

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date and Time :-	Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 3.30 p.m.
Venue:-	Virtual Meeting
Membership:-	Councillors Cusworth, Elliot, M. Elliott, Jarvis and Watson (Chair)
Contact	Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor 01709 254352 or katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk

The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

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 5 January 2021 (Pages 3 - 4)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 5 January 2021, 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. Ofsted Presentation (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive a presentation in respect of the outcome of the recent Ofsted visit.

6. Unregistered and Unregulated Placements (Pages 11 - 17)

To receive a report in respect of the Council's use of unregistered and unregulated placements.

7. EU Resettlement Scheme - Update (Pages 18 - 23)

To receive an update regarding the Council's efforts to obtain settled status for Looked After Children who are also E.U. Citizens.

8. Corporate Parenting Performance Report (Pages 24 - 44)

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

9. YOT Inspection (Pages 45 - 88)

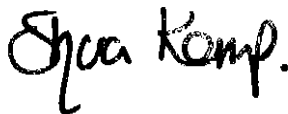
To receive a report in respect of the outcome of a recent inspection of the Rotherham Youth Offending Team.

10. LAC Council Update (Pages 89 - 96)

To receive an update presentation in respect of the recent activities of the Looked After Children's Council.

11. Urgent Business

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

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

Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Tuesday 5 January 2021**

Present were Councillor Watson (in the Chair), Councillors Cusworth and M. Elliott.

Apologies were received from Councillor Jarvis.

73. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 03 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2020, were approved as a true and correct account of the proceedings.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

75. 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.

76. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which included performance data for corporate parenting through October of 2020. The report included information about LAC caseloads, education, health, fostering, and adoptions. Progress in respect of various performance measures was described in relation to targets and to prior performance.

In discussion on this report, officers noted that agreements and approvals were in place about foundational dentistry being offered as a priority for children and young people in care, with provision set to begin in the middle of February. Toothbrushes and toothpaste were also being distributed to young people in care as part of resource packs. Case tracking systems had been updated to require inputs around dental checks.

Members also requested clarification of how many placements had been allocated to how many foster carers. Members requested more information around how many children might be placed in a given placement. The response from officers indicated that as of the meeting date there were 141 registered foster carers, not including family and friends placements. It was noted that a few foster carer placements are on hold, which can occur for a range of reasons. It was also noted that while there is a desire to see multiple children in a placement, this is limited by space and skill level of the foster carers. The number of children who could be placed into a foster carer's home sometimes changes over time, as these factors are considered in order to ensure the number and age

range of children in a given placement is appropriate.

Regarding adoptions in the Borough, Members asked for more information about possible court delays due to the ongoing pandemic. Assurances were provided that court delays are being reduced by the fact that much court work is being provided virtually now, as robust systems are in place for this that were not previously operational at the beginning of last year. A further update on this topic was offered to be brought to the next meeting of CPP.

Members requested clarification around educational PEP numbers for the autumn, and assurances were provided that autumn PEPs had been completed, and that, while there is a lag in data gathering, the numbers are consistently at or above the 95th percentile, with outliers having current data entered in the system to show that the PEP has been completed but not yet reported as part of these numbers.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

77. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent matters for consideration at the meeting.

78. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair announced that the next virtual meeting of Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on 2 March 2021, commencing at 3.30 pm.

Corporate Parenting Panel

2nd March 2021

Feedback from Ofsted assurance visit October 2020

**Rebecca Wall – head of service
Children and Young Peoples Services**

Purpose of the visit

- The visit place from 20 to 22 of October 2020 – 6 inspectors on site – one specialist interest in Education
- Methodology in line with the ILACS inspection framework, with a focus on how RMBC had delivered child centred practice and care in the context of Covid.
- The visit looked at the quality and impact of key decision-making across help and protection, children in care and services for care leavers, together with the impact of leadership on service development.
- While there was no overall graded outcome, the letter with its feedback has been published highlight areas of strength and some areas where practice may need to be strengthened.
- This presentation will highlight the areas specifically linked to the corporate parenting role.

What's working well in relation to Looked after Children

- Ofsted noted that there had been a rapid and effective response with strong leadership and dynamic assessment around Covid.
- Senior leaders have oversight of children who need to be safeguarded and supported
- The voice of the Child is evident in Care planning.
- Pre-proceedings work is effective and support siblings to remain together where ever possible. For most children plans for Permanence are considered at an early stage
- Family time has continued to be promoted
- Additional support via RTT in place to support LAC emotional needs
- Good partnership working with schools has supported children's learning through Covid
- Risks around Child Exploitation are well understood and risk assessments reviewed regularly
- Robust political oversight of performance linked to Covid and its impact for children

What's needs to be strengthened in relation to Looked after Children

- Quality of written plans is not consistent for all children
- Shortage of Local Authority placements – can lead to placements out of area and contribute to use of unregistered placements
- For some children who move placement there is a delay in accessing education
- This delay is sometimes linked to their SEND need

What activity is in place to ensure service development

- Care planning – embedding signs of success and trajectory planning for all LAC.
- Sufficiency of local placements – Growth of local offer within RMBC and borough, with further plans to build on this.
- Education access for LAC -Virtual School are working closely with fieldwork teams to plan education and placement moves where possible. A specialist post has been created to support getting these children back into fulltime Education.
- Strengthening of recording around LAC reviews; PEP's and ensuring these feed through to Care plans – refresh and refocus on key recording to be included in service and broader partnership LAC development sessions

Questions?

Public Report
Corporate Parenting Panel

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel – 02 March 2021

Report Title

Unregulated and unregistered placements

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Suzanne Joyner, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Ailsa Barr, Assistant director, children's social care
01709 822558 or ailsa.barr@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report is to provide information to the panel in respect of the use of unregistered and unregulated placements for looked after children and young people. The report will provide explanation of the terminology and assurance in respect of the types of accommodation used.

Recommendations

That Corporate Parenting Panel note the information contained within the briefing report and the key actions and timelines and seek further assurance from the assistant director for children's social care at subsequent meetings of the panel.

List of Appendices Included

None included

Background Papers

None included

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Not applicable

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Unregulated and unregistered placements

1. Background

1.1 Children who are looked after should live in suitably approved care arrangements, these are regulated placements and include:

- Foster placement with a foster carer approved by an ofsted regulated fostering service or agency
- Placement in a children's home which is registered with ofsted
- Placement with parents where this placement is supported and approved by placement with parent regulations and approved by the designated manager within the local authority (in RMBC that is the assistant director of children's social care)
- Placement made under section 38(6) of the Children Act where the arrangement is court ordered and therefore regulated by a direction of the court

1.2 If a placement within the above categories cannot be found and a child is placed in an alternative arrangement this is an unregistered placement arrangement. The exception to this is young people who are aged 16 or 17 who in some circumstances can be placed in placement which is not regulated by ofsted, these are known as unregulated placements.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Many people are unsure what it meant by unregulated and unregistered placements, and often confuse the two.

2.2 They are different things:

Unregulated provision is allowed in law. This is when children/young people (aged 16 and 17) need support to live independently rather than needing full-time care. Ofsted do not regulate this type of provision, but the placement is lawful.

It is often referred to semi-independent accommodation and should be used as a steppingstone to independence, and only ever when it is in a young person's best interests. Some young people do not want to live with foster parents or live in a children's home, and so semi-independent accommodation is the right choice. This type of accommodation is only appropriate when there is an assessment of the young person's needs which confirms that they require support to live independently as opposed to them needing care.

Unregistered provision is when a child/young person who is being provided with some form of 'care' is living somewhere that is not registered with ofsted, this is not a legal placement

What does 'care' mean? It is not defined in law. It is not just about the age of the child, although that is a factor. It is about a child's vulnerability and the level of help that they need. If a child does need care, then the service they are getting is very likely to need registration as a children's home. Certainly, if children are under constant supervision then this is likely to be a 'care' arrangement.

- 2.2 It is therefore possible that the same provision can be providing both unregulated and unregistered placements for young people with different needs, for example:

Example 1

Paul is 16 years old; he has completed his GCSE studies and is now undertaking a mechanics apprenticeship. Paul manages his time well, going to work and college and returning home at sensible times. He can broadly budget for himself with some advice and he can make sensible decisions about what to eat and how to look after himself. Paul does always not need staff to be present. Paul does benefit from having time with staff to think through choices that he makes and needs some help to learn how to some household tasks better.

Paul lives in a 16+ semi-supported provision which is not a regulated children's home.

FOR PAUL THIS IS AN UNREGULATED PLACEMENT WHICH IS ALLOWED WITHIN THE CARE PLANNING REGULATIONS

Example 2

Martin is 17 years old; he is not engaged in any education or training. Martin cannot budget and needs close supervision when he is given money. Martin is vulnerable to exploitation and as such can be enticed to spend time away from his placement and when he does not return home at night he is often in risky situations. Martin seems to struggle to understand age appropriate independence skills and requires adults to do things for him to keep him clean and healthy. There are concerns about Martin being exploited so there are extra staff employed to be with him lots of the day and someone is always there at night-time in case Martin goes missing.

Martin lives in the same 16+ semi-supported provision as Paul which is not a regulated children's home.

FOR MARTIN THIS IS AN UNREGISTERED PLACEMENT WHICH IS NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE CARE PLANNING REGULATIONS

- 2.3 A further example of an unregistered placement arrangement is when a looked after child (under 16 years) or a 16/17-year-old where it is clear from their assessment of need that they require care as opposed to support and no regulated placement can be identified. In these circumstances the local

authority makes emergency care arrangements which means the child is provided with a safe place to reside and suitable adults (typically agency staff from approved staffing agencies) to care for them.

THIS IS NOT A REGULATED PLACEMENT AND SO IS AN EMERGENCY UNREGISTERED PLACEMENT WHICH IS NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE CARE PLANNING REGULATIONS

- 2.4 The use of unregulated semi-independent provision has been a matter of public debate over the past 12-24 months and there have been national concerns about the ability of providers to set up provision quickly and with little oversight. In Rotherham we have developed a semi-independent provider framework to ensure that providers are adhering to clear criteria in the provision of their service.
- 2.5 In respect of practice in Rotherham we understand the issues relating to unregulated and unregistered placements well and the following is an indication of what is working well in this area of work:
- The majority of Rotherham's looked after children are cared for in regulated placements which meet their needs well.
 - A local 16+ placement framework is now in place, which will ensure quality assurance of unregistered providers.
 - We know our children and their needs well which means that we suitably assess and understand the placements that they are living in and can correctly identify unregulated and unregistered arrangements.
 - We are developing 2 emergency placements which will be regulated children's homes within the current residential children's home strategy.
 - A relatively small number of 16- and 17-year olds live in unregulated placements which are suitable placement for them and meet their assessed needs (16 at the time of the report out of a cohort of 107 16- and 17-year olds).
 - There is a clear internal system of identification regarding placements meaning that when an unregistered arrangement is being considered appropriate senior management oversight is in place.
 - The assistant director for children's social care and the head of service for looked after children's services receive a weekly report relating to all children and young people in emergency unregistered and unregistered placements.
 - The assistant director reports regularly to the directorate leadership team.
- 2.6 Placement sufficiency means that children/young people do at times live in unregistered arrangements and although placement searches are ongoing for some children this takes time resulting in them remaining in unregistered placements for more extended periods. We are currently undertaking work to improve our placement sufficiency which will reduce the reliance on unregistered provision.

- 2.7 There are 8 (at the time of writing on 09/02/21) 16- and 17-year olds living in unregulated provision, but their needs assessment identifies that they require care not support and so their placement is unregistered. These young people are all receiving the additional help that they need in these placement arrangements and are making good progress. Many have been supported to reduce their reliance on care staff and are making good progress in gaining independence skills and some young people (who are no longer on this list) have moved to a position that they are now only in receipt of support as opposed to care. There is a higher degree of scrutiny of the placement arrangement given that it is unregistered, meaning workers visit more frequently and independent reviewing officers (IROs) are vigilant within their reviewing of the plan.
- 2.8 There are 3 other children/young people who are in emergency unregistered care arrangements, for each of these they need care as opposed to support (either due to their age or level of needs). There is increased oversight by social workers (weekly visiting) and IROs (monthly reviews) to ensure that these arrangements are closely monitored and there is an active placement search ongoing to identify a regulated placement alternative.

3 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The work is ongoing, and it is proposed that it will continue ensuring that:
- An up to date tracker continues to be used to record details of all children and young people in emergency unregistered, unregistered, and unregulated placements – this is in place and updated weekly
 - Refresh of procedures and guidance for staff to ensure the issues are well understood and that the processes are consistently followed meaning that the correct safeguards/alerts are in place when unregistered arrangements are used – by end of March 2021
 - Continue to develop the sufficiency strategy to ensure the development of varied in-house options to provide flexible/emergency care when this is required – as set out in cabinet papers

4 Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 There is no proposal contained within this briefing report on which to consult.

5 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 There are no decisions being sought at this meeting, rather assurance being offered regarding work already planned with timeline set out in section 3.

6 Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report.
- 6.2 All placements are closely monitored to ensure robust financial projections.

7 Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 The information provided in the report setting out unregulated and unregistered placements is legally correct. There is continued oversight of any unregistered placements to ensure children are safeguarded.

8 Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications that require consideration.

9 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Increasing oversight of unregulated and unregistered placements means that looked after children and young people are safeguarded and provided with appropriate additional support/oversight when required.

10 Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 This is not a cabinet report, so an equality impact assessment is not required.

11 Implications for Partners

- 11.1 There are no implications to consider in relation to this report.

12 Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1 There is nothing further to consider that is not addressed elsewhere in the report.

13 Accountable Officer(s)

Ailsa Barr, assistant director, children's social care
Rebecca Wall, head of service, children in care

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Not required for this report	Click here to enter a date.
On behalf of Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Neil Hardwick	10/02/21
On behalf of Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Clare Jordan	11/02/21
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Not applicable	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Not applicable	Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: Ailsa Barr, assistant director
01709 822558 ailsa.barr@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Name of Committee Corporate parenting panel – 02 March 2021

Report Title

Update regarding settled status for Looked After Children who are EU citizens

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Suzanne Joyner, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Ailsa Barr, Assistant director
01709 822558 or ailsa.barr@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Choose an item.

Report Summary

The EU Settlement Scheme was fully launched by the Home Office on 30th March 2019. The scheme requires EU citizens and their families to apply for either Settled Status or Pre-Settled Status to secure their rights while living in the UK. The status EU citizens can apply for is determined by length of residency at the time of application.

The purpose of this update is to provide assurance in respect of the progression of EU settlement applications in relation to eligible children who are looked after by Rotherham.

Recommendations

That Corporate Parenting Panel note the information contained within the report and seek further assurance from the assistant director for children's social care at subsequent meetings of the panel.

List of Appendices Included

None included

Background Papers

None included

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Not applicable

Council Approval Required

You should refer to [Appendix 9 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions](#) – to check whether your recommendations require approval by Council, as well as Cabinet or a committee. You should take advice from Democratic Services if you are not sure.

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

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1. Background

- 1.1 The EU Settlement Scheme was fully launched by the Home Office on 30th March 2019. The scheme requires EU citizens and their families to apply for either Settled Status or Pre-Settled Status to secure their rights while living in the UK. The status EU citizens can apply for is determined by length of residency at the time of application.
- 1.2 Eligibility is defined as any EU citizen or family member, arriving in the UK before 31st December 2020 and who does not pose a public security risk (serious or persistent criminal). The deadline for applications is 30th June 2021.
- 1.3 Local authorities are required to make applications on behalf of eligible EU citizens (children) where a court order has granted parental responsibility. Applications are encouraged to be made online and include the submission of evidence for identity and residence.
- 1.4 The council's Senior Leadership Team receive regular updates in respect of progress and challenges in relation to this work, regular updates provided to the senior leadership team (SLT) to provide assurance regarding progress.
- 1.5 A previous briefing report was provided to the corporate parenting panel on 30th June 2020; therefore, this briefing is by way of update.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Positive progress is being made in relation to the applications for EU settled status for the children/young people in the cohort.

Description	Number		Notes
Total cohort	101		89 applications to progress via Business Support
Applications not progressed	12		Reason: British Citizenship Awarded or no longer residing in UK
Application tracking data			
Applications where decision made	Settled	Pre-Settled	36 in total
	28	8	

Applications submitted awaiting decision from Home Office	28	Staff met with Home Office w/c 01/02/21 who have informed that they are prioritising the applications over the next week, the meeting was used to share information with a view to resolving any difficulties
Applications in progress not yet submitted	25	25 total in progress of those not started there are appointments booked towards the end of February 2021 as these cannot be progressed online, as such a face to face meeting is required, a risk assessment has been completed but given national lockdown these have been deferred to a slightly later date so as to avoid unnecessary travel or risk

- 2.2 We are confident that applications will be completed by deadline of 30th June 2021. There is a good process in place with performance reporting to support. The business support service has dedicated resource working to support social workers in completion of the applications and this is working well. In addition, the IRO service have been briefed to ensure that they are well informed about the process and so the IRO can act as an additional check and challenge for children in the cohort.
- 2.3 If there are any applications not completed by the June deadline there are contingencies in place. The Home Office advise there will be an ongoing ability for local authorities to make and progress applications. This needs to be in place to provide for children who may become looked after in the future whose parents did not make an application for EU settlement and/or they were awarded pre-settled status at time of application as they were too young (under 5 years old) to be awarded settled status.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The work is ongoing, and it is proposed that it will continue to work within the government set deadline.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 There is no proposal on which to consult.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The work is already ongoing and scheduled to conclude in line with the timeframe of the EU settlement scheme. There is no further decision required.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 As outlined in the report the local authorities are required to make applications on behalf of eligible EU citizens (children) where a court order has granted parental responsibility. The administration costs to the local authority for completing the applications can be reclaimed by the authority from the Home Office up to a maximum of £1,744.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 We are complying with the requirement to make applications on behalf of those children for whom we have Parental Responsibility. The Government has confirmed the position if an application is not submitted by the deadline, which ensures that the relevant children will continue to receive care and be safeguarded.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resource implications that require consideration.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Looked after children will have their application for EU settlement progressed meaning that they will not be disadvantaged as they reach adulthood should they wish to remain living within the UK.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This is not a cabinet report, so an equality impact assessment is not required. However, the service has considered matters of equality and the making of the EU settlement applications on behalf of children in care achieves equality for them alongside children in the same circumstances who reside within their family.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 There are no implications to consider in relation to this report.

12. Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1 If an application or applications are not progressed assurances have already been sought from the Home Office to ensure that there will be mechanisms to progress application even after 30th June 2021 and such assurance has already been given. Even in the event that a child does not have EU settled status after this date this will not prevent the local authority in acting to protect and provide care if this is required and then working with Home Office regulations to progress the required application.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Ailsa Barr, assistant director, children's social care
Rebecca Wall, head of service, children in care

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Not required for this report	Click here to enter a date.
On behalf of Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Neil Hardwick	10/02/21
On behalf of Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Clare Jordan	11/02/21
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Not applicable	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	Not applicable	Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: Ailsa Barr, assistant director
01709 822558 ailsa.barr@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

Council Report

Corporate Parenting Performance

Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – 2nd March 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 – Dec 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 – Dec 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 December, we had 14 admissions to care and 12 discharges, resulting in an increase to 615 LAC at month end.
 - 3.2.2 This increase in LAC slightly increased our 10k population rate to 106.9% at the end of December, a very high rate in comparison to our statistical neighbours at 98.2%.
 - 3.2.3 Of those who left care, 4 children secured SGO's in December, taking the 2020/21 year to date number to 23. There remains a number of children in the adoption pathway as we catch up with Adoption Order appeals and hearings.

3.3 LAC Plans, Reviews and Visits

- 3.3.1 LAC reviews remained consistent in December at 96.2% held within timescale.
- 3.3.2 LAC with an up to date plan remained at 91.1% in December, similar to the previous month, but a slight drop on performance compared to April to July at around 94%.
- 3.3.3 97.1% of visits were undertaken within timescale in December and no visits were recorded as virtual visits (as in previous months in response 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 long term looked after children and young people experiencing long term placement stability increased in December to 68% of children and young people remaining in placement for at least 2 years. 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 12 months has increased slightly in December to 8.8% (54/615) from 7.8% in September 20. The increase since October reflects some of the placement instability brought by Covid-19.
- 3.4.4 The percentage of children in a family based placement continues to consistently range between 80-82% with 80.8% at the end of December. Similarly, LAC in a commissioned placement ranges between 50-52% with 51.2% at the end of December.

3.5 Fostering

- 3.5.1 The number of LAC in a fostering placement has seen a decline in December with 391 children (63.6%) in foster care; a reduction from 395 in November. This figure does not include those children and young people placed with family and friends.
- 3.5.2 1 new foster family was approved during December, however we concluded 2 resignations. This brings the number of new Foster

carer approvals to 17 in 2020-21, and the total number deregistered to 15.

3.5.3 A key element to factor in to fostering placement capacity is that carers who resign are often more established and are often approved for 2 or more young people. New carers usually start with an approval of only 1 or, less frequently, 2 children. The combination of newer carers coming in, resignations of experience carers concluding, and some placements being on hold due to Covid-19 means, while the number of fostering households look the similar to the year start, the number of young people in fostering is lower than at the start of the year.

3.5.4 Our newly approved foster carers will grow with time and experience and have potential for more placements in future.

3.5.5 The themes around resignations are linked to families revisiting their commitments in light of their own families.

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 The current year to date number of adoptions is 26, with 23 of these taking place since September due to delays as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The increase in adoptions completed is reassuring to see and highlights that, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the service has continued to ensure transitions to support adoption.

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 427.3 days for the 26 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 185.4 days for the 26 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 80.1% in December from 90% in February.
- 3.7.2 Dental checks are continuing the linear downward trend since the beginning of the year when we had 86.1% of dental assessments up to date. Current data shows that only 20.7%% were up to date at the end of December. The Covid-19 pandemic enforced the closure of dentists, giving a significant impact on this measure. Dentists have since reopened for emergency treatment. There is focused work in place via the Health and Wellbeing partnership and as dentists seek to reopen there is a clear plan to support a focused increase in dental checks for looked after children.
- 3.7.3 Performance for Initial Health Assessments undertaken in December increased to 84.6% (11/13) of children receiving their assessment in time. Year to date, 78.8% of initial assessments have been completed in time which is not currently meeting the year end performance of 2019/20 (86.4%) but is above other previous years and is considered to be positive under the current demands and pressures related to Covid-19.

3.8 LAC Education

- 3.8.1 All measures are reported termly, Autumn term 2020/21 performance will be reported in February 2021 as the new reporting system is still being worked on to ensure data is as accurate as possible.
- 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 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.
- 3.8.4 Since the start of Covid-19 in March 20, there have been no further exclusions and as such the figure has remained the same.
- 3.8.5 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.

3.9 Care Leavers

- 3.9.1 At the end of December, the care leavers cohort had increased by 4, up to 337.
- 3.9.2 All care leavers measures continue to fluctuate slightly month on month and in December, both pathway plan measures saw a fall in how many care leavers have a plan (89%) and how many are up to date (72.9%).
- 3.9.3 However, performance for care leavers in suitable accommodation (97%) and care leavers in employment, education, or training (65.3%) both continued to increase during December, which shows the ongoing positive work of the network around the young people, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and acknowledged impact on this age group nationally.

3.1 Caseloads

- 3.1.1 In December, the maximum caseload of workers in the LAC teams was at its lowest this year so far (19) from a high of 29 at the start of 2020.
- 3.1.2 The average number of cases also reduced to its lowest so far in 2020 to 16.7 in December from a high of 18.6 in February.

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
rebecca.wall@rotherham.gov.uk

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

Corporate Parenting Monthly Performance Report

As at Month End: December 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, Draft 2

Date Created: 02/02/21

Created by: Performance & Quality Team

Performance Summary

As at Month End: December 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			
					Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-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	607	613	615	-	↑				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	105.5	106.6	106.9	-	↓				99.1	76.6	86.6	110.8	112.7	104.5	98.2	59.0	67.0	-
	6.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Info	Count	12	16	14	140	↓				n/a	208	262	330	271	214				
	6.4	Number of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	High	Count	19	10	12	120	↑				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	36.8%	50.0%	66.7%	33.3%	↑		<33%	33%>	35%+	40.1%	27.9%	27.3%	31.5%	32.4%				
	6.6	Number of SGOs started (Legal Status)	High	Count	2	6	4	23	↓					-	-	67	62	73				
	6.7	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order	High	Percentage	0.0%	10.0%	50.0%	11.7%	↑					-	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	97.1%	96.4%	96.2%	96.1%	↓		<90%	90%>	95%+	83.3%	91.3%	90.6%	88.6%	90.8%				
	6.9	% of children adopted	High	Percentage	36.8%	50.0%	16.7%	21.7%	↓		<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	87.9%	85.3%	80.1%	-	↓		<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	34.5%	27.7%	20.7%	-	↓		<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	85.7%	66.7%	84.6%	78.8%	↑					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%	4.3%	2.9%	4.7%	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%	6.3%	10.9%	9.2%
	6.17	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	Low	Percentage	-	-	-	-	n/a					11.8%	13.1%	15.5%	12.5%	tbc	13.2%	10.6%	11.7%	10.0%
	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	93.2%	91.8%	91.9%	-	↑		<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	97.7%	97.3%	97.1%	-	↓		<95%	95%>	98%+	98.1%	74.0%	97.5%	96.9%	93.4%				
CARE LEAVERS	7.1	Number of care leavers	Info	Count	333	333	337	-	↑				n/a	197	223	255	298	313				
	7.2	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan	High	Percentage	95.2%	95.5%	89.0%	-	↓		<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	75.3%	76.8%	72.9%	-	↓					-	-	81.5%	82.0%	73.1%				
	7.4	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	High	Percentage	96.1%	96.7%	97.0%	-	↑		<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	61.6%	62.2%	65.3%	-	↑		<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	67.7%	67.2%	68.0%	-	↑		<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	8.4%	8.6%	8.8%	-	↓		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	81.2%	80.9%	80.8%	-	↓				85%>	-	81.1%	81.0%	81.9%	81.5%				
	8.4	% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	Low	Percentage	4.1%	4.4%	4.9%	-	↓					-	5.3%	4.3%	7.2%	5.4%				
	8.5	% of LAC in a Commissioned Placement	Low	Percentage	51.4%	51.5%	51.2%	-	↑					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	397	395	391	-	↓					-	353	414	427	405				
	9.2	% of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes family/friend carers)	High	Percentage	65.4%	64.4%	63.6%	-	↓					-	56.3%	64.5%	66.5%	68.1%				
	9.3	Number of Foster Carers (Households)	High	Count	151	149	148	-	↓					156	161	154	149	147				
	9.4	Number of Foster Carers Recruited	High	Count	2	2	1	17	↓					13	32	16	11	18				
	9.5	Number of Foster Carers Deregistered	Info	Count	1	3	2	15	↓					16	22	25	21	20				

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⬆

- 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 <i>(Monthly)</i>	2020 / 21				DOT (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR TREND					LATEST BENCHMARKING			
					Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-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
ADOPTIONS	10.1	Number of adoptions	High	Count	7	5	2	26	⬇					43	31	27	32	29				
	10.2	Number of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Count	1	0	0	4	➡					23	12	16	11	9				
	10.3	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	High	Percentage	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	➡		<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 (A10)	Low	YTD Average	396.1	416.8	427.3	-	⬇		511+	511<	487<	296.0	404.0	325.3	386.9	391.5	359.7	310.0	376.0	333.0
	10.5	Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)	Low	YTD Average	176.6	181.4	185.4	-	⬇		127+	127<	121<	136	232.9	124.8	212.4	146.0	160.0	91.0	178.0	138.0
WORKFORCE	11.5	Average number of cases per qualified social worker in LAC Teams 1-3	Within Limits	Average count	18.2	18.1	16.7	-	⬇		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 616. This has since fluctuated and at the end of December 20 there were 615 LAC. There remains a number of children in the adoption pathway as we catch up with Adoption Order appeals and hearings.

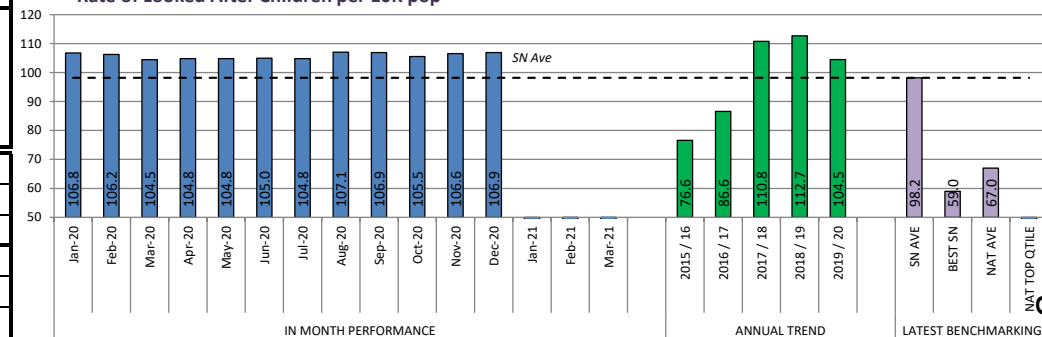
14 children became looked after and 12 children ceased to be looked after in December 20, with 66.7% of these children leaving care to permanence. 33.3% of children have ceased care to permanency year to date. This is the highest the overall percentage has been since 2015/16 (40.1% year-end).

4 SGO's were started in December 20 bring the year-to-date total to 23. 6 out of the 12 children (50.0%) who ceased to be looked after in December ceased care due to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).

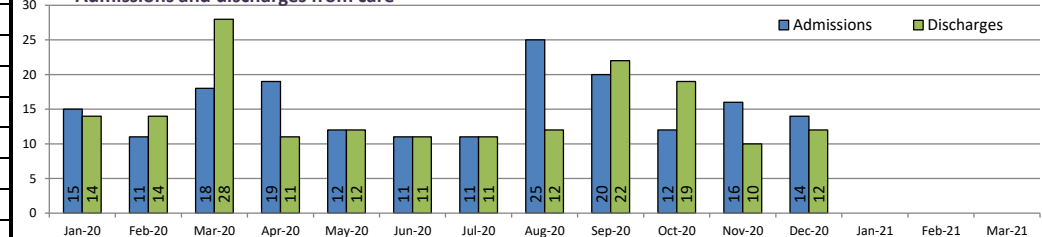
Data Note: An issue has arisen within the Liquid Logic system which is impacting on the reporting LAC children. For some children who have left care and have had previous care episodes, the same 'end date' is copying into the previous episodes within the system. This has been reported, however, until 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	105.5	607	12	19	36.8%	2	0.0%
	Nov-20	106.6	613	16	10	50.0%	6	10.0%
	Dec-20	106.9	615	14	12	66.7%	4	50.0%
	Jan-21							
	Feb-21							
	Mar-21							
YTD	2020 / 21	-	-	140	120	33.3%	23	11.7%
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	98.2						12.3% (2017)
	BEST SN	59.0						22.0% (2017)
	NAT AVE	67.0						12.0% (2017)
	NAT TOP QTILE	-						17.0% (2017)

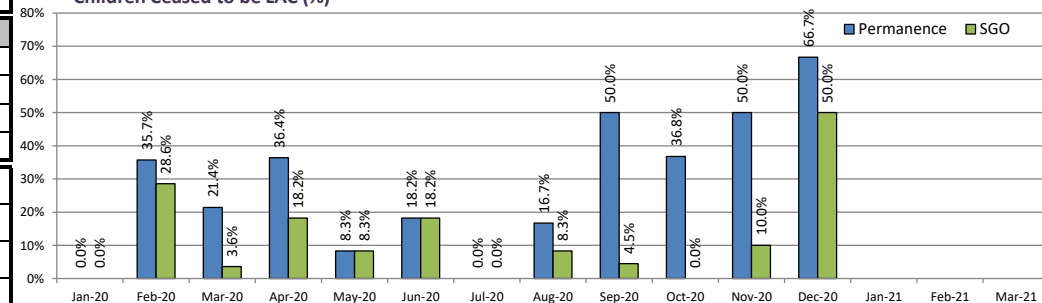
Rate of Looked After Children per 10K pop



Admissions and discharges from care



Children Ceased to be LAC (%)



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	96.2% of LAC reviews were held within timescale during December 20.
	LAC with an up-to-date plan has remained fairly static in December at 91.9% compared to 91.8% in November 20.
	LAC visits in time (NMS) showed a small reduction in December 20 with 97.1% being in time (November 20; 97.3%). There were no virtual visits recorded during December 20.

		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	142 of 144	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	185 of 196	94.4%	88.8%	605 of 616	98.2%	
	Oct-20	136 of 140	97.1%	93.2%	595 of 609	97.7%	
	Nov-20	161 of 167	96.4%	91.8%	602 of 619	97.3%	
	Dec-20	128 of 133	96.2%	91.9%	599 of 617	97.1%	
	Jan-21						
	Feb-21						
	Mar-21						
YTD	2020/21	1231 of 1281	96.1%	-		-	
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

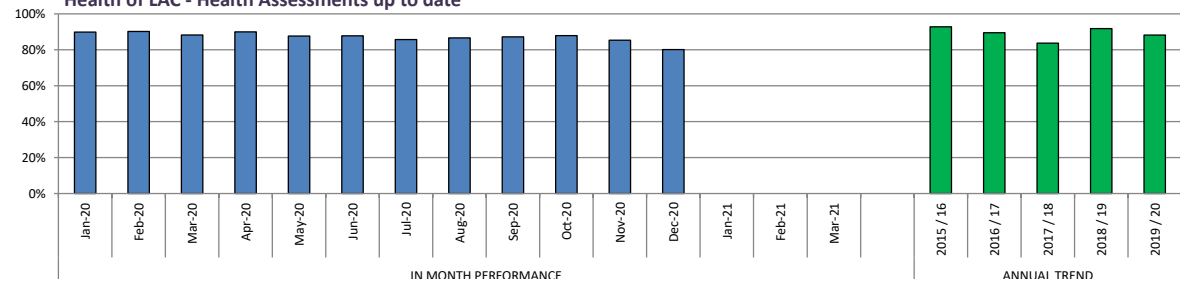
Health checks have seen a gradual decline since April 20 (90.0%) to 80.1% in December 20.

Dental checks are continuing a downward trend that started in October 2019 (88.1%) and since the Covid-19 pandemic this has reduced down month by month since to 20.7% in December 20. Due to the pandemic, since March 20 dental surgeries have either closed or only been providing emergency care at times which has significantly affected LAC being able to attend assessments. There is focused work in place via the Health and Wellbeing partnership and as dentists seek to reopen there is a clear plan to support a focused increase in dental checks.

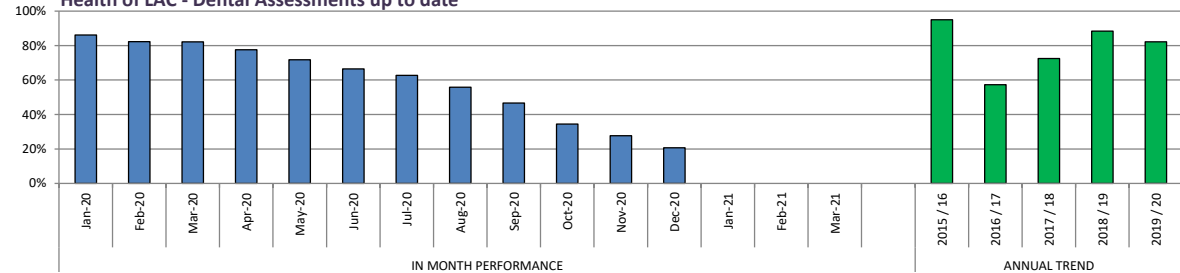
13 initial health assessments were completed in December 20 and 84.6% (11 assessments) were completed within timescale. Year to date, 78.8% of assessments have been completed in time which is not currently meeting the year end performance of 2019/20 (86.4%) but is above other previous years and is considered to be positive under the current demands and pressures related to Covid-19.

		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%	86.1%	18 of 18	100.0%
	Feb-20	90.2%	82.3%	5 of 8	62.5%
	Mar-20	88.2%	82.2%	13 of 13	100.0%
	Apr-20	90.0%	77.6%	7 of 7	100.0%
	May-20	87.7%	71.8%	15 of 21	71.4%
	Jun-20	87.8%	66.5%	5 of 6	83.3%
	Jul-20	85.7%	62.7%	7 of 9	77.8%
	Aug-20	86.6%	55.8%	13 of 18	72.2%
	Sep-20	87.2%	46.6%	15 of 19	78.9%
	Oct-20	87.9%	34.5%	12 of 14	85.7%
	Nov-20	85.3%	27.7%	4 of 6	66.7%
	Dec-20	80.1%	20.7%	11 of 13	84.6%
	Jan-21				
	Feb-21				
	Mar-21				
YTD	2020 / 21	-	-	89 of 113	78.8%
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				

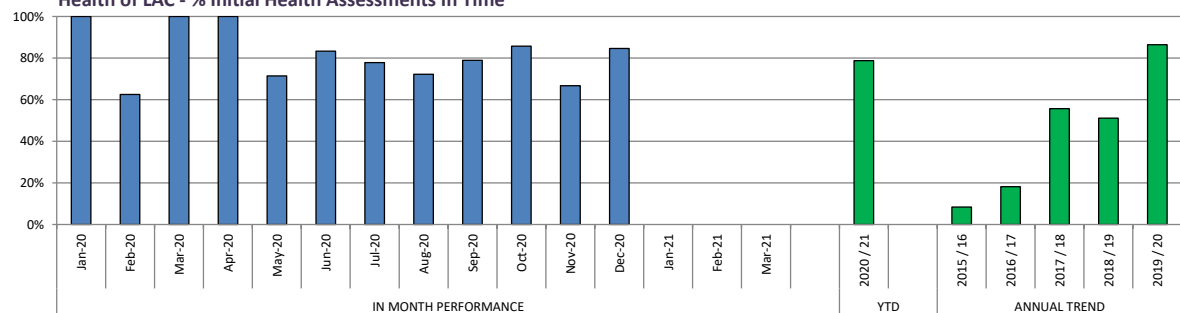
Health of LAC - Health Assessments up to date



Health of LAC - Dental Assessments up to date



Health of LAC - % Initial Health Assessments In Time



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

All measures are reported termly, Autumn term 2020/21 performance will be reported in February 2021 as the new reporting system is still being worked on to ensure data is as accurate as possible.

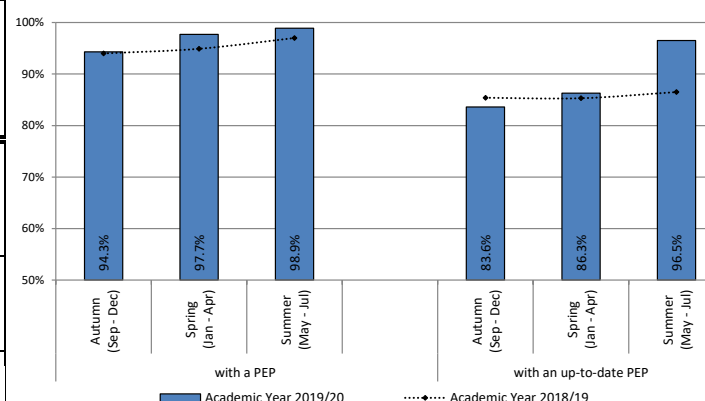
The Summer Term PEP completion rates show a slight increase in the LAC with a PEP measure (98.9%) and a significant increase in the number of PEPs in time (96.5%), when compared to the previous Spring term. These figures also show an improvement on last year's performance (2018/19 Academic Year - with 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 criterion of care that meant they did not require a PEP.

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.

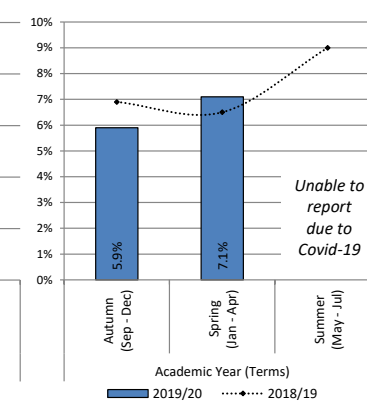
Data Note: System produced reports have now been introduced for the below measures which has caused some changes in performance. (PEP data from April 19 onwards is now produced direct from the ePEP system. From June 19 onwards all attendance data is now extracted direct from attendance systems.)

		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 QNTILE	-	-	4.0%	9.2%	10.0%	-

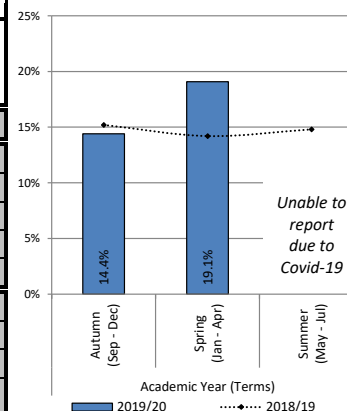
% of LAC with a PEP & % with an up-to-date PEP



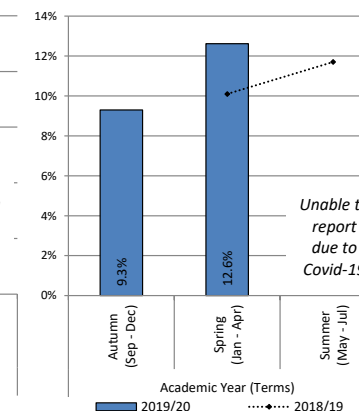
% of sessions lost due to absence



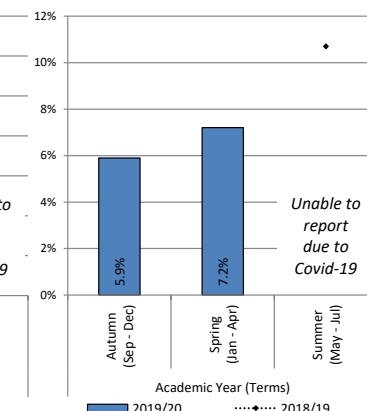
% of LAC persistent absentees



% 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 percentage of children and young people experiencing long term placement stability remains high with 68% being stable for at least 2 years. This remains a positive indicator.

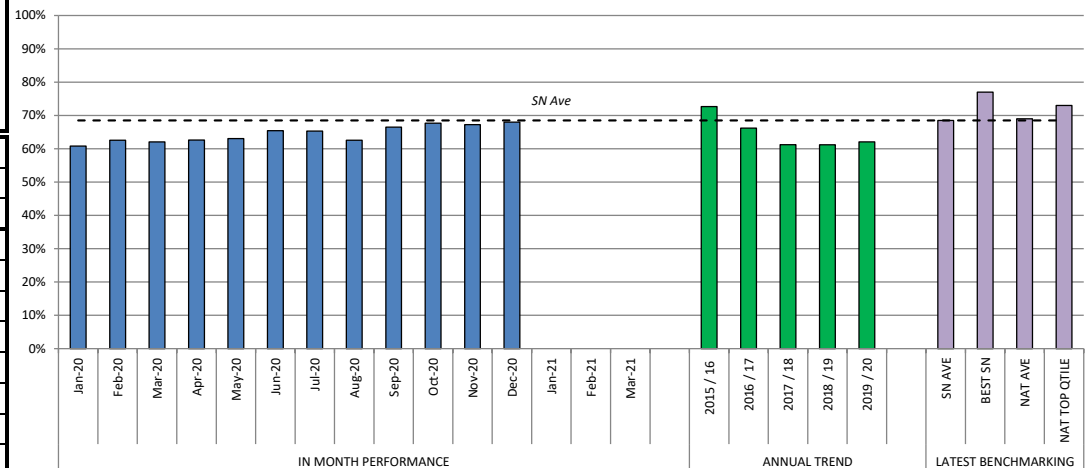
The percentage of children having 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months has slightly increased once again in December 20 to 8.8%, from 8.6% in November 20. The increase since October reflects some of the placement instability brought by Covid-19.

The percentage of children in a family-based placement has been fairly consistent between 81-82% until recent months where we have started to see this fall below 81% (December 80.8%). Similarly, LAC in a commissioned placement is also fairly consistent ranging between 50-52%; December 20 was 51.2% (315/615).

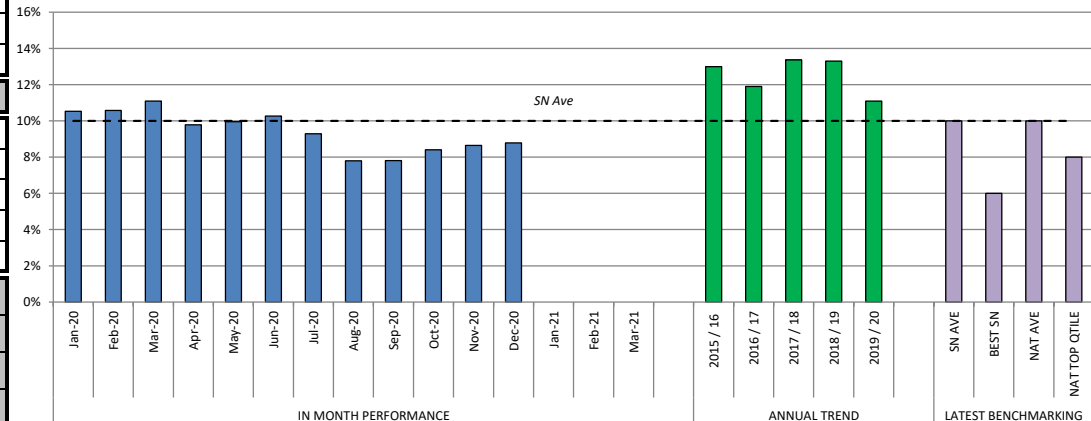
Date Note [March 20]: External Fostering numbers are now report direct from Liquid Logic.

		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%	48 of 615	7.8%	81.6%	4.4%	312 of 615	50.7%
	Oct-20	153 of 226	67.7%	51 of 607	8.4%	81.2%	4.1%	312 of 607	51.4%
	Nov-20	156 of 232	67.2%	53 of 613	8.6%	80.9%	4.4%	316 of 613	51.5%
	Dec-20	155 of 228	68.0%	54 of 615	8.8%	80.8%	4.9%	315 of 615	51.2%
	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 .

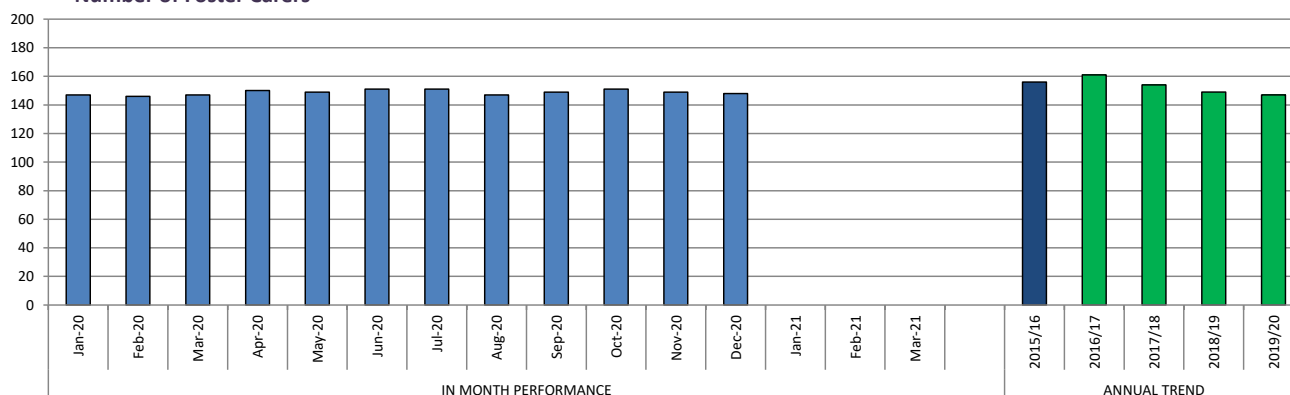
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

The number of LAC in a fostering placement has reduced in recent months to 391 in December 20 from 420 in January 20. However, the number of fostering households remains fairly stable at 148, compared to 147 in January.

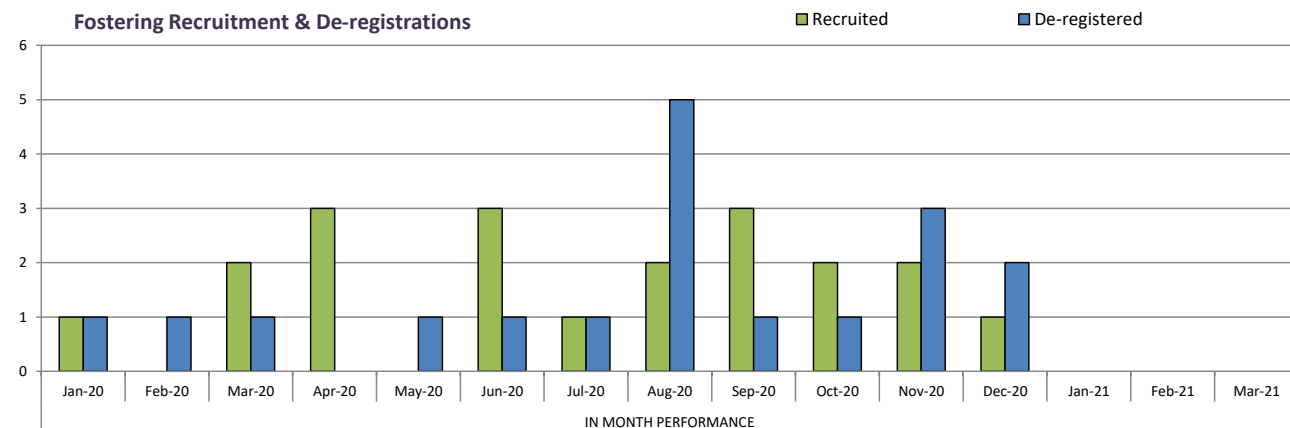
1 set of foster carers were approved during December 20 and there were 2 resignations. This brings the number of new Foster carer approvals to 17 and deregistration's to 15 in 2020-21 thus far. A key element to factor in is that carers who resign are often more established and are often approved for 2 or more young people. New carers usually start with 1 or potentially 2 children. The combination of newer carers coming in and some placements being on hold due to Covid-19 means while the number of fostering households look the same the number of young people in fostering are lower than at the start of the year. These foster carers will grow and have potential for future placements. Themes around resignations are linked to families revisiting their commitments in light of their own family commitments.

		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	2	5
	Sep-20	417	67.8%	149	3	1
	Oct-20	397	65.4%	151	2	1
	Nov-20	395	64.4%	149	2	3
	Dec-20	391	63.6%	148	1	2
	Jan-21					
	Feb-21					
	Mar-21					
YTD	2020/21	-	-	-	17	15
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

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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

The current year to date total of adoptions is 26 with 23 of these taking place since September 20 due to delays as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The increase in adoptions completed is reassuring to see and highlights that despite the Covid-19 pandemic the service has continued to ensure transitions to support adoption, adoption support and applications have continued to be progressed, ready for court coming back online.

The A1 measure for 2020/21 is reporting at 427.3 days and the A2 measure is reporting at 185.4 days in December 20.

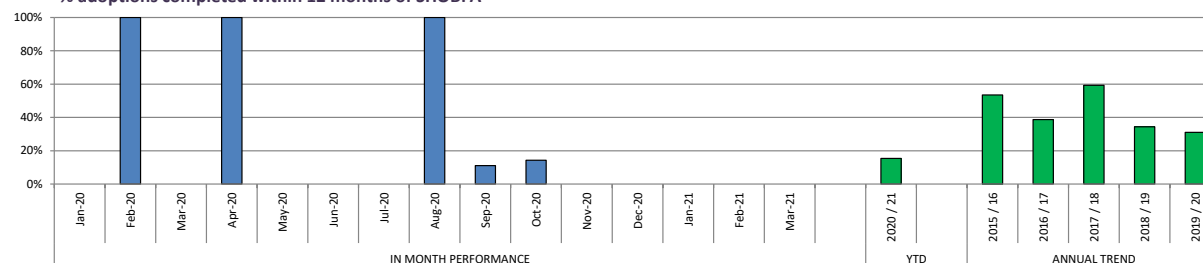
Data Note: Performance is taken from a manual tracker updated in service as not all of the data is currently recorded on LCS.

		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	7	1	14.3%	396.1	176.6
	Nov-20	5	0	0.0%	416.8	181.4
	Dec-20	2	0	0.0%	427.3	185.4
	Jan-21					
	Feb-21					
	Mar-21					
YTD	2020 / 21	26	4	15.4%	-	-
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				359.7	160.0
	BEST SN				310.0	91.0
	NAT AVE				376.0	178.0
	NAT TOP QTLT				333.0	138.0

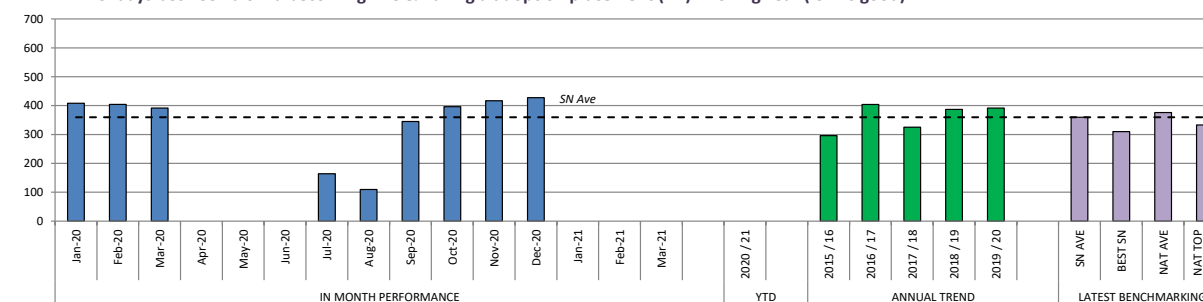
*Annual Trend relates to current reporting year April to Mar - not rolling year

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

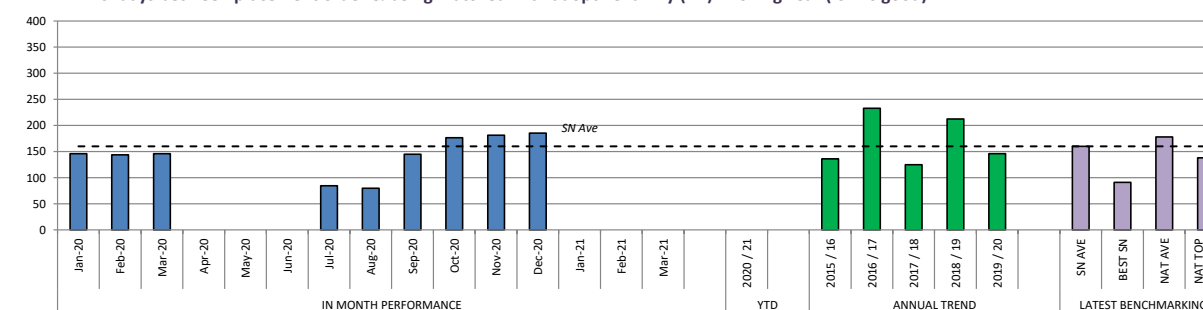
% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA



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)



CARE LEAVERS

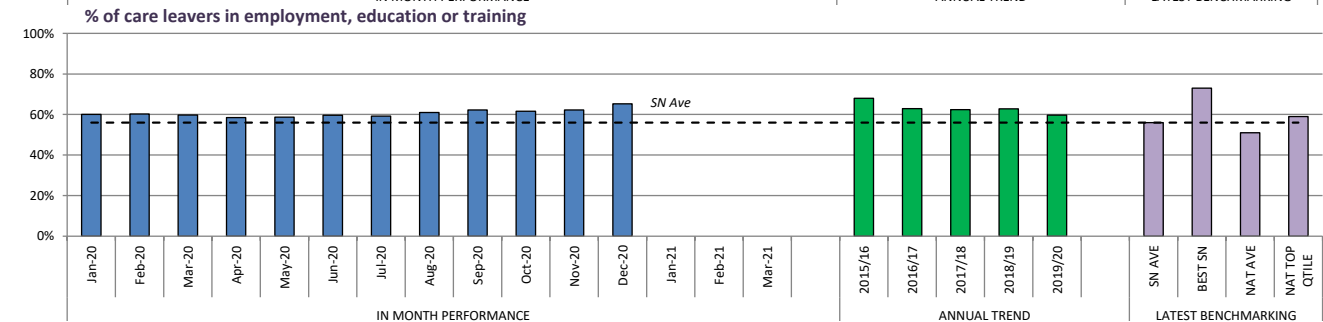
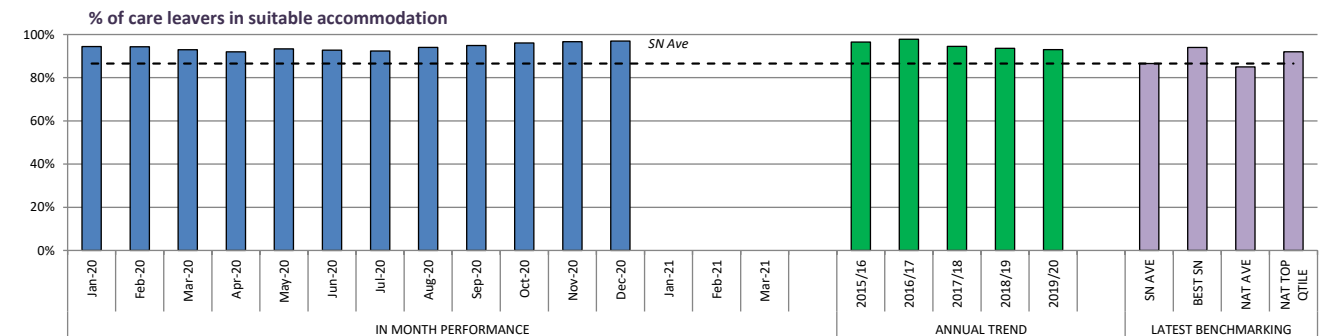
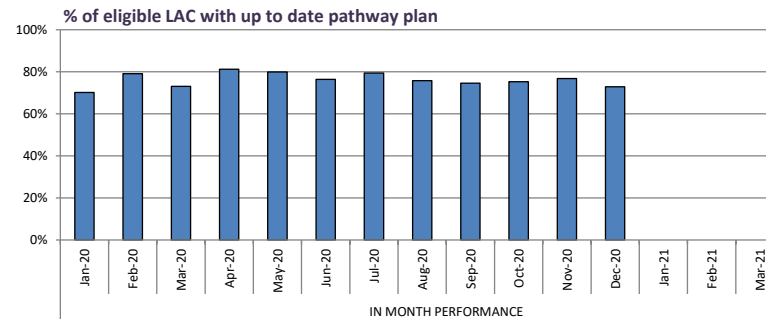
DEFINITION A care leaver is defined as a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after away from home by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after away from home by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date. Suitable accommodation is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

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

At the end of December 20, the care leavers cohort had increased by 4 up to 337 from November when it was 333.

All care leavers measures continue to fluctuate month on month and in December 20 both pathway plan measures saw a fall in how many care leavers have a plan and how many are up to date. However, performance for care leavers in suitable accommodation and care leavers in employment, education, or training both continued to increase during December 20 which shows the ongoing positive work of the network around the young people, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and acknowledged impact on this age group nationally.

		7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
		Number of care leavers	% of eligible Care Leavers with a pathway plan	% of eligible Care Leavers with up to date pathway plan	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	% of care leavers in employment, education or training
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-20	320	91.8%	70.2%	94.4%	60.0%
	Feb-20	317	94.0%	79.1%	94.3%	60.3%
	Mar-20	313	94.2%	73.1%	93.0%	59.7%
	Apr-20	325	93.2%	81.2%	92.0%	58.5%
	May-20	329	93.0%	79.9%	93.3%	58.7%
	Jun-20	332	91.8%	76.4%	92.8%	59.6%
	Jul-20	331	94.2%	79.4%	92.4%	59.2%
	Aug-20	331	94.5%	75.8%	94.0%	61.0%
	Sep-20	336	93.1%	74.6%	94.9%	62.2%
	Oct-20	333	95.2%	75.3%	96.1%	61.6%
	Nov-20	333	95.5%	76.8%	96.7%	62.2%
	Dec-20	337	89.0%	72.9%	97.0%	65.3%
	Jan-21					
	Feb-21					
	Mar-21					
YTD	2020/21	-	-	-	-	-
ANNUAL TREND	2015/16	197	69.8%	-	96.5%	68.0%
	2016/17	223	99.3%	-	97.8%	62.9%
	2017/18	255	94.4%	81.5%	94.5%	62.4%
	2018/19	298	87.4%	82.0%	93.6%	62.8%
	2019/20	313	94.2%	73.1%	93.0%	59.7%
LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE				86.6%	56.0%
	BEST SN				94.0%	73.0%
	NAT AVE				85.0%	51.0%
	NAT TOP Q TILE				92.0%	59.0%



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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

The highest caseload within all key safeguarding teams increased further to 31 in December 20 which is the highest it has been since February 20 (32). However, the highest caseload within LAC teams reduced by 1 to 19.

Safeguarding services average caseloads increased in December 20 with the exception of the LAC service where it reduced (-1.4). The Duty service had an increase of 1.3 taking the average caseload up to 16.1; following a significant reduction in November (-3.2) (Nov: 14.8 av. / Oct: 18.0 av.).

The number of agency staff had been gradually increasing during this financial year up to 21 (8.43% of social care staff) in November 20. December however has seen a reduction to 19 (7.84% of social care staff). 15 of the 19-agency staff are covering vacancies for case holding social workers (10.06% of case holding posts).

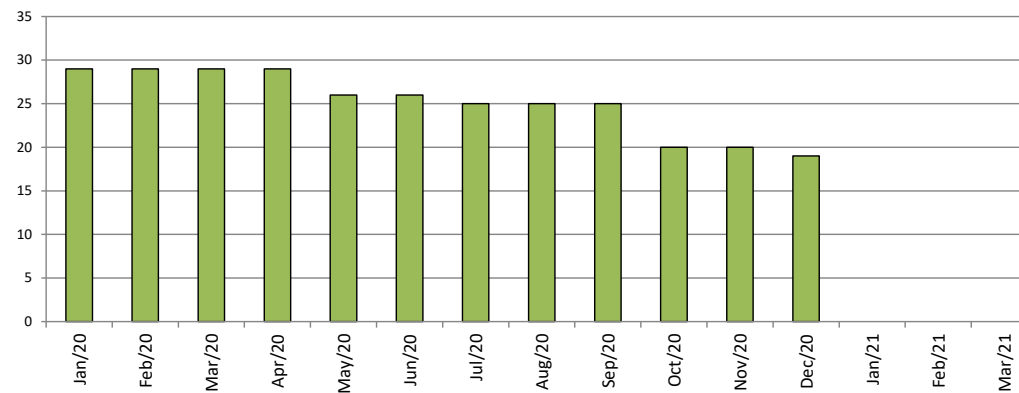
11.3	11.4
Maximum caseload of social workers in LAC Teams	Av. no. cases in LAC Teams (1-3)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-20	29	17.8
	Feb-20	29	18.6
	Mar-20	29	17.9
	Apr-20	29	17.4
	May-20	26	17.3
	Jun-20	26	16.5
	Jul-20	25	18.4
	Aug-20	25	17.8
	Sep-20	25	18.4
	Oct-20	20	18.2
	Nov-20	20	18.1
	Dec-20	19	16.7
	Jan-21		
	Feb-21		
	Mar-21		

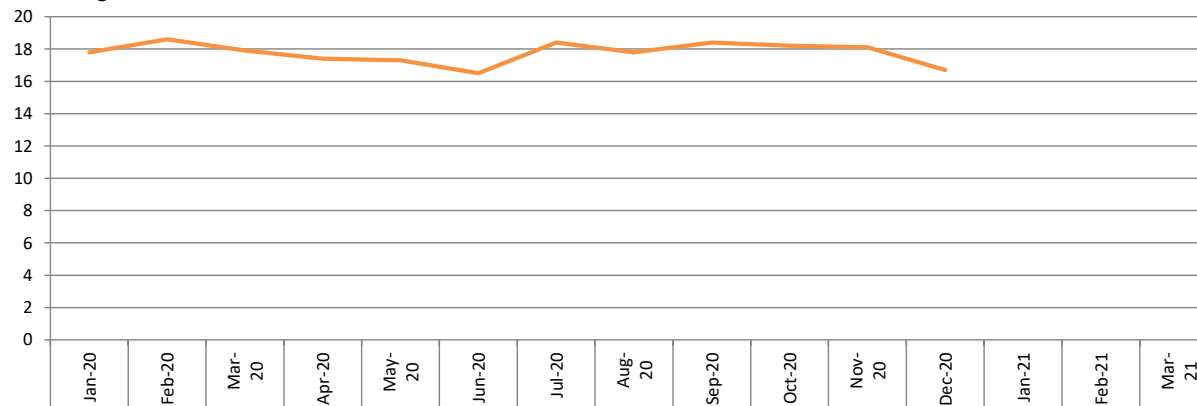
YTD	2020/21	-	-
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ANNUAL TREND	2015/16	19	-
	2016/17	17	-
	2017/18	18	12.6
	2018/19	23	19.4
	2019/20	29	17.9

Maximum caseload of social workers



Average number of cases



Public Report
Corporate Parenting Panel

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel – 2nd March 2021

Report Title

The Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) Inspection

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Suzanne Joyner – Strategic Director, Children & Young Peoples Services

Report Author(s)

David McWilliams – Assistant Director, Early Help & Business Support

David.mcwilliams@rotherham.gov.uk

Emma Ellis – Service Manager, Evidence Based Hub & YOT

Emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) received notification of HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection of youth justice services on Friday 7th August 2020.

Rotherham Youth Offending Team was inspected under the HMIP ‘Small YOT’ inspection Framework which is new. Peterborough, Windsor Maidenhead and Rotherham were selected to be the first Youth Offending Teams to be inspected under this new framework.

Recommendations

That the Corporate parenting Panel notes the Inspection report findings and works with the YOT Board to progress actions against the five recommendations and in particular, recommendation two;

Ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 HMIP Inspection report of Rotherham Youth Offending Team – 17th December 2020

Background Papers

Improving Lives Select Commission Report – October 2019

Improving Lives Select Commission Report – July 2020

Improving Lives Select Commission Report - September 2020

Improving Lives Select Commission Report – January 2021

HMIP Inspection report of Rotherham Youth Offending Team – 17th December 2020

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Lives Select Commission – October 2019

Improving Lives Select Commission – July 2020

Improving Lives Select Commission - September 2020

Improving Lives Select Commission – January 2021

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

The Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) Inspection
The Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) Inspection

1. Background

- 1.1 The Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) received notification of HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection of youth justice services on Friday 7th August 2020.
- 1.2 Rotherham Youth Offending Team was inspected under the HMIP 'Small YOT' inspection Framework which is new. Peterborough, Windsor Maidenhead and Rotherham were selected to be the first Youth Offending Teams to be inspected under this new framework.
- 1.3 Because of the impact of COVID-19, the inspection was conducted remotely. Meetings and case interviews were arranged and facilitated using Microsoft Teams.
- 1.4 The Inspection was carried out across three 'Domains' and within these domains there are 12 standards. Judgements were made against the following areas;

Domain One (Organisational delivery):

- Governance and leadership
- Staff
- Partnerships and services
- Information and facilities

Domain Two (Court Disposals):

- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation and delivery
- Reviewing
- Risk, safety and wellbeing.

Domain Three (Out-of-Court disposals)

- Assessment
- Planning Inadequate
- Implementation and Delivery

- Joint Working

- 1.5 As part of the inspection requirement, Surveys were also completed by our, Children & Young People, Staff and Volunteers.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Overall inspection outcome judgement was Requires Improvement. The report makes five recommendations.

The Chair of the YOT Management Board should:

1. Make sure that Board members understand the specific needs of children known to the YOT and advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.

The YOT Management Board should:

2. Ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily.
3. Undertake a comprehensive health needs analysis of YOT children to better understand the health provision being delivered and what needs to be developed.
4. Review the quality and accessibility of education, training and employment provision for post-16-year-old children known to the service.

The YOT Service Manager should:

5. Review the quality of risk of harm work and improve the effectiveness of management oversight in all cases.
- 2.2 It is with regard to the recommendation number two; *Ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily* that the findings from the Inspection report have been brought to the attention of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 2.3 Across the total 199 open cases* 8.0% (16) of these young people (YP) are Looked After, however if we analyse this data further, it reveals that of the 23 young people who have Statutory Orders of YCC or above 8 of these YP (34.8%) are LAC young people.

2.4 Encouragingly, there has been a decrease of two LAC young people within this cohort since Q1. Discussions have commenced with the Head of Service for LAC and Leaving Care to review the way we work in partnership to reduce the cohort of LAC further.

2.5 The Inspection report then goes on to identify some key strengths and areas for improvement.

2.6 Areas noted as Strengths:

- The Chair of the YOT Management Board is very committed to his role and is a strong advocate for children.
- There is priority given to involving children, listening to what they say and responding to their feedback in order to influence future service delivery.
- The Management Board and the partnership are aware that there is a disproportionate number of black, Asian and minority ethnic children known to the YOT, and have projects in place to try to address the issue.
- YOT staff do all they can to encourage good engagement and compliance from the child and their family, and staff and managers are child-centred and know their children well.
- The YOT has good transition arrangements with the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company, which includes regular transition meetings where cases are monitored and reviewed.
- The service has good links with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team, and the Head of Inclusion is a member of the YOT Management Board.

2.7 The inspection was unable to take into account the huge volume of successful preventative work the service does to keep young people out of the criminal justice system in the first place. The emphasis we put on this work has resulted in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system in Rotherham fall by more than fifty percent since 2016 (331 per 100,000 in 2016 down to 159 per 100,000 in 2019).

2.8 Areas noted for Improvement:

- Although health provision is available through the Early Help Service, the arrangements do not recognise the specialised needs of children known to the YOT, including physical and emotional, mental health and wellbeing concerns.
- The pathways for YOT staff to access health services, for example speech, language and communication provision, lack clarity.

- Board members do not understand the specific needs of YOT children so cannot effectively advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.
- The Management Board and the partnership have not focused on why so many Looked After Children are known to the YOT.
- YOT figures for post-16-year-old children who are not in education, training and employment are high, and the partnership has not done enough work to review what provision is available in the locality for this cohort of children.
- Although YOT practitioners can access the interventions that are available as part of the wider Rotherham early help offer, there is little evidence that these services are regularly used for children known to the YOT.
- The inspection found that management oversight is poor both for post-court orders and out-of-court disposals.

2.9 Across the 12 standards, three were judged to be inadequate.

- Domain Two (Court Disposals), Assessments were rated as inadequate. This judgement relates to 6 cases that were inspected out of a cohort of 15 (40%).
- Domain Three (Out of Court Disposals), Planning; 'The quality of planning is rated as 'Inadequate'. Planning relating to desistance was outstanding but planning for a child's safety and wellbeing and keeping other people safe was inadequate, and this has led to the overall rating of 'Inadequate.'
- Implementation & Delivery were also judged to be inadequate. 'The quality of implementing and delivering interventions and services is rated as 'Inadequate'. Delivering services to promote desistance was good; however, for safety and wellbeing and keeping other people safe it was inadequate.' 4 Cases were inspected out of a cohort of 181 (2.2% of cases).

2.10 In the lead inspector's feedback she "recognised that the Rotherham YOT was on an improvement journey" and stated that inspectors "were in no doubts, that if they had visited in 6 months' time or we weren't in the middle of a pandemic they would have found us further along the journey."

2.11 Whilst we are disappointed with the overall outcome the partnership is committed to making the required improvements at pace to ensure the best possible outcomes for our young people.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 That the Corporate parenting Panel notes the Inspection report findings and works with the YOT Board to progress actions against the five recommendations and in particular, recommendation two;

Ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 4.1 There is already a two-year Youth Justice Plan in place with an Action Plan that is monitored by the YOT Board and progressed through a series of multi-agency sub-groups taking forward the actions.
- 4.2 We have also produced a draft Inspection Action Plan that specifically addresses the 5 HMIP recommendations. This was shared with the YOT Board on the 14th December 2020 and submitted to the YJB on the 11th January 2021.
- 4.3 An 'Extraordinary' YOT Board has taken place on 20th January 2021 to develop the Inspection Action Plan in greater detail with partners.
- 4.4 There is an action plan in place based upon our recent self-assessment against the YJ National Standards for Children 2019.
- 4.5 We will also look to commission a peer review with an Outstanding YOT, to assess our progress against the report recommendations and the Inspection Action Plan.

5. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 5.1 N/A

6. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 6.1 N/A

7. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 7.1 N/A

8. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 8.1 Whilst we are disappointed with the overall outcome the partnership is committed to making the required improvements at pace to ensure the best possible outcomes for our young people

9. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 9.1 N/A

10. Implications for Partners

- 10.1 Rotherham Youth Offending Team is governed by a partnership management board and also reports to Safer Rotherham Partnership. The HMIP reports makes reference to the need to improve partnership arrangements to achieve better outcomes for children particularly in relation to Looked after children, health, mental health and post 16 education/training provision.

11. Risks and Mitigation

- 11.1 N/A

12. Accountable Officer(s)

David McWilliams – Assistant Director, Early Help & Business Support
David.mcwilliams@rotherham.gov.uk

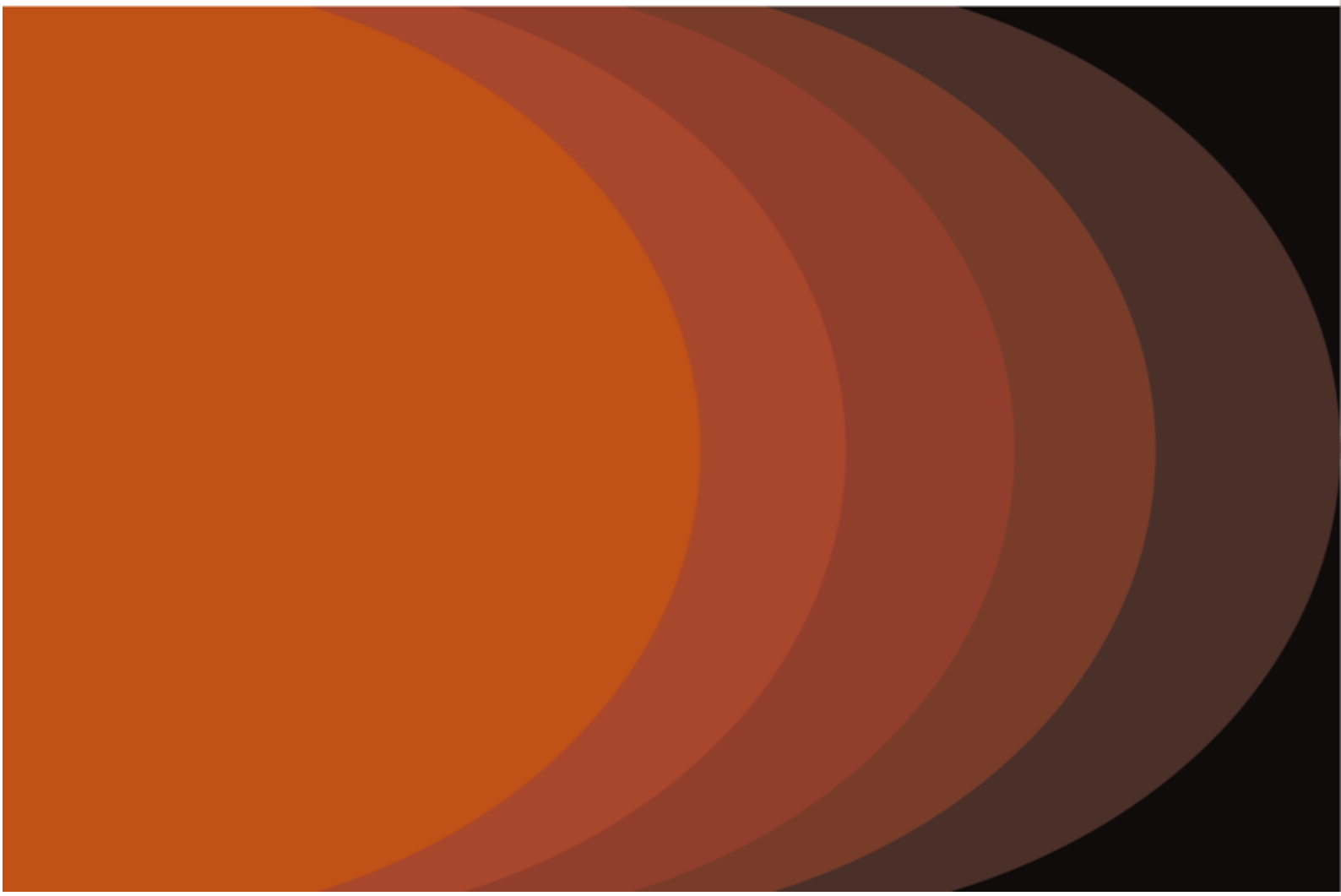
Emma Ellis – Service Manager, Evidence Based Hub & YOT
Emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk



An inspection of youth offending services in

Rotherham

HM Inspectorate of Probation, December 2020



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Acknowledgements

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The role of HM Inspectorate of Probation

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation is the independent inspector of youth offending and probation services in England and Wales. We report on the effectiveness of probation and youth offending service work with adults and children.

We inspect these services and publish inspection reports. We highlight good and poor practice and use our data and information to encourage high-quality services. We are independent of government and speak independently.

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Introduction

This inspection is part of our four-year programme of youth offending service (YOS) inspections. We have inspected and rated Rotherham YOT across three broad areas of its work, referred to as 'domains': the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service, the quality of work done with children sentenced by the courts, and the quality of out-of-court disposal work. We inspect against 12 'standards', shared between the domains. Overall, Rotherham YOT was rated as 'Requires improvement'.

Our standards are based on established models and frameworks, which are grounded in evidence, learning and experience. They are designed to drive improvements in the quality of work with children who have offended. Published scoring rules generate the overall YOT rating. The findings and subsequent ratings in those domains are described in this report. Our fieldwork, conducted through off-site analysis of case files and phone and video conferencing, took place between 14 and 17 September 2020.

The youth offending team's arrangements for staffing and information and facilities are good; however, its governance and leadership, and partnership activities require improvement.

The Chair of the YOT Management Board is a strong advocate for children and he is involved in developing service delivery. There are good transition arrangements between the YOT and the local probation services.

Board members do not appreciate the specific needs of children known to the YOT and so do not advocate effectively on their behalf in their own agencies. This is particularly so regarding the poor health provision for YOT children. The partnership lacks focus on the issues of the YOT having a high number of Looked After Children, and post-16-year-old children not in education, training or employment.














Staff are motivated and engage well with children. In post-court cases the quality of desistance work is outstanding, as are planning and the delivery of services to promote a child's safety and wellbeing. The quality of assessing risk of harm to others, though, is inadequate, and planning, delivering interventions and reviewing require improvement. The needs and wishes of victims are not consistently considered.

For out-of-court disposal work, desistance is the strongest area of practice, with planning being outstanding. Planning and the delivery of services for a child's safety and wellbeing, and for keeping people safe are poor. Case managers do not consistently analyse information and fail to recognise the trauma a child has experienced. Management oversight is poor both for post-court orders and for out-of-court disposals.



Marc Baker
Director of Operations

Ratings

Rotherham Youth Offending Team		Score	11/36
Overall rating		Requires improvement	
1. Organisational delivery			
1.1	Governance and leadership	Requires improvement	
1.2	Staff	Good	
1.3	Partnerships and services	Requires improvement	
1.4	Information and facilities	Good	
2. Court disposals			
2.1	Assessment	Inadequate	
2.2	Planning	Requires improvement	
2.3	Implementation and delivery	Requires improvement	
2.4	Reviewing	Requires improvement	
3. Out-of-court disposals			
3.1	Assessment	Requires improvement	
3.2	Planning	Inadequate	
3.3	Implementation and delivery	Inadequate	
3.4	Joint working	Requires improvement	

Recommendations

As a result of our inspection findings we have made five recommendations that we believe, if implemented, will have a positive impact on the quality of youth offending services in Rotherham. This will improve the lives of the children in contact with youth offending services, and better protect the public.

The Chair of the YOT Management Board should:

1. make sure that Board members understand the specific needs of children known to the YOT and advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.

The YOT Management Board should:

2. ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT, and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily
3. undertake a comprehensive health needs analysis of YOT children to better understand the health provision being delivered and what needs to be developed
4. review the quality and accessibility of education, training and employment provision for post-16-year-old children known to the service.

The YOT Service Manager should:

5. review the quality of risk of harm work and improve the effectiveness of management oversight in all cases.

Background

Youth offending teams (YOTs) supervise 10–18-year-olds who have been sentenced by a court, or who have come to the attention of the police because of their offending behaviour but have not been charged – instead, they were dealt with out of court. HM Inspectorate of Probation inspects both these aspects of youth offending services. We use the terms child or children to denote their special legal status and to highlight the obligations of relevant agencies such as social care, education and health to meet their safety and wellbeing needs.

YOTs are statutory partnerships, and they are multi-disciplinary, to deal with the needs of the whole child. They are required to have staff from local authority social care and education services, the police, the National Probation Service and local health services.¹ Most YOTs are based within local authorities; however, this can vary.

YOT work is governed and shaped by a range of legislation and guidance specific to the youth justice sector (such as the National Standards for Youth Justice) or else applicable across the criminal justice sector (for example Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements guidance). The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) provides some funding to YOTs. It also monitors their performance and issues guidance to them about how things are to be done.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) is part of South Yorkshire. It has a population of 264,671 of which 9.3 per cent are between the ages of 10 and 17 years, which is higher than the England and Wales average of 9.1 per cent. Over the last 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the Roma population from Slovakia and the Czech Republic, with concentrated communities settling in neighbourhoods in the central area of the town.

In January 2016, Rotherham introduced its three-year Early Help Strategy, which has led to integrated locality teams and the creation of a borough-wide intervention hub. The youth offending team is located within the Early Help, Family Engagement and Business Support Service. As part of rebuilding the early help offer, the YOT went through a restructure during 2019, which introduced changes in staffing and information and communications technology (ICT), and further developed the prevention and out-of-court disposal work.

¹ The *Crime and Disorder Act 1998* set out the arrangements for local YOTs and partnership working.

Contextual facts

Population information

264,671	Total population Rotherham (2018) ²
24,634	Total youth population (10–17 years) in Rotherham (2018) ²

Demographics of children cautioned or sentenced³

Age	10–14	15–17
Rotherham YOT	21%	79%
National average	23%	77%

Race/ethnicity	White	Black and minority ethnic	Unknown
Rotherham YOT	83%⁴	18%	0%
National average	70%	26%	4%

Gender	Male	Female
Rotherham YOT	81%	19%
National average	85%	15%

Additional caseload data⁵

19	Total caseload: community sentences
4	Total caseload: in custody
2	Total caseload: on licence
174	Total caseload: out-of-court disposals (including youth caution, youth conditional caution and community resolutions)

² Office for National Statistics. (2019). *UK Population estimates, mid-2018*.

³ Youth Justice Board. (2020). *Youth Justice annual statistics: 2018 to 2019*.

⁴ In some circumstances, figures may not total or may exceed 100. This is due to the rounding up/down of figures.

⁵ Information supplied by YOT, reflecting caseload submitted to the YJB for the last four quarters.



1. Organisational delivery

Strengths:

- The Chair of the YOT Management Board is very committed to his role and is a strong advocate for children.
- There is priority given to involving children, listening to what they say and responding to their feedback in order to influence future service delivery.
- The Management Board and the partnership are aware that there is a disproportionate number of black, Asian and minority ethnic children known to the YOT, and have projects in place to try to address the issue.
- YOT staff do all they can to encourage good engagement and compliance from the child and their family, and staff and managers are child-centred and know their children well.
- The YOT has good transition arrangements with the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company, which includes regular transition meetings where cases are monitored and reviewed.
- The service has good links with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team, and the Head of Inclusion is a member of the YOT Management Board.

Areas for improvement:

- Although health provision is available through the Early Help Service, the arrangements do not recognise the specialised needs of children known to the YOT, including physical and emotional, mental health and wellbeing concerns.
- The pathways for YOT staff to access health services, for example speech, language and communication provision, lack clarity.
- Board members do not understand the specific needs of YOT children so cannot effectively advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.
- The Management Board and the partnership have not focused on why so many Looked After Children are known to the YOT.
- YOT figures for post-16-year-old children who are not in education, training and employment are high, and the partnership has not done enough work to review what provision is available in the locality for this cohort of children.
- Although YOT practitioners can access the interventions that are available as part of the wider Rotherham early help offer, there is little evidence that these services are regularly used for children known to the YOT.
- The inspection found that management oversight is poor both for post-court orders and out-of-court disposals.

Organisations that are well led and well managed are more likely to achieve their aims. We inspect against four standards.

1.1. Governance and leadership



The governance and leadership of the YOT supports and promotes the delivery of a high-quality, personalised and responsive service for all children.

Requires improvement

In making a judgement about governance and leadership, we take into account the answers to the following three questions:

Is there a clear local vision and strategy for the delivery of a high-quality, personalised and responsive service for all children?

Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) is located in the Early Help, Family Engagement and Business Support Service within the council directorate of Children and Young People's Service. Over the past 18 months it has been restructured to strengthen its management team and become more integrated within early help. The service manager with responsibility for the YOT was confirmed in post in April 2019 and also manages the early help evidence-based hub, family group conferencing and the outdoor education centre. She is managed by the Assistant Director for Early Help, Family Engagement and Business Support, who became Chair of the YOT Management Board in 2017.

The Chair knows the role that the Board needs to have in driving the YOT forward and has the vision to make this happen. The Youth Justice Plan for 2019-21, which was approved by the Management Board, is in place and is supported by an action plan that is regularly reviewed.

Membership of the Board includes all statutory partners as well as some non-statutory partners, for example, a representative from housing and one from the fire and rescue service. To support a number of new members joining the Board over the last 12 months, the Chair has developed an induction package and a 'jargon-buster' document. This document is shared before every meeting to help partners understand the acronyms used in youth justice and enables them to take an active part. A Board development day in June 2019 was well attended by Board members. The agenda included a reflection of what was working well, a case study and agreeing priority actions for the future.

Do the partnership arrangements actively support effective service delivery?

There is evidence that the Chair is very committed to his role and is a strong advocate for YOT children. For example, he visits all children in secure establishments. In one case this led to the child and the establishment getting new guitars from a charity. The child then formed a band within the institution and this intervention helped to influence his mindset about his future. On release he began volunteering with the local authority and is soon to start an apprenticeship as a youth support worker.

Members of the Board recently completed the Youth Justice Board national standards audit alongside YOT staff members, and they reported that this exercise has helped them to understand more about the YOT. However, further work is still needed for

them to understand the specific needs of children known to the YOT so that they can advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.

The Board has links to other key strategic meetings, and issues impacting on youth offending are prominent on their agendas. These groups include the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board, RMBC Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

At present, police officers can offer restorative justice and community resolutions to children without referring to the YOT. They are, however, encouraged to send all referrals to the YOT police officer who, alongside the YOT triage officer, completes a screening. This screening checks information from other agencies' databases to see if the child or the family is known. An initial recommendation is made, and the case is allocated to a YOT worker. If the child or their family is not already known, then an early help assessment is completed, which takes a holistic look at the whole family. After the assessment, an out-of-court disposal is agreed, which is explained and delivered at the youth caution clinic. This area of practice is still developing, and the YOT manager is working with South Yorkshire police to ensure that all children are referred to the YOT to be assessed before a disposal is agreed. Taking this approach would improve the out-of-court process overall, as each child and family would receive interventions that met their individual needs.

The inspection noted that there is a high number of Looked After Children known to the YOT, and they are particularly over-represented in the post-court cohort. Between January and March 2020, 18 children had statutory orders, of whom five (27.8 percent) were Looked After Children. In recent years, little work has been done with the local children's residential homes to ensure a restorative approach to incidents happening within them. There was evidence of children being charged with multiple offences within the care home, and the response from the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to these incidents has not been analysed by the local partnership. The Management Board and its partners need to understand why so many Looked After Children are known to the YOT and ensure that agencies do not have policies and practices that are leading to the unnecessary criminalisation of children.

Does the leadership of the YOT support effective service delivery?

The Chair and the YOT Service Manager recognise the YOT needs to improve. Several initiatives that were ready to be implemented have been postponed due to Covid-19. These include improving links through the senior practitioners with the pupil referral unit to develop relationships between case managers and the provision, in order to ensure educational needs were being met. The implementation of the YJB 'levelling the playing field' project (outlined below) has also been delayed.

The YOT management team includes the Service Manager, the youth justice co-ordinator and senior practitioners. They reported feeling supported by the Chair of the Board who keeps in touch with them regularly.

The staff survey, which was completed by 18 of the 21 staff members, showed that 63 per cent were aware of the activities of the Management Board and understood its role. This awareness is helped by staff attending the Board to make presentations on different aspects of practice and sharing communication from the Board at team meetings. The survey also noted that 88 per cent of staff were updated on strategic issues affecting the YOT.

The inspection found that management oversight is poor for post-court orders and out-of-court disposals. In the opinion of the inspectors, there was inadequate management oversight in three out of six post-court cases and three out of four out-of-court disposals, and this needs urgent attention.

1.2. Staff



Staff within the YOT are empowered to deliver a high-quality, personalised and responsive service for all children.

Good

Key staffing data⁶

Total staff headcount (full-time equivalent, FTE)	21
Average caseload per case manager (FTE)	13

In making a judgement about staffing, we take into account the answers to the following four questions:

Do staffing and workload levels support the delivery of a high-quality, personalised and responsive service for all children?

The nature of YOT work in Rotherham has changed over the last 12 months as staff have been working with more prevention and out-of-court disposal cases. As the service is now integrated with early help, YOT staff are completing the early help assessment, which takes a holistic whole-family approach. This means that they have two assessments to complete: for statutory orders (including youth conditional cautions) they complete AssetPlus; and for out-of-court disposals they complete the early help assessment. Although staff reported this was confusing at first, they received the relevant training on both assessments and are clear about the process they follow.

YOT staff manage a generic caseload which includes prevention, out-of-court disposals and post-court orders. The youth justice co-ordinator or the senior practitioners allocate the work and have a case discussion with the proposed case manager. The approximate number of cases for each case manager in August 2020 was 13, and the staff survey showed that 93 per cent of staff were comfortable with their caseload or workload.

Do the skills of YOT staff support the delivery of a high-quality, personalised and responsive service for all children?

The service tries to maintain the principle of one worker working consistently with the child and their family so that relationships can be developed over time. YOT staff also have other responsibilities within the service, including attending court and leading in specific areas of practice. For example, a staff member leads on working with children and families from Gypsy, Roma or Traveller (GRT) backgrounds and attends the GRT forum. This forum encourages a stronger relationship to be built

⁶ Data supplied by YOT and reflecting the caseload at the time of the inspection announcement.

with the community, and some creative interventions with children have included using the arts to explore heritage work.

There is evidence in the inspected cases that staff do all they can to encourage good engagement and compliance from the child and their family, and both staff and managers are child-centred and know their children well.

The YOT has good transition arrangements with the National Probation Service (NPS) and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). The seconded probation officer works half time with the YOT and half time with the NPS and works with children who are transitioning to adult services. A regular meeting considers cases for transfer and puts plans in place. Children who have already transitioned are monitored and their plans reviewed.

A seconded police officer takes the lead on out-of-court disposals and sharing information between the police and the YOT. The YOT Service Manager and the police recognise that there are capacity issues with the role, and further resources are being discussed.

There are no specific health secondees to the YOT, although YOT staff have access to a liaison and diversion worker who will assess children in the police cells and pass information to the YOT.

YOT staff deliver interventions to address offending behaviour, including the Boys-to-Men domestic abuse programme, Be Share Aware, and Crime and Consequences, which can be accessed through groupwork or on a one-to-one basis. Staff also encourage children to help others by creating resources; for example, one child who was released from custody has written a booklet about his experience for other children. Another child has developed a resource from her own experience of being at risk of child exploitation.

Does the oversight of work support high-quality delivery and professional development?

Staff receive regular supervision and managers use a supervision template which looks at cases, personal reflections, and training and development. Seconded staff receive supervision from their home agency, who also complete their appraisal.

There is an induction process for new staff, and procedures for addressing staff competency. Annual appraisals are completed, and staff feel supported by both their managers and their peers. They stated that managers and senior practitioners are approachable and make themselves available outside of the supervision process.

The volunteer survey was completed by two panel members. Although they both feel they can manage the work they do in their role, they do not feel that ongoing training is meeting their needs.

Are arrangements for learning and development comprehensive and responsive?

The restructure in the YOT allows those staff who are not social work-qualified to progress to management positions, which enables opportunities for staff development.

The YOT staff workforce development needs are included in the YOT improvement plan, which was updated as part of the national standards audit. Staff feel encouraged to take up training to develop their knowledge and skills. They can

access training through the RMBC eLearning portal and the local safeguarding children Board, as well as training that is specific to youth justice.

YOT staff have received training on signs of safety and trauma-informed practice, but there was limited evidence of how these approaches impact on their interventions with children in the cases inspected.

1.3. Partnerships and services



A comprehensive range of high-quality services is in place, enabling personalised and responsive provision for all children.

Requires improvement

In making a judgement about partnerships and services, we take into account the answers to the following three questions:

Is there a sufficiently comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the profile of children, to ensure that the YOT can deliver well-targeted services?

The Management Board and the partnership are aware that there is a disproportionate number of black, Asian and minority ethnic children known to the YOT. From January to March 2020, they made up 18 per cent of the offending population but only 9 per cent of the 10-17-year-old population. The partnership is sighted on this and managed to secure funding for the YJB 'Levelling the Playing Field' programme, which uses sports and mentoring to engage earlier with black, Asian and minority ethnic children at risk of entering the criminal justice system. However, due to Covid-19 the implementation of this initiative has been delayed.

The YOT provides a management performance report to the Board, which includes national and local indicators. The profiling of children known to the service is developing through these reports, and recently they have included monitoring the number of school exclusions that YOT children receive.

The YOT's performance is included in the early help scorecard and shared with elected members and the multi-agency early help steering group for scrutiny and challenge. It is also monitored by the Safer Rotherham Partnership as well as the Improving Lives Select Commission. It is therefore disappointing that the YOT Management Board and the partnership were not using the data available to them to analyse and understand why Looked After Children are over-represented in the YOT.

Does the YOT partnership have access to the volume, range and quality of services and interventions to meet the needs of all children?

Restorative justice and victim services are commissioned locally and are delivered by Remedi. Performance is monitored through contract reviews, and the staff are fully integrated within the YOT team. Reparation sessions are delivered individually with children, and a range of projects are available. The reparation worker has promoted the use of Restorative Action Projects (RAPs), which have included a food RAP where one child, who had completed a cookery course in the secure estate, prepared a meal for elderly residents in a community project. Another example of reparation was children designing a friendship bench for a school, which was part of an anti-bullying initiative.

The Remedi victim worker is experienced and innovative, and offers a range of interventions, including various forms of mediation. From October to December 2019, 52 cases had been referred to the victim worker and she had spoken to all 52

victims. As a result, ten victims had a direct contact with the child known to the YOT and 19 victims had an indirect restorative justice process, for example a letter exchange. It was noted that there was more engagement from victims linked to out-of-court disposals than with those for court orders, and this is supported in the inspection findings. Remedi and the YOT are looking at the reasons for this to ensure that all victims have equal access to services.

Remedi also provides a hate crime officer who delivers workshops to schools and on a one-to-one basis for children at risk of, or who have committed, a hate crime. These sessions help children to understand what hate crime is and how it impacts on victims, families and communities. It aims to empower them to have the confidence to identify signs and report hate crime, as well as helping victims to know where they can access support.

The national rehabilitation charity Change Grow Live (CGL) provides substance misuse services to the YOT through its Divert project. Although there is no seconded person or specific link officer, a screening tool has been developed and all YOT staff have been trained in using it.

YOT practitioners can access the services and interventions available as part of the wider Rotherham early help offer. These services are intended to form part of the 'wrap-around' support for the family and the child. The YOT worker is expected to contact the locality team where the child lives and access the interventions available. These include boys' and girls' groups, activity programmes, mind, body and soul groups, barriers to learning and counselling sessions, and all of these interventions can also be completed one to one. There are also various evidence-based parenting programmes available. However, in the cases inspected, there is little evidence that this approach is used for children known to the YOT.

Are arrangements with statutory partners, providers and other agencies established, maintained and used effectively to deliver high-quality services?

The YOT Chairs the Youth Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (YMARAC). Attendees include education, police, probation, the child sexual exploitation manager, a special educational needs and disability (SEND) team member and a member of staff from Barnardo's. The meeting discusses the management of all children that are high risk of reoffending, safety and wellbeing, and risk of harm to others. Barnardo's, through The Junction project, is commissioned to deliver assessments and interventions for children who display harmful sexual behaviour. The YOT has AIM2-trained staff who work jointly with the project. Staff from The Junction attend the YMARAC where there is a specific agenda item that looks at the management of harmful sexual behaviour cases.

The YOT is also a part of the risk assessment meeting (RAM), chaired by the child sexual exploitation manager, which discusses all cases where child exploitation is a concern. This is a multiagency meeting that includes the child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS), early help, police and children's social care. Agencies share information and intelligence about specific children, and a risk assessment is completed. Depending upon the outcome of the assessment, a multiagency meeting is convened, for example, a strategy, child in need or core group meeting.

The partnership is aware that there is a lengthy waiting list for CAMHS neuro-developmental service. There are no health provider secondees or specific link roles to the YOT. Although YOT staff complete various screening tools, for example

for speech, language and communication, the pathways for staff to access health services are unclear. Health provision is available through the Early Help Service, of which the YOT is a part, but these generic arrangements do not recognise the specific needs of children known to the YOT. Where health professionals are linked to a YOT they can develop relationships with case managers and a specialist knowledge that helps them to understand YOT children.

The YOT has a positive relationship with schools and colleges, and a specific worker in the YOT leads on developing these relationships. Senior practitioners were due to make further links with the pupil referral unit, however due to Covid-19 these arrangements have been put on hold. The service also has good links with the SEND team and the head of inclusion sits on the YOT Management Board. A member of the SEND team attends YMARAC to discuss individual cases.

The YOT has access to the outreach and engagement team, who are street-based and work to engage children in activities. A good example of this is targeted youth support staff who work at weekends in areas known for youth-related antisocial behaviour and try to engage children in positive community activities. Over the past 12 months, 28 children (29.5 per cent of the current YOT caseload) were engaged through this localised support.

The social enterprise Really NEET project is commissioned to work with post-16-year olds and target children who have struggled in mainstream education. It is disappointing to note that the YOT figure for this age group who are not in education, training or employment is 33 per cent (as at 31 March 2020), and the partnership has not reviewed what provision is available in the locality for this cohort of children.

Involvement of children and their parents and carers

The YOT listens to children, and a voice and influence worker attends the Management Board. The voice and influence team are commissioned to explore ways to represent children's views to the Board, and support those who attend to share their experiences.

The YOT has also, in the past, had parts of its service inspected by children through the young inspectors' programme.

Through children's social care, the YOT has access to a 'Right to Rights' worker who gives an additional voice to Looked After Children. YOT case managers work alongside this worker, advocating on behalf of children, especially on accommodation issues and financial allowances for children who are leaving care.

Our inspection process includes a survey for children known to the YOT and their parents and carers to get feedback on how they rate the YOT service, and whether it has helped the child stay out of trouble. There were 22 responses of which 14 rated the YOT as 'fantastic' and two rated it as poor, ten scored the YOT full marks for helping them (children) or their child stay out of trouble (parents), and two said they had not helped at all.

1.4. Information and facilities



Timely and relevant information is available and appropriate facilities are in place to support a high-quality, personalised and responsive approach for all children.

Good

In making a judgement about information and facilities, we take into account the answers to the following four questions:

Are the necessary policies and guidance in place to enable staff to deliver a quality service, meeting the needs of all children?

The YOT has a range of policies and guidance, including relevant safeguarding policies and procedures. Information-sharing protocols are in place and understood across the partnership. There is an escalation process that all partners use to resolve any disagreements.

Does the YOT's delivery environment(s) meet the needs of all children and enable staff to deliver a quality service?

Pre-Covid-19, the YOT was based in the Eric Mann's Building, Rotherham. The view from staff was that this was not a child-friendly space and so they used other venues in the local area, as well as visiting children in their homes.

Do the information and communication technology (ICT) systems enable staff to deliver a quality service, meeting the needs of all children?

YOT staff input data on to two case management systems. They use CorePlus for the statutory work and Liquid Logic for the out-of-court disposal cases – where use is shared with the rest of children's social care. Although they initially found this time-consuming, they have received the relevant training and are confident navigating across the two systems. Using the same Liquid Logic system also allows information and intelligence to be accessible to other agencies, and both systems can produce performance management data. Partner agencies have access to CorePlus, which assists with the sharing of relevant information for statutory YOT cases.

Is analysis, evidence and learning used effectively to drive improvement?

The YOT has a monitoring system for quality assuring work. YOT cases are included in the early help multiagency audits, audits linked to Ofsted's joint thematic area inspection programme and internal YOT scrutiny, where managers regularly quality assure randomly sampled cases. Despite these quality assurance systems, there is little visible impact on practice.

In the staff survey, 60 per cent reported that they had not been asked their views about working for the service. However, they did say how they received feedback from the Management Board, managers and peers for any good work they have completed.

There is evidence that the service has taken part in several peer reviews, keeps up to date on both regional and national research developments, and uses good practice from other areas to help shape local provision. The YOT improvement plan is constantly updated and reviewed to help develop the quality of service delivery.



2. Court disposals

We took a detailed look at five community sentences and one custodial sentence managed by the YOT. We also conducted five interviews with the relevant case managers. We examined the quality of assessment; planning; implementation and delivery of services; and reviewing.

Strengths:

- Assessing, planning, implementing and delivering interventions, and reviewing were outstanding for desistance.
- Case managers understood the complexities of the child's life and took account of their individual needs.
- Planning for a child's safety and wellbeing was outstanding, and contingency planning was evident when trying to keep children safe.
- The views of children and their parents and carers were taken into account throughout the case management process.
- Case managers did all they could to engage children and their families.

Areas for improvement:

- Assessing, delivering interventions and reviewing to keep other people safe were poor areas of practice that require improvement.
- The needs and wishes of victims were not always considered, and the potential impact on victims was not adequately assessed.
- A lack of health input in relevant cases meant that some children's needs were not met.
- When children were discussed at multiagency meetings it was not always evident in their cases what impact this had on their level of risk and the interventions delivered.
- Although staff had received training on signs of safety and trauma-informed practice, there was limited evidence that these approaches were used with children in the cases inspected.

Work with children sentenced by the courts will be more effective if it is well targeted, planned and implemented. In our inspections, we look at a sample of cases. In each of those cases, we inspect against four standards.

2.1. Assessment



Assessment is well-informed, analytical and personalised, actively involving the child and their parents/carers.

Inadequate

Our rating⁷ for assessment is based on the following key questions:

Of the 6 cases inspected	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to support the child's desistance?	6	5
Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep the child safe?	6	3
Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep other people safe?	6	2

The quality of assessment is rated as 'Inadequate'. We saw thorough assessments to support desistance but fewer cases had a sufficient assessment of the child's safety and wellbeing. Assessing a child's risk of harm was the poorest area of practice and led to the overall rating of 'Inadequate'.

Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to support the child's desistance?

Of the 6 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Is there sufficient analysis of offending behaviour, including the child's attitudes towards and motivations for their offending?	6	4
Does assessment consider the diversity and wider familial and social context of the child, utilising information held by other agencies?	6	5
Does assessment focus on the child's strengths and protective factors?	6	6
Where applicable, does assessment analyse the key structural barriers facing the child?	6	2
Is sufficient attention given to understanding the child's levels of maturity, ability and motivation to change, and their likelihood of engaging with the court disposal?	6	5
Does assessment give sufficient attention to the needs and wishes of the victim/s, and opportunities for restorative justice?	6	1
Is the child and their parents/carers meaningfully involved in their assessment, and are their views taken into account?	6	6

⁷ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep the child safe?

Of the 6 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does assessment clearly identify and analyse any risks to the safety and wellbeing of the child?	6	3
Does assessment draw sufficiently on available sources of information, including other assessments, and involve other agencies where appropriate?	6	5
Where applicable, does assessment analyse controls and interventions to promote the safety and wellbeing of the child?	6	2

Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep other people safe?

Of the 6 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does assessment clearly identify and analyse any risk of harm to others posed by the child, including identifying who is at risk and the nature of that risk?	5	1
Does assessment draw sufficiently on available sources of information, including past behaviour and convictions, and involve other agencies where appropriate?	6	3
Does assessment analyse controls and interventions to manage and minimise the risk of harm presented by the child?	6	1

In some assessments the case manager was fully aware of and understood the complexities of the child's life, and there was a multi-agency approach to keeping the child safe. Some cases, however, lacked analysis when assessing risk of harm to others; they did not consider the potential of the child to cause harm and the impact this could have on victims.

2.2. Planning



Planning is well-informed, holistic and personalised, actively involving the child and their parents/carers.

Requires improvement

Our rating⁸ for planning is based on the following key questions:

Of the 6 cases inspected	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning focus sufficiently on supporting the child's desistance?	6	5
Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping the child safe? ⁹	5	4
Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping other people safe? ¹⁰	5	3

The quality of planning is rated as 'Requires improvement'. Planning relating to desistance and safety and wellbeing was outstanding. Planning for keeping other people safe, however, required improvement and this has led to the overall rating of 'Requires improvement'.

Does planning focus on supporting the child's desistance?

Of the 6 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning set out the services most likely to support desistance, paying sufficient attention to the available timescales and the need for sequencing?	6	6
Does planning take sufficient account of the diversity and wider familial and social context of the child?	6	5
Does planning take sufficient account of the child's strengths and protective factors, and seek to reinforce or develop these as necessary?	6	6
Does planning take sufficient account of the child's levels of maturity, ability and motivation to change, and seek to develop these as necessary?	6	6
Where applicable, does planning give sufficient attention to the needs and wishes of the victim/s?	6	1
Is the child and their parents/carers meaningfully involved in planning, and are their views taken into	6	6

⁸ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

⁹ This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping the child safe.

¹⁰ This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping other people safe.

Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping the child safe?

Of the 5 cases with factors related to keeping the child safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning promote the safety and wellbeing of the child, sufficiently addressing risks?	5	4
Does planning involve other agencies where appropriate, and is there sufficient alignment with other plans (e.g. child protection or care plans) concerning the child?	5	4
Does planning set out the necessary controls and interventions to promote the safety and wellbeing of the child?	5	3
Does planning set out necessary and effective contingency arrangements to manage those risks that have been identified?	5	2

Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping other people safe?

Of the 5 cases with factors related to keeping other people safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning promote the safety of other people, sufficiently addressing risk of harm factors?	5	3
Does planning involve other agencies where appropriate?	5	3
Does planning address any specific concerns and risks related to actual and potential victims?	5	3
Does planning set out the necessary controls and interventions to promote the safety of other people?	5	3
Does planning set out necessary and effective contingency arrangements to manage those risks that have been identified?	5	3

In some cases, there was a partnership approach to planning, especially where there were care-taking arrangements with other areas. Contingency planning was also evident when trying to keep children safe. Planning to protect victims, however, was not always considered, and children's plans overall did not take a trauma-informed approach when it was appropriate to do so.

2.3. Implementation and delivery



High-quality, well-focused, personalised and coordinated services are delivered, engaging and assisting the child.

Requires improvement

Our rating¹¹ for implementation and delivery is based on the following key questions:

Of the 6 cases inspected	Number of relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does the implementation and delivery of services effectively support the child's desistance?	6	5
Does the implementation and delivery of services effectively support the safety of the child safe? ¹²	5	4
Does the implementation and delivery of services effectively support the safety of other people? ¹³	5	2*

*Professional discretion applied

The quality of implementing and delivering interventions and services is rated as 'Requires improvement'. Delivering services relating to desistance and safety and wellbeing was outstanding; however, for keeping other people safe it was inadequate. As the lowest percentage at the key question level is close to the rating boundary and relates to one case, having reviewed the case data evidence was identified that risk of harm was being partly addressed. Therefore, professional discretion has been applied and the judgement has been moved up from inadequate to 'Requires improvement'.

Does the implementation and delivery of services effectively support the child's desistance?

Of the 6 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Are the delivered services those most likely to support desistance, with sufficient attention given to sequencing and the available timescales?	6	6
Does service delivery reflect the diversity and wider familial and social context of the child, involving parents/carers or significant others?	6	6
Does service delivery build upon the child's strengths and enhance protective factors?	6	6

¹¹ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

¹² This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping the child safe.

¹³ This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping other people safe.

Is sufficient focus given to developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with the child and their parents/carers?	6	6
Does service delivery promote opportunities for community integration including access to services post-supervision?	6	5
Is sufficient attention given to encouraging and enabling the child's compliance with the work of the YOT?	6	6
In cases when it is required, are enforcement actions taken when appropriate?	2	2

Does the implementation and delivery of services effectively support the safety of the child?

Of the 5 cases with factors related to keeping the child safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does service delivery promote the safety and wellbeing of the child?	5	4
Where applicable, is the involvement of other organisations in keeping the child safe sufficiently well-coordinated?	5	4

Does the implementation and delivery of services effectively support the safety of other people?

Of the 5 cases with factors related to keeping other people safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Are the delivered services sufficient to manage and minimise the risk of harm?	5	2
Where applicable, is sufficient attention given to the protection of actual and potential victims?	5	2
Where applicable, is the involvement of other agencies in managing the risk of harm sufficiently well-coordinated?	5	2

Case managers took account of a child's diversity and provided interventions that related to their individual needs. There was, however, a lack of health input in relevant cases, and limited evidence of what changes were made to a child's level of risk, or interventions delivered, when they were discussed at a multiagency meeting.

2.4. Reviewing



Reviewing of progress is well-informed, analytical and personalised, actively involving the child and their parents/carers.

Requires improvement

Our rating¹⁴ for reviewing is based on the following key questions:

Of the 6 cases inspected ¹⁵	Number of relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does reviewing focus sufficiently on supporting the child's desistance?	6	6
Does reviewing focus sufficiently on keeping the child safe?	5	3
Does reviewing focus sufficiently on keeping other people safe?	5	2*

*Professional discretion applied

The quality of reviewing is rated as 'Requires improvement'. When case managers reviewed desistance, the quality was outstanding. However, reviewing a child's safety and wellbeing required improvement, and when focusing on keeping other people safe reviewing was inadequate. As the lowest percentage at the key question level is close to the rating boundary and relates to one case, the case was reviewed. Although there was little evidence of reviewing captured on the records, the child had been discussed at different panels on a number of occasions, and for this reason it was considered that sufficient reviewing activity had taken place. Therefore, professional discretion has been applied and the judgement has been moved up from inadequate to 'Requires improvement'.

Does reviewing focus sufficiently on supporting the child's desistance?

Of the 6 cases where there were changes in factors related to desistance:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does reviewing identify and respond to changes in factors linked to desistance?	6	5
Does reviewing focus sufficiently on building upon the child's strengths and enhancing protective factors?	6	6
Does reviewing consider motivation and engagement levels and any relevant barriers?	6	6

¹⁴ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

¹⁵ We only expect to see evidence of reviewing, in cases where there have been changes in factors related to desistance, keeping the child safe and/or keeping other people safe.

Is the child and their parents/carers meaningfully involved in reviewing their progress and engagement, and are their views taken into account?	6	6
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Does reviewing focus sufficiently on keeping the child safe?

Of the 5 cases where there were changes in factors related to keeping the child safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does reviewing identify and respond to changes in factors related to safety and wellbeing?	5	4
Where applicable, is reviewing informed by the necessary input from other agencies involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of the child?	5	3
Where applicable, does reviewing lead to the necessary adjustments in the ongoing plan of work to promote the safety and wellbeing of the child?	5	3

Does reviewing focus sufficiently on keeping other people safe?

Of the 5 cases where there were changes in factors related to keeping other people safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does reviewing identify and respond to changes in factors related to risk of harm?	5	2
Where applicable, is reviewing informed by the necessary input from other agencies involved in managing the risk of harm?	5	3
Is the child and their parents/carers meaningfully involved in reviewing their risk of harm, and are their views taken into account?	5	2
Where applicable, does reviewing lead to the necessary adjustments in the ongoing plan of work to manage and minimise the risk of harm?	5	2

Reviewing focused on positive progress and took account of the child's engagement with both the YOT and other services. In some cases, reviewing did not consider changes in the pattern of a child's behaviour, especially in relation to their risk of harm to others.



3. Out-of-court disposals

We inspected four cases managed by the YOT that had received an out-of-court disposal. These consisted of one youth conditional caution, one youth caution and two community resolutions. We interviewed the case managers in three cases.

We examined the quality of assessment; planning; and implementation and delivery of services. Each of these elements was inspected in respect of work done to address desistance. For the one case where there were factors related to harm, we also inspected work done to keep other people safe. In the three cases where safety and wellbeing concerns were identified, we looked at work done to safeguard the child. We also looked at the quality of joint working with local police.

Strengths:

- As with court order work, desistance was the strongest area of practice and planning for desistance was outstanding.
- Early help assessments, when they were completed well, provided a holistic view of the child and their family.
- In out-of-court disposals the needs and wishes of victims were considered.
- Reparation activities were adapted to suit the child's needs.

Areas for improvement:

- The lack of health provision in relevant cases hampered the work done to keep children safe.
- Not all children were assessed before a disposal was delivered.
- For out-of-court work generally, there was a capacity issue with the role of the seconded police officer, as there was insufficient resource to meet the workload.
- Planning and the delivery of services for a child's safety and wellbeing and for keeping other people safe were poor.
- Case managers did not consistently analyse information available to them and failed to recognise the trauma a child had experienced.

Work with children receiving out-of-court disposals will be more effective if it is well targeted, planned and implemented. In our inspections, we look at a sample of cases. In each of those cases, we inspect against four standards.

3.1. Assessment



Assessment is well-informed, analytical and personalised, actively involving the child and their parents/carers.

Requires improvement

Our rating¹⁶ for assessment is based on the following key questions:

Of the 4 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to support the child's desistance?	4	2
Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep the child safe?	4	2
Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep other people safe?	4	3

The quality of assessment is rated as 'Requires improvement'. We saw good assessments of a child's risk of harm to others but assessing desistance and safety and wellbeing required improvement. This led to the overall rating of 'Requires improvement'.

Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to support the child's desistance?

Of the 4 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Is there sufficient analysis of offending behaviour, including the child's acknowledgement of responsibility, attitudes towards and motivations for their offending?	4	2
Does assessment consider the diversity and wider familial and social context of the child, utilising information held by other agencies?	4	2
Does assessment focus on the child's strengths and protective factors?	4	3
Where applicable, does assessment analyse the key structural barriers facing the child?	3	1
Is sufficient attention given to understanding the child's levels of maturity, ability and motivation to change?	4	2
Where applicable, does assessment give sufficient attention to the needs and wishes of the victim/s, and opportunities for restorative justice?	3	3
Is the child and their parents/carers meaningfully involved in their assessment, and are their views taken into account?	4	3

¹⁶ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep the child safe?

Of the 4 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does assessment clearly identify and analyse any risks to the safety and wellbeing of the child?	4	2
Does assessment draw sufficiently on available sources of information, including other assessments, and involve other agencies where appropriate?	4	1

Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep other people safe?

Of the 4 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does assessment clearly identify and analyse any risk of harm to others posed by the child, including identifying who is at risk and the nature of that risk?	2	1
Does assessment draw sufficiently on available sources of information, including any other assessments that have been completed, and other evidence of behaviour by the child?	4	1

Some assessments took account of the individual needs of the child and appropriately analysed the risk of harm they pose to others. A few, however, lacked basic information and failed to recognise the trauma the child had experienced.

3.2. Planning

Assessment is well-informed, analytical and personalised, actively involving the child and their parents/carers.

Inadequate

Our rating¹⁷ for planning is based on the following key questions:

Of the 4 cases inspected	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning focus on supporting the child's desistance?	4	4
Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping the child safe? ¹⁸	3	1

¹⁷ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

¹⁸ This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping the child safe

Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping other people safe? ¹⁹	1	0
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The quality of planning is rated as 'Inadequate'. Planning relating to desistance was outstanding but planning for a child's safety and wellbeing and keeping other people safe was inadequate, and this has led to the overall rating of 'Inadequate'.

Does planning focus on supporting the child's desistance?

Of the 4 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning set out the services most likely to support desistance, paying sufficient attention to the available timescales and the need for sequencing?	4	4
Does planning take sufficient account of the diversity and wider familial and social context of the child?	4	1
Does planning take sufficient account of the child's strengths and protective factors, and seek to reinforce or develop these as necessary?	4	3
Does planning take sufficient account of the child's levels of maturity, ability and motivation to change, and seek to develop these as necessary?	4	3
Does planning take sufficient account of opportunities for community integration, including access to mainstream services following completion of out of court disposal work?	4	2
Where applicable, does planning give sufficient attention to the needs and wishes of the victim/s?	3	3
Is the child and their parents/carers meaningfully involved in planning, and are their views taken into account?	4	3

Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping the child safe?

Of the 3 cases with factors relevant to keeping the child safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning promote the safety and wellbeing of the child, sufficiently addressing risks?	3	1
Where applicable, does planning involve other agencies where appropriate, and is there sufficient alignment	3	1

¹⁹ This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping other people safe

with other plans (e.g. child protection or care plans) concerning the child?		
Does planning include necessary contingency arrangements for those risks that have been identified?	3	1

Does planning focus sufficiently on keeping other people safe?

Of the 1 case with factors relevant to keeping other people safe:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does planning promote the safety of other people, sufficiently addressing risk of harm factors?	1	0
Where applicable, does planning involve other agencies where appropriate?	1	0
Where applicable, does planning address any specific concerns and risks related to actual and potential victims?	1	0
Does planning include necessary contingency arrangements for those risks that have been identified?	1	0

In some cases, planning was proportionate to the disposal given, and the needs and wishes of victims had been considered. In other cases, no health provision had been identified to help support the child, and the potential risk to their safety and wellbeing was not consistently addressed.

3.3. Implementation and delivery



High-quality, well-focused, personalised and coordinated services are delivered, engaging and assisting the child.

Inadequate

Our rating²⁰ for implementation and delivery is based on the following key questions:

Of the 4 cases inspected	Number of relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does service delivery effectively support the child's desistance?	4	3
Does service delivery effectively support the safety of the child? ²¹	3	1

²⁰ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

²¹ This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping the child safe.

Does service delivery effectively support the safety of other people? ²²	1	0
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The quality of implementing and delivering interventions and services is rated as 'Inadequate'. Delivering services to promote desistance was good; however, for safety and wellbeing and keeping other people safe it was inadequate.

Does service delivery effectively support the child's desistance?

Of the 4 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Are the delivered services those most likely to support desistance, with sufficient attention given to sequencing and the available timescales?	4	3
Does service delivery reflect the diversity and wider familial and social context of the child, involving parents/carers or significant others?	4	2
Is sufficient focus given to developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with the child and their parents/carers?	4	3
Is sufficient attention given to encouraging and enabling the child's compliance with the work of the YOT?	4	3
Does service delivery promote opportunities for community integration, including access to mainstream services?	4	2

Does service delivery effectively support the safety of the child?

Of the 3 cases with factors related to the safety of the child:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Does service delivery promote the safety and wellbeing of the child?	3	1
Where applicable, is the involvement of other agencies in keeping the child safe sufficiently well utilised and coordinated?	3	1

Does service delivery effectively support the safety of other people?

²² This question is only relevant in cases where there are factors related to keeping other people safe.

Of the 1 case with factors related to the safety of other people:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Where applicable, is sufficient attention given to the protection of actual and potential victims?	1	0
Are the delivered services sufficient to manage and minimise the risk of harm?	1	0

Some cases showed a creative response to reparation activities which were adapted to suit the child's needs. The lack of health support in relevant cases, however, hampered the work done to keep children safe.

3.4. Joint working



Joint working with the police supports the delivery of high-quality, personalised and coordinated services.	Requires improvement
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Our rating²³ for joint working is based on the following key questions:

Of the 4 cases inspected	Number of relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Are the YOT's recommendations sufficiently well-informed, analytical and personalised to the child, supporting joint decision making?	4	3
Does the YOT work effectively with the police in implementing the out-of-court disposal? ²⁴	1	0*

*Professional discretion applied

The quality of joint work is rated as 'Requires improvement'. The YOT's recommendations were well-informed, personalised to the child and supported the joint decision-making process. However, evidence of effective work with the police in implementing the disposal was inadequate. As the lowest percentage at the key question level is close to the rating boundary and relates to one case, the case was reviewed. The evidence suggested that, as the police appeared to be involved with the child, there was a possibility that joint working had taken place which had not been recorded. Therefore, professional discretion has been applied and the judgement has been moved up from inadequate to 'Requires improvement'.

²³ The rating for the standard is driven by the lowest score on each of the key questions, which is placed in a rating band. See Annexe 1 for a more detailed explanation.

²⁴ This question is only relevant in youth conditional caution cases.

Are the YOT's recommendations sufficiently well-informed, analytical and personalised to the child, supporting joint decision-making?

Of the 4 cases inspected:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Where applicable, are the recommendations by the YOT for out-of-court disposal outcomes, conditions and interventions appropriate and proportionate?	4	3
Do the recommendations consider the degree of the child's understanding of the offence and their acknowledgement of responsibility?	4	4
Where applicable, is a positive contribution made by the YOT to determining the disposal?	4	4
Is sufficient attention given to the child's understanding, and their parents/carers' understanding, of the implications of receiving an out of court disposal?	4	3
Is the information provided to inform decision-making timely to meet the needs of the case, legislation and guidance?	3	2
Where applicable, is the rationale for joint disposal decisions appropriate and clearly recorded?	3	3

Does the YOT work effectively with the police in implementing the out-of-court disposal?

Of the 1 case with youth conditional cautions:	Relevant cases	Number 'Yes'
Where applicable, does the YOT inform the police of progress and outcomes in a sufficient and timely manner?	0	0
Is sufficient attention given to compliance with and enforcement of the conditions?	1	1

Annexe 1: Methodology

HM Inspectorate of Probation standards

The standards against which we inspect youth offending services are based on established models and frameworks, which are grounded in evidence, learning and experience. These standards are designed to drive improvements in the quality of work with children who have offended.²⁵

The inspection methodology is summarised below, linked to the three domains in our standards framework. We focused on obtaining evidence against the standards, key questions and prompts in our inspection framework. It is important that all Youth Offending Services, regardless of size, are inspected to highlight good practice and to identify areas for improvement. Of course, some YOTs have very small caseloads and so any percentages or figures quoted in these reports need to read with care. However, all domain two samples, even for the smallest YOTs, meet an 80 per cent confidence level and in some of the smaller YOTs inspectors may be assessing most or all of that service's cases.

Domain one: organisational delivery

- The youth offending service submitted evidence in advance and the Assistant Director for Early Help, Family Engagement and Business Support delivered a presentation covering the following areas:
- How do organisational delivery arrangements in this area make sure that the work of your YOS is as effective as it can be, and that the life chances of children who have offended are improved?
- What are your priorities for further improving these arrangements?

During the main fieldwork phase, we conducted eight interviews with case managers, asking them about their experiences of training, development, management supervision and leadership. We held various meetings, which allowed us to triangulate evidence and information. In total, we conducted nine meetings, which included meetings with managers, partner organisations, and staff. Evidence collected under this domain is judged against our published ratings characteristics.²⁵

Domain two: court disposals

We completed case assessments over a one-week period, examining case files and interviewing case managers. Six of the cases selected were those of children who had received court disposals eight to twelve months earlier, enabling us to examine work in relation to assessing, planning, implementing and reviewing. Where required, interviews with other people significantly involved in the case also took place.

We examined six court disposals. The sample size was set to achieve a confidence level of 80 per cent (with a margin of error of 5), and where possible we ensured that the ratios in relation to gender, sentence or disposal type, risk of serious harm, and risk to safety and wellbeing classifications matched those in the eligible population.

²⁵ HM Inspectorate's standards are available here:

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/about-our-work/our-standards-and-ratings/>

Domain three: out-of-court disposals

We completed case assessments over a one-week period, examining case files and interviewing case managers. Four of the cases selected were those of children who had received out-of-court disposals seven to eleven months earlier. This enabled us to examine work in relation to assessing, planning, implementing and joint working. Where necessary, interviews with other people significantly involved in the case also took place.

We examined four out-of-court disposals. The sample size was set so that the combined case sample size comprises 60 per cent domain two cases and 40 per cent domain three. Where possible, we ensured the ratios in relation to gender, sentence or disposal type, risk of serious harm, and risk to safety and wellbeing classifications matched those in the eligible population.

In some areas of this report, data may have been split into smaller sub-samples – for example, male/female cases. Where this is the case, the margin of error for the sub-sample findings may be higher than five.

Ratings explained

Domain one ratings are proposed by the lead inspector for each standard. They will be a single judgement, using all the relevant sources of evidence. More detailed information can be found in the probation inspection domain one rules and guidance on the website.

In this inspection, we conducted a detailed examination of a sample of six court disposals and four out-of-court disposals. In each of those cases, we inspect against four standards: assessment, planning, and implementation/delivery. For court disposals, we look at reviewing; and in out-of-court disposals, we look at joint working with the police. For each standard, inspectors answer a number of key questions about different aspects of quality, including whether there was sufficient analysis of the factors related to offending; the extent to which children were involved in assessment and planning; and whether enough was done to assess and manage the safety and well-being of the child, and any risk of harm posed to others.

For each standard, the rating is aligned to the lowest banding at the key question level, recognising that each key question is an integral part of the standard.

Lowest banding (key question level)	Rating (standard)
Minority: <50%	Inadequate
Too few: 50-64%	Requires improvement
Reasonable majority: 65-79%	Good
Large majority: 80%+	Outstanding ☆

We use case sub-samples for some of the key questions in domains two and three. For example, when judging whether planning focused sufficiently on keeping other people safe, we exclude those cases where the inspector deemed the risk of serious harm to be low. This approach is justified on the basis that we focus on those cases where we expect meaningful work to take place.

An element of professional discretion may be applied to the standards ratings in domains two and three. The ratings panel considers whether professional discretion should be exercised where the lowest percentage at the key question level is close to

the rating boundary, for example between 'Requires improvement' and 'Good' (specifically, within five percentage points of the boundary; or where a differing judgement in one case would result in a change in rating; or where the rating is based upon a sample or sub-sample of five cases or fewer). The panel considers the sizes of any sub-samples used and the percentages for the other key questions within that standard, such as whether they fall within different bandings and the level of divergence, to make this decision.

Overall provider rating

Straightforward scoring rules are used to generate the overall provider rating. Each of the ten standards will be scored on a 0-3 scale as listed in the following table.

Score	Rating (standard)
0	Inadequate
1	Requires improvement
2	Good
3	Outstanding ☆

Adding the scores for each standard together produces the overall rating on a 0-30 scale as listed in the following table.

Score	Rating (overall)
0-6	Inadequate
7-18	Requires improvement
19-30	Good
31-36	Outstanding ☆

We do not include any weightings in the scoring rules. The rationale for this is that all parts of the standards framework are strongly linked to effective service delivery and positive outcomes, and we have restricted ourselves to those that are most essential. Our view is that providers need to focus across all the standards, and we do not want to distort behaviours in any undesirable ways. Furthermore, the underpinning evidence supports including all standards/key questions in the rating, rather than weighting individual elements.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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