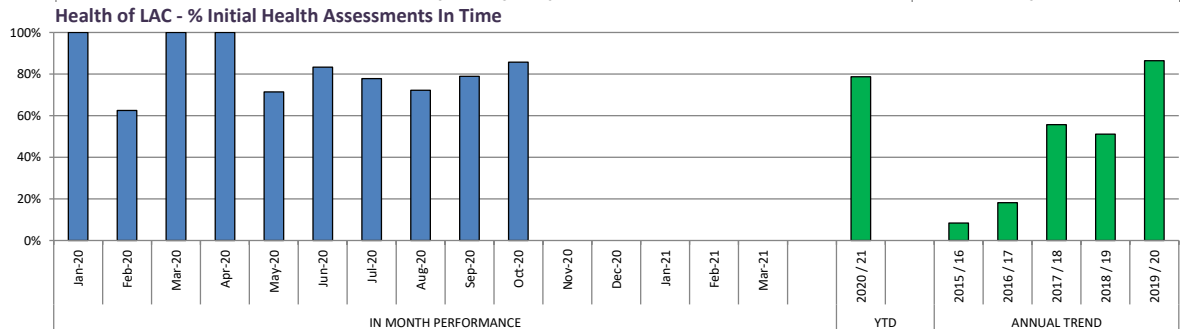
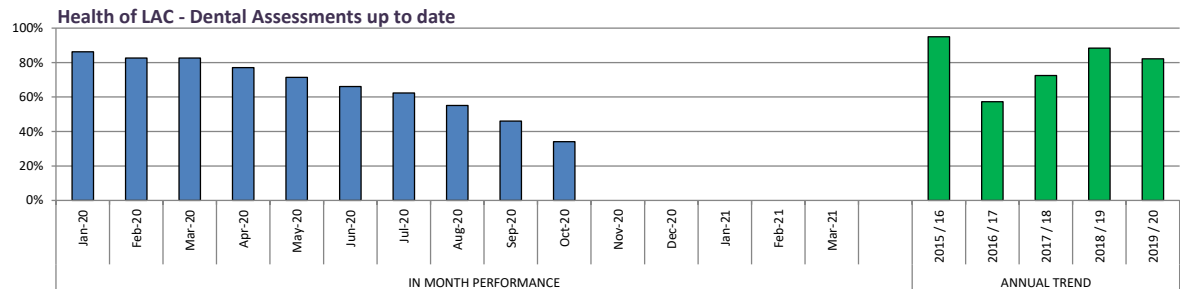
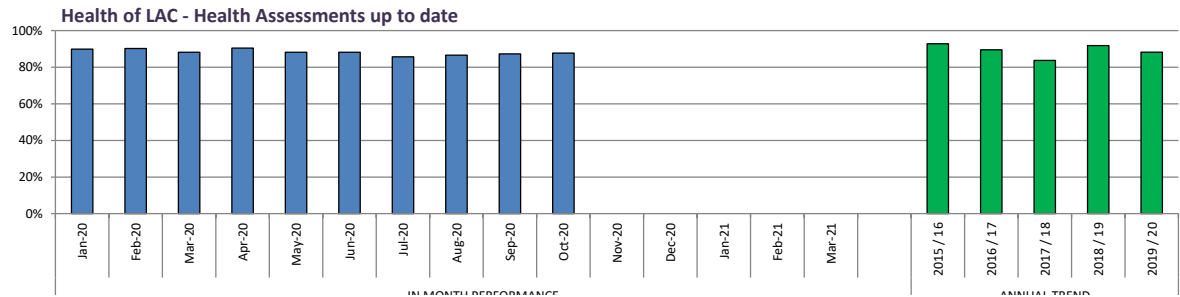
Health checks had remained relatively consistent at the start of the 2020 calendar year but since the Covid-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020 health checks have seen a gradual decline to 87.7% in October from 90.4% in April. This has been noted and work is ongoing to support the improvement of timeliness of consent, which has been a recent barrier and challenge.

Dental checks are continuing the downward trend that started in October 2019 (88.1%) to 33.6% in October 20 (-54.5%). The Covid-19 pandemic enforced the closure of dentists, giving a further impact on this measure. Dentists have reopened for emergency treatment only and this continues to be an area of focus for our looked after children and has been picked up and explored via the health and wellbeing partnership workstream.

The number of initial health assessments completed in October 20 remained high with 85.7% of them being complete in time (12/14).

Note: this data was refreshed on 08/12/2020 for the Corporate Parenting Report.

		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
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-20	89.9%	86.3%	18 of 18	100.0%
	Feb-20	90.2%	82.7%	5 of 8	62.5%
	Mar-20	88.2%	82.6%	13 of 13	100.0%
	Apr-20	90.4%	77.1%	7 of 7	100.0%
	May-20	88.2%	71.4%	15 of 21	71.4%
	Jun-20	88.2%	66.1%	5 of 6	83.3%
	Jul-20	85.7%	62.3%	7 of 9	77.8%
	Aug-20	86.6%	55.1%	13 of 18	72.2%
	Sep-20	87.2%	46.0%	15 of 19	78.9%
	Oct-20	87.7%	34.1%	12 of 14	85.7%
	Nov-20				
	Dec-20				
Jan-21					
Feb-21					
Mar-21					
YTD	2020 / 21	-	-	74 of 94	78.7%
ANNUAL TREND	2015 / 16	92.8%	95.0%		8.4%
	2016 / 17	89.5%	57.3%		18.2%
	2017 / 18	83.7%	72.5%		55.7%
	2018 / 19	91.8%	88.4%	136 of 266	51.1%
	2019 / 20	88.2%	82.2%	172 of 199	86.4%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				
	BEST SN				
	NAT AVE				
	NAT TOP QTILE				



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - EDUCATION

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. (PEPs are now in place for LAC aged two to their 18th birthday.)

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

The Summer Term PEP completion rates show a slight increase in the LAC with a PEP measure (98.9%) and a significant increase in the number of PEPs in time (96.5%), when compared to the previous Spring term. These figures also show an improvement on last year's performance (2018/19 Academic Year - with a PEP - 97.5% / up to date PEP - 95.0%). This is due in part to the impact of home working supporting increased capacity for the advisers. Of the 19 young people who didn't have a PEP in the summer term 16 either became LAC or ended being LAC during the term and 3 young people did not have a PEP following the request of the CDT team manager. These young people were said to be under a different criteria of care that meant they did not require a PEP.

Our Virtual School were given approval to appoint 2 FTE advisers (filling 1.5 FTE vacancy). Interviews were held in September and we were able to appoint to both posts. Both advisers have now started in their positions.

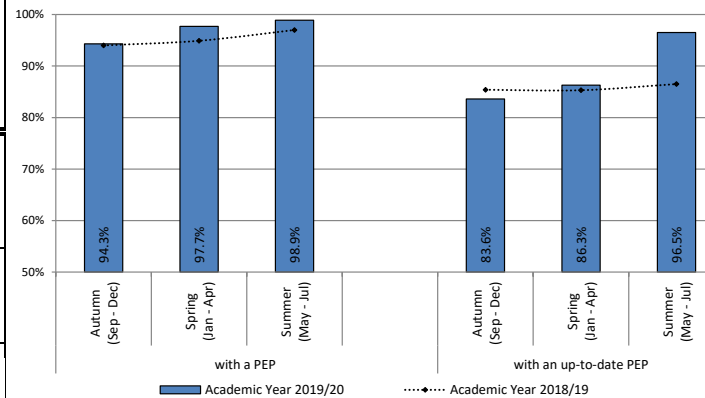
During Covid-19, schools closed with vulnerable pupils and key worker's children being able to attend if required. Monitoring for LAC (including whether children physically attended or were being educated by their foster carer etc) was undertaken by the Virtual School and this was reported on a weekly basis to CYPs DLT and also the strategic GOLD meeting. Virtual School attendance from September 20 (start of the new academic year) is now being monitored from within the ePEP system. This will improve the overall quality of the attendance data we hold and will now include all our eligible children from 2-18. All schools and Education providers are aware of the changes and training is being offered. This and other changes to the ePEP to improve the overall quality of the PEP and the data we hold is now live on the ePEP system.

Autumn term 2020/21 performance will be reported in January 2021.

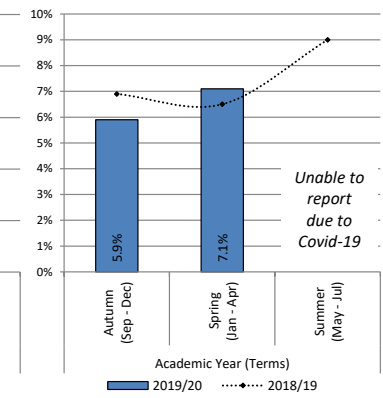
Data Note: System produced reports have now been introduced for the below measures which has caused some changes in performance. (PEP data from April 19 onwards is now produced direct from the ePEP system. From June 19 onwards all attendance data is now extracted direct from attendance systems.)

		6.13	6.14	6.15	6.16	6.17	6.18
		% LAC with a Personal Education Plan (Termly)	% 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 (LAC continuous for at least 12 months - missing 10%+ sessions)	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion (LAC continuous for at least 12 months)	% of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements (All LAC)
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Autumn Term (2019/20)	94.3%	83.6%	5.9%	14.4%	9.3%	5.9%
	Spring Term (2019/20)	97.7%	86.3%	7.1%	19.1%	12.6%	7.2%
	Summer Term (2019/20)	98.9%	96.5%	(Summer Term 2019/20 was during Covid-19 lockdown. LAC attendance was monitored and reported via the weekly 'GOLD Meetings'.)			
	Autumn Term (2020/21)						
YTD	2019/20	-	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL TREND (ACADEMIC YEAR)	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%	12.5%	-
	2018/19	97.5%	95.0%	4.6%	8.6%	tbc	-
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE			4.3%	10.0%	13.2%	-
	BEST SN			2.9%	6.3%	10.6%	-
	NAT AVE			4.7%	10.9%	11.7%	-
	NAT TOP Q TILE			4.0%	9.2%	10.0%	-

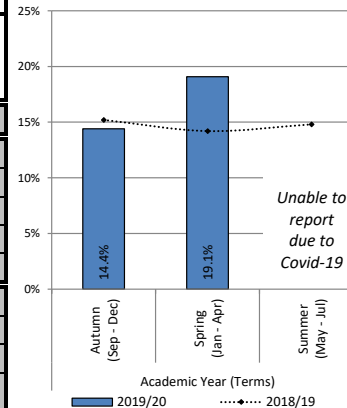
% of LAC with a PEP & % with an up-to-date PEP



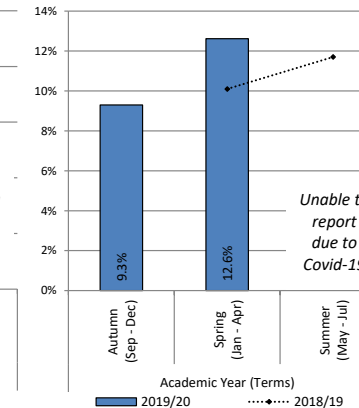
% of sessions lost due to absence



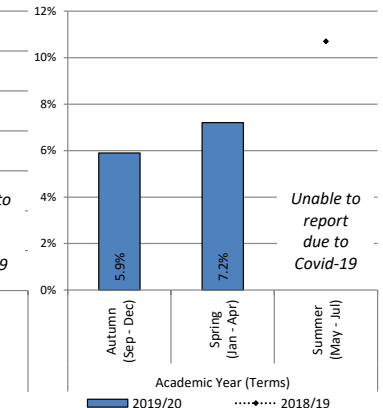
% of LAC persistent absentees



% of LAC with a fixed term exclusion



% of LAC on a reduced timetable



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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

The number of children and young people experiencing long term placement stability increased further in October 20 with 155 long term LAC children having a placement stable for at least 2 years out of a cohort of 229 (67.7%). This is the highest performance has been in 2020 to date.

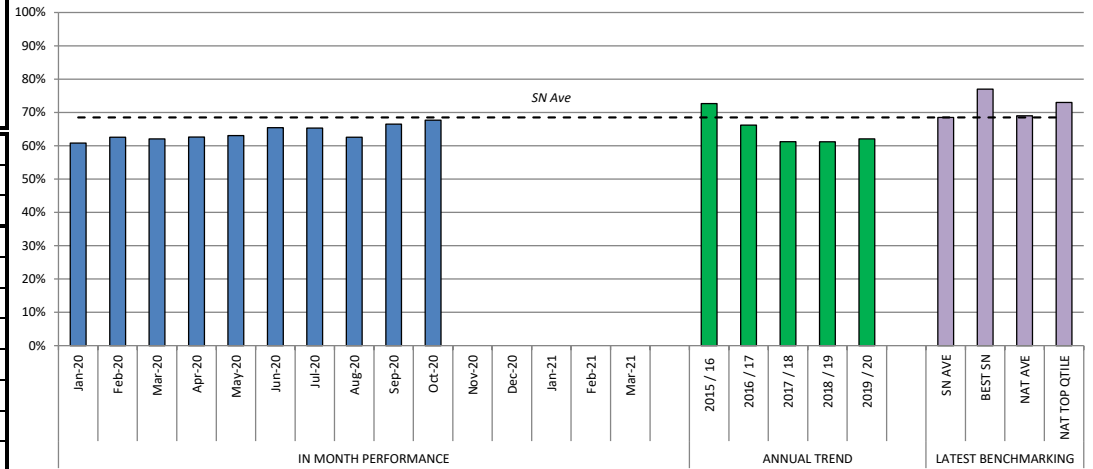
The percentage of children having 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months has increased again in October 20 (8.2%), from 7.6% in Sep 20. This is a slight increase and reflects a small number of children & young people and their carers (50/610) who have had placement disruptions. This is in comparison to 47/615 for September 20 and seems to be in part from a cumulative impact on placements linked to the pandemic.

The percentage of children in a family based placement continues to consistently range between 81-82% (October 20 was 81.3%). Similarly, LAC in a commissioned placement ranges between 50-52% (October 20 was 51.1%).

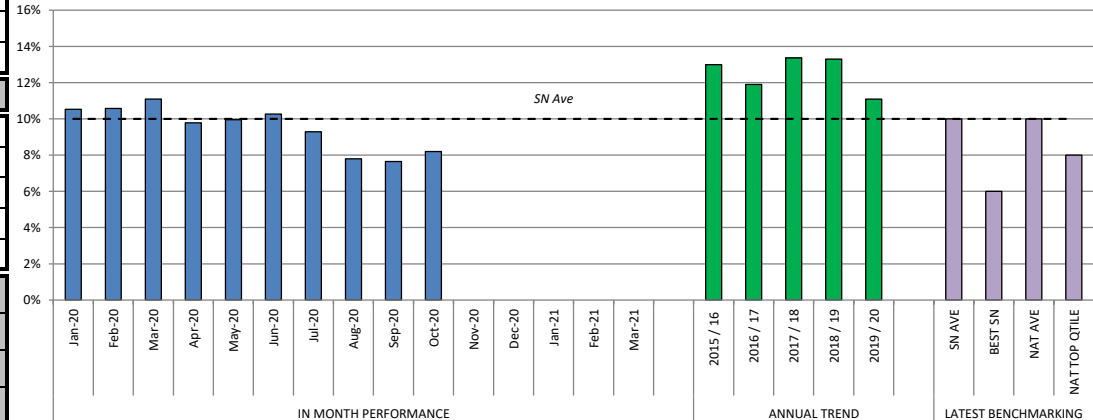
Date Note [March 20]: External Fostering numbers are now report direct from Liquid Logic.

		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 (External Fostering & Residential)	
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-20	118 of 194	60.8%	64 of 608	10.5%	81.1%	5.1%	330 of 608	54.3%		
	Feb-20	122 of 195	62.6%	64 of 605	10.6%	81.5%	6.1%	326 of 605	53.9%		
	Mar-20	126 of 203	62.1%	66 of 595	11.1%	81.5%	5.4%	309 of 595	51.9%		
	Apr-20	129 of 206	62.6%	59 of 603	9.8%	81.8%	5.5%	310 of 603	51.4%		
	May-20	135 of 214	63.1%	60 of 603	10.0%	82.3%	5.5%	313 of 603	51.9%		
	Jun-20	144 of 220	65.5%	62 of 604	10.3%	82.1%	5.3%	307 of 604	50.8%		
	Jul-20	145 of 222	65.3%	56 of 603	9.3%	82.6%	4.6%	315 of 603	52.2%		
	Aug-20	142 of 227	62.6%	48 of 616	7.8%	81.8%	4.9%	315 of 616	51.1%		
	Sep-20	153 of 230	66.5%	47 of 615	7.6%	81.6%	4.4%	312 of 615	50.7%		
	Oct-20	155 of 229	67.7%	50 of 610	8.2%	81.3%	4.3%	312 of 610	51.1%		
	Nov-20										
	Dec-20										
	Jan-21										
Feb-21											
Mar-21											
YTD	2020 / 21		-		-		-		-		-
ANNUAL TREND	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	90 of 147	61.2%	85 of 638	13.3%	81.9%	7.2%	336 of 642	52.3%		
	2019 / 20	126 of 203	62.1%	66 of 595	11.1%	81.5%	5.4%	309 of 595	51.9%		
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE		68.5%		10.0%						
	BEST SN		77.0%		6.0%						
	NAT AVE		69.0%		10.0%						
	NAT TOP Q TILE		73.0%		8.0%						

% long term LAC placements stable for at least 2 years



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



FOSTERING

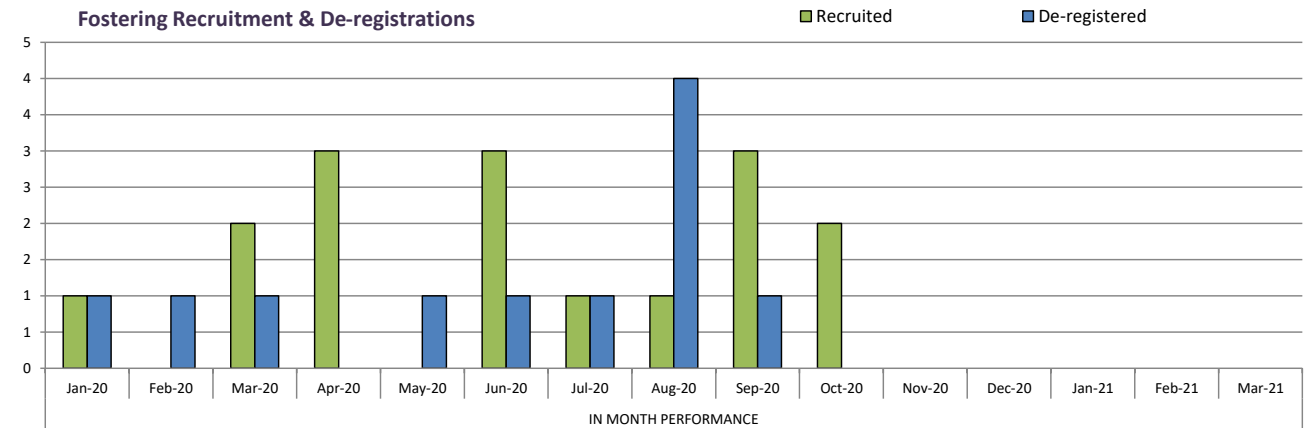
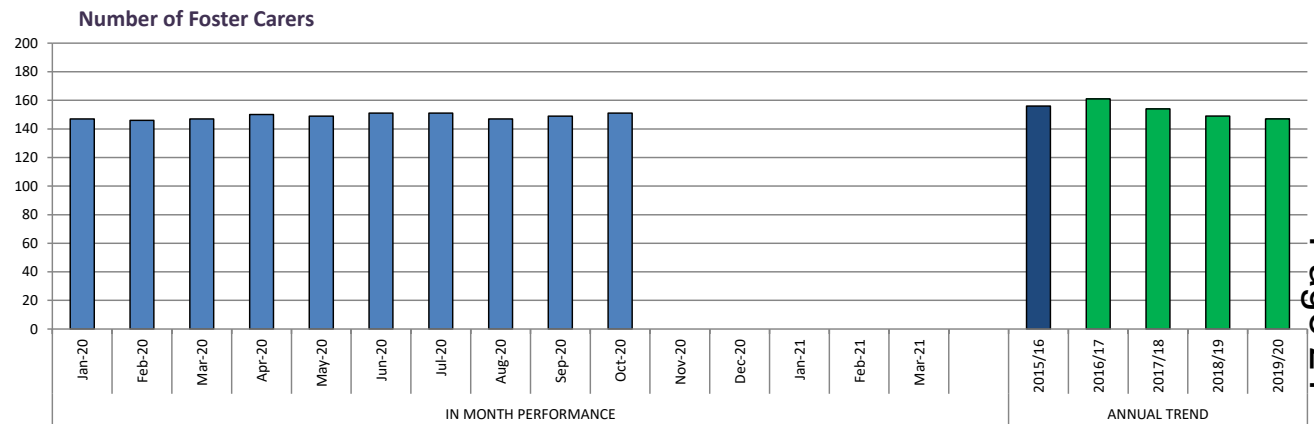
DEFINITION A foster care family provide the best form of care for most Looked after children. Rotherham would like most of its children to be looked after by its own carers so that they remain part of their families and community .

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

The number of LAC in a fostering placement has seen a decline on October 20 with 397 children (65.1% of LAC) in foster care; a reduction from 417 in Sep 20 (67.5%). This does include some of the young people exiting care for permanent family arrangements, but reflects that there has been some stress on fostering families

A further 2 new foster carers were recruited during October 20, and there were no deregistration in the same month taking the number of foster carers to 151. The number of foster care households at the start of 20/21 was 150 (April 20) so overall the number is staying fairly consistent.

		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-20	420	69.1%	147	1	1
	Feb-20	417	68.9%	146	0	1
	Mar-20	405	68.1%	147	2	1
	Apr-20	410	68.0%	150	3	0
	May-20	412	68.3%	149	0	1
	Jun-20	409	67.7%	151	3	1
	Jul-20	411	68.2%	151	1	1
	Aug-20	416	67.5%	147	1	4
	Sep-20	417	67.8%	149	3	1
	Oct-20	397	65.1%	151	2	0
	Nov-20					
	Dec-20					
Jan-21						
Feb-21						
Mar-21						
YTD	2020/21	-	-	-	13	8
ANNUAL TREND	2015/16	-	-	156	13	16
	2016/17	353	1	161	32	22
	2017/18	414	64.5%	154	16	25
	2018/19	427	66.5%	149	11	21



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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

Up until September 20 Covid-19 had significantly impacted on the 2020/21 performance for adoptions due to courts being closed. However, September (9) and October (11) have seen 20 adoptions completed, which brings the year to date total to 23. Court dates for adoption hearings are continuing to be agreed, which will support a positive year end picture reflecting that, while courts have been impacted upon, the work behind this to support transitions has continued.
The A1 measure for 2020/21 is reporting at 398.5 days and the A2 measure is reporting at 176.2 days in October 20. These measures will continue to change as more and more adoptions take place throughout the remainder of the financial year.

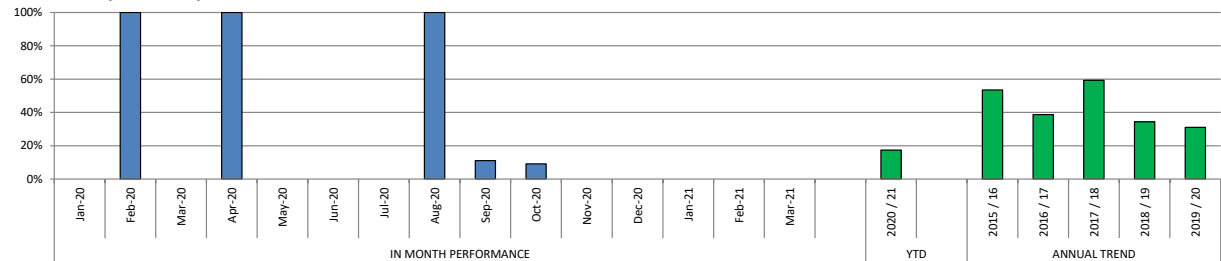
Data Note: Performance is taken from the services manual tracker as the data is not currently recorded on LCS.

	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-20	0	0	-	408.0	146.1
	Feb-20	1	1	100.0%	404.1	143.7
	Mar-20	3	0	-	391.5	146.0
	Apr-20	1	1	100.0%	0.0	n/a
	May-20	0	0	-	0.0	n/a
	Jun-20	0	0	-	0.0	n/a
	Jul-20	1	0	0.0%	164.0	84.5
	Aug-20	1	1	100.0%	109.3	79.7
	Sep-20	9	1	11.1%	344.8	145.0
	Oct-20	11	1	9.1%	398.5	176.2
	Nov-20					
	Dec-20					
	Jan-21					
Feb-21						
Mar-21						
YTD	2020 / 21	23	4	17.4%	-	-
ANNUAL TREND	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
	2019 / 20	29	9	31.0%	391.5	146.0
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				436.4	205.6
	BEST SN				352.0	89.0
	NAT AVE				486.0	220.0
	NAT TOP QTILE				419.5	171.8

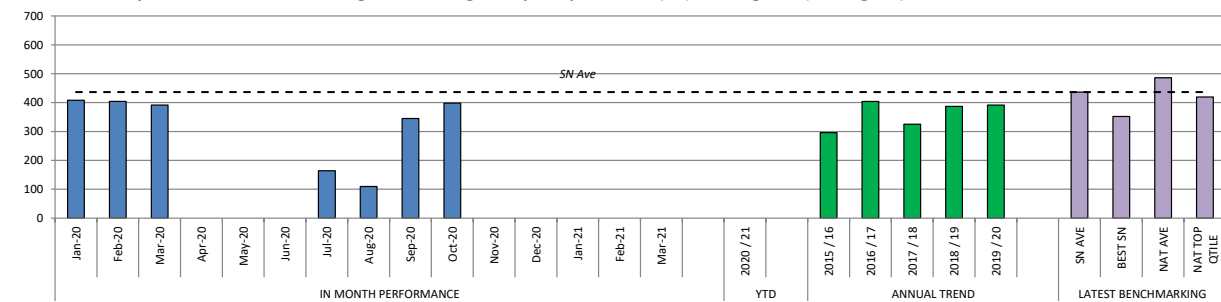
*Annual Trend relates to current reporting year April to Mar - not rolling year

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

% 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)

