

## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Date and Time :-</b> | <b>Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 3.30 p.m.</b>  |
| <b>Venue:-</b>          | <b>Virtual Meeting</b>  |
| <b>Membership:-</b>     | <b>Councillors Collingham, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth (Chair), McClure, Pitchley</b>        |
| <b>Contact</b>          | <b>Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor<br/>katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk</b> |

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 02 March 2021. (Pages 3 - 5)**

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 02 March 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. Appointment of Vice-chair**

To appoint the Vice-chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

**6. Introduction to Corporate Parenting (Pages 6 - 14)**

To receive a presentation to familiarise new Members with the Corporate Parenting Panel.

**7. Young People's Promises**

To receive a presentation regarding the upcoming review of the Young People's Promises.

**8. Corporate Parenting Performance Report (Pages 15 - 34)**

To receive an update in respect of year-end corporate parenting performance measures and data.

**9. E.U. Settlement Update (Pages 35 - 41)**

To receive an update report in respect of the Council's efforts to obtain settled status for Looked After Children who are citizens of the European Union.

**10. LAC Council Update (Pages 42 - 45)**

To receive an update 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.

**12. Date and time of the next meeting**

The next virtual meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on 19 October 2021 at 3.30 p.m.



Sharon Kemp,  
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**  
**Tuesday 2 March 2021**

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

**79. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2021**

**Resolved:-**

1. The minutes of the previous meeting held of 5 January 2021 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**81. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Because of the likely disclosure of exempt information during the course of discussion of items 9 and 10 on the agenda pertaining to the Youth Offending Team Inspection and the Looked After Children's Council Update, it was agreed that the press and public would be excluded from observing the discussion of these items in compliance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the press and public be excluded from Items 9 and 10 on the agenda.

**82. OFSTED PRESENTATION**

Consideration was given to a presentation in respect of feedback from the recent visit by Ofsted. The presentation provided a summary of the purpose of the visit, the specific items Ofsted identified as working well in relation to Looked After Children, the areas which Ofsted identified as needing improvement in relation to Looked After Children, and the current activities which are being undertaken to ensure further service development.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the presentation be noted.

**83. UNREGISTERED AND UNREGULATED PLACEMENTS**

Consideration was given to a report in respect of the use of unregistered and unregulated placements for looked after children and young people. The report provided an explanation of the terminology and assurance in respect of the types of accommodation used.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the report be noted.

**84. EU RESETTLEMENT SCHEME - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to an update report in respect of the EU Settlement Scheme which 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 for which EU citizens can apply is determined by length of residency at the time of application. The purpose of this update was to provide assurance in respect of the progression of EU settlement applications in relation to eligible children who are looked after by Rotherham.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the report be noted.

**85. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Consideration was given to a Performance Report in respect of Corporate Parenting. The report provided a summary of performance for key performance indicators across services associated with Looked After Children (LAC). It was considered in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report at Appendix A which provided trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the report be noted.

**86. YOT INSPECTION**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Inspection. This inspection followed Rotherham YOT's receiving notification of HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection of youth justice services on Friday 7th August 2020. Rotherham YOT was subsequently inspected under the new HMIP 'Small YOT' inspection framework. Peterborough, Windsor Maidenhead and Rotherham were selected to be the first Youth Offending Teams to be inspected under this new framework.

Five recommendations were referenced in the report. Support from the Corporate Parenting Panel was requested in progressing actions against these recommendations, especially the recommendation to ensure the partnership understand the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT, and to ensure that the partnership review the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the report be noted.

**87. LAC COUNCIL UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a presentation in respect of recent activities by the Looked After Children's Council.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the presentation be noted.

**88. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair confirmed there were no matters of urgent business requiring a decision at this meeting.

# Introduction to Corporate Parenting in Rotherham

**Suzanne Joyner – Strategic Director of Children & Young People’s Services**

**Ailsa Barr – Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care**

# The Legal Context & National Policy

- Over the last 30 years there has been significant legislation that has strengthened the corporate parenting role and corporate parenting duties.
- **The Children Act 1989** – introduced notion of ‘parental responsibility’ and ‘corporate parenting’:
  - The Children and Families Act 2014
  - Duty to appoint a Virtual School Head – closing the education gap
  - Staying Put support to 21 years;
  - Care Leaver Strategy 2016
  - New ways to support care leavers;
- **The Children and Social Work Act 2017**
  - Defines in law the role of corporate parents for the first time and extends support for care leavers to 25.
  - Requires a clear ‘local offer’.

# What do we mean by Corporate Parenting?

- Corporate parenting is different from ‘ordinary’ parenting of children in that the focus is not on forming personal relationships with individual children.
- Corporate parent principle “...**would this be good enough for my child?..**” and be the champion children looked after and care leavers – what can I do to support them in my role?
- Good corporate parents recognise the complexity of caring for children in care and that problems do not always have easy solutions – they are not one homogenous group – celebrate their ambitions and successes.



# Who are Corporate Parents?

- All Councillors and Officers within the council and partners, particularly health and education colleagues who have special duties.
- Some Councillors and officers will be more involved than others and have greater responsibilities e.g. Lead Member, being a member of the Corporate Parenting Board, being on a Scrutiny Committee.
- All Members can take a role in their communities and in their organisations to ensure that decision-making takes account of their corporate parenting duties and their responsibilities e.g. council tax exemption, priority housing, work experience and apprenticeships.

# Hearing from our children and young people

- As corporate parents it's really important to hear about our children and young people's lived experiences.
- We have a LAC council who are all care experienced and they can help us understand things from their perspective.
- LAC council are regular attenders at corporate parenting panel so that they can give feedback to and raise challenge to their corporate parents.

# Knowing how well we support our children in care & care leavers

There are specific measures that support Corporate Parents to understand the quality of how an LA cares for and supports children in care and care leavers which include performance for:

- LAC plans, reviews and visits
- Placements
- Fostering and adoption
- Health and dental
- Education / Employment and Training

# Profile of our children in care

- As of 14/05/21
  - 579 looked after children.
  - 119 are aged between 0-4 yrs; 143 aged 5-10 yrs; 265 aged 11-17 yrs and 52 aged 17 yrs.
  - Most looked after children come from a White British backgrounds, with the biggest BAME groups being Gypsy/Roma (47) and White/Asian (32).
  - 80.8% (468) are living in a family based setting; with foster carers, wider family/ friends or parents.
  - All have a care plan, health assessment and Personal Education Plan to ensure there is a shared parenting approach to meeting their needs.

# Profile of our care leavers

- As at 14/05/21
  - 310 care leavers.
  - 98.5% of our care leavers are in suitable accommodation.
  - 66% are in Education Training or Employment.
  - All Care leavers aged 16 have a Pathway plan to support their journey into independence.

# Corporate parenting panel

- Multi-agency forum made up of the council's elected councillors representing all parties, as well as the multi-agency partners in Rotherham who are responsible for delivering good and effective corporate parenting for children and young people.
- Work closely with the LAC council to ensure that corporate parents hear directly from children and young people
- Champion the needs of looked after children and care leavers throughout the council and partner agencies

**WHAT DO WE WANT OUR CP  
PARENTING PANEL TO BE?**

## **Council Report**

Corporate Parenting Performance

### **Title**

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – 13<sup>th</sup> July 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)**

Rebecca Harrison (Performance Officer)  
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 – April 2021

### **Background Papers**

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



## Corporate Parenting Performance Report - Yearend 2020/21 & April 2021

### 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, services and interventions offered by the council have continued to be impacted upon by Covid -19. RMBC CYPS have worked to minimise the negative impact to ensuring effective care planning continues to support each young person's stability and progress. The narrative offered below reflects some of the challenges Covid-19 has posed for the Looked After Children of Rotherham.

#### 3.2 Looked After Children Profile

3.2.1 In 2020/21, 186 children became looked after and 183 children ceased to be looked after throughout the year, with 32.8% of these children leaving care to permanence which was in line with 2019/20 (32.4%). At the end of the financial year there were 596 LAC.

In April 21 we had 10 admissions to care and 25 discharges, resulting in a decrease to 581 LAC at the end of April 2021.

3.2.2 This decrease in LAC has reduced our 10k population rate to 101.0 at the end of April 2021. This remains significantly higher than the latest available national average of 67.0 but is now only slightly above our statistical neighbour's average of 98.2.

3.2.3 Of those who left care in 2020/21, 21 (11.5%) children secured an SGO.

In April 21, 2 children ceased to be LAC due to an SGO and 6 SGO's were started.

3.2.4 In 2020/21 34 adoptions took place which is 5 more adoptions than in 2019/20.

3 children were adopted in April 21.

### 3.3 LAC Plans, Reviews and Visits

3.3.1 96.2% of all LAC reviews completed in 2020/21 were within timescales which is the highest this measure has been at yearend. Overall, the use of virtual reviews supported a higher percentage being completed on time, highlighting how different approaches support timeliness and for some older young people, their willingness to be engaged purposefully.

In April 21 98.4% of LAC reviews took place within timescales, with only 2 reviews falling out of time.

3.3.2 There were 95.7% of LAC with an up-to-date plan at the end of March 21, which is also an increase on the yearend outturn for 2019/20 (92.6%).

LAC with an up-to-date plan remained fairly stable at 94.4% at the end of April 21.

3.3.3 95.3% of physical visits were completed in time (NMS) during March 21 and if we were to include the 21 virtual visits that also took place in March 21 this would bring the percentage up to 98.8%. This again highlights how adapting different ways of working supports timeliness, which is key in safeguarding and supporting LAC.

95.6% of visits were undertaken within timescale in April 21 and 11 virtual visits were recorded which would take the percentage up to 97.6%.

### 3.4 Placements

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.

3.4.1 At the end of March 21, the percentage of children and young people experiencing long term placement stability remained high with 69.2% of long-term LAC having a stable placement for at least 2 years. This is an increase on 2019/20 (62.1%) and is the highest, it has been since yearend 2015/16 (72.7%). Performance is also above the latest stat neighbour (68.5%) and national averages (69.0%). This is a really

positive outcome in relation to the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic on placements and is a testament to the work done by social workers, the SSW's therapeutic team and virtual school to maintain placement stability.

In April 21 this increased further to 70.1% of children and young people remaining in placement for at least 2 years.

- 3.4.2 2020/21 saw a positive decline in the percentage of children having 3 or more placements to 9.0% (54/598) which is below the 2019/20 yearend performance (11.1%) and the latest stat neighbour (10.0%) and national averages (10.0%). The fluctuation in performance reflects some of the placement instability brought by the Covid-19 pandemic and is further complicated by a challenge around the placement availability for some of the older and more complex LAC.

This increased slightly in April 21 to 9.2% (54/588).

- 3.4.3 The percentage of children in a family-based placement was fairly consistent throughout 2020/21. At the end of March 21 79.9% of LAC were in a family-based placement which is a slight decline on 2019/20 (81.5%). There continues to be positive foster recruitment inhouse but balanced against a number of foster carers resigning. Recruitment, retention, and the development of inhouse foster carers remains a key area of focus.

At the end of April 21 80.3% of LAC were in a family-based placement.

### 3.5 Fostering

A key element to factor into 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.

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

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

- 3.5.1 The number of LAC in a fostering placement has continued to decline over the last 3 years and had reached 391 children (65.6%) in foster care at the end of March 21. This figure does not include those children and young people placed with family and friends.

At the end of April this had reduced further to 388 (66.8%).

3.5.2 The number of fostering households fell to 146 at the end of March 21, in comparison to 147 at the end of 2019/20. The challenge in 2020/21 has been the number of new FC approvals has been matched with the number of resignations and de-registrations.

In April this reduced further to 145 fostering households.

### 3.6 Adoptions

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.

3.6.1 In 2020/21 34 adoptions took place with 31 of these taking place since September 20 due to delays as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic at the start of 2020. This however is 5 more adoptions than in 2019/20 and the most since 2015/16 (43). The increase in adoptions completed has been 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.

3 children were adopted in April 21 and there remains a number of children in the adoption pathway as we continue to catch up with adoption order appeals and hearings.

3.6.2 At the end of March 21, the A1 (number of days between a child entering care and having an adoption placement) measure was 446.6 days. The national target for A1 is a maximum of 426 days.

At the end of April 21 this currently stands at 523.3 days however this will change throughout the year as more adoptions take place.

3.6.3 The A2 (number of days between a child receiving a placement order and being matched to an adoptive family) measure was 210.6 days at the end of March 21. The national target for A2 is a maximum of 121 days.

At the end of April 21 this currently stands at 259.7 days however this will change throughout the year as more adoptions take place..

3.6.4 Both the A1 and A2 measures were much higher at the end of the last financial year (2020/21) than recent years however this was anticipated due to the court delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic

### 3.7 Health and Dental

3.7.1 Health checks have fluctuated slightly throughout the year starting at 90.2% in April 20 to 88.3% in March 21. This is slightly above the 2019/20 yearend (88.2%), given the Covid-19 pandemic, this shows there is ongoing positive commitment to ensuring children's health needs are met.

Health checks at the end of April 21 were at 86.3%.

3.7.2 Dental checks have continued a month-on-month downward trend from 78.4% in April 20 to 20.2% in March 21. Due to the Covid-19 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.

At the end of April 21 this has improved slightly to 20.9%.

3.7.3 Throughout 2020/21 151 initial health assessments have been completed with 78.8% (119) of them being completed within timescale. This has not met the yearend 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

All measures are reported termly and with the exception of the PEP data Autumn term 2020/21 performance remains unvalidated due to the new reporting system being developed and checks taking place to ensure data is as accurate as possible.

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).

3.8.1 The Autumn Term PEP completion rates show a slight decline in the number of LAC with a PEP from 98.9% in the summer term to 97.9%.

3.8.2 Similarly, the number of PEPs in time decreased from 96.5% in the summer term to 94.5%. The Spring term performance is currently being validated and will be available in July 21.

3.8.3 During the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns schools closed with only 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 March 21, the care leavers cohort was 319 which is the highest yearend cohort however this has been higher during 2020/21 (335 in Sept and Dec 20).

April 21 has seen this reduce to 315.

3.9.2 Care Leavers with a Pathway plan at the end of March was 91.8% which is a decrease on 2019/20 (94.2%) however the timeliness of pathway plans was 82.7% at the end of March 21 which is a significant improvement on 2019/20 (73.1%). Timeliness has been an ongoing area of focus in recent months for the LAC and leaving care service and this has been reflected in March's performance.

At the end of April 92.4% had a pathway plan with 81.2% of them being up to date.

3.9.3 The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has been positive throughout the year reaching 98.4% at the end of March 21 which is the highest it has been at yearend and is also above the latest stat neighbour (86.6%) and national averages (85.0%).

98.1% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the end of April 21.

3.9.4 At the end of March 21 performance for care leavers in employment, education, or training (EET) reached 65.5% which is an improvement on 2019/20 (59.7%) and is the highest yearend performance since 2015/16 (68.0%) and is also above the latest stat neighbour (56.0%) and national averages (51.0%).

At the end of April 21 65.1% of care leavers were EET.

#### **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. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no direct implications within this report.

**12. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

- 12.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

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

- 13.1 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.

**14. Risks and Mitigation**

- 14.1 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.

**15. 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 Performance report

As at month end: April 2021

**Please note:** Data reports are not dynamic. Although care is taken to ensure data is as accurate as possible every month, delays in data input can result in changes in figures when reports are re-run retrospectively. To combat this at least two individual months data is rerun for each indicator.

#### Document details

**Status:** Issue 1

**Date created:** 10/06/21

**Created by:** Performance & Quality Team

**Contact:** cyps-performance@rotherham.gov.uk



Performance summary

As at month end: April 2021

\*DOT - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' since the previous month showing if the number or percentage has gone up or down. Colours have been added to help distinguish better and worse performance with the exceptions of measures that are for information only. Key Below:-

- ↑ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = improvement in performance
- ↓ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = decline in performance
- - number/percentage remained same as previous month
- ↑ - increase in number/percentage (info measures)
- - remained same as previous month (info measures)
- ↓ - decrease in number/percentage (info measures)

|                       | NO.              | INDICATOR   | DATA NOTE (Monthly) | 2020 / 21 |        |        | 2021 / 22 |       | GOOD PERF IS | DOT* (Month on Month) | RAG (in month) | Target and Tolerances |       |              | YR ON YR PERFORMANCE |         |               | LATEST BENCHMARKING |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|---------------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------|---------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--|--|
|                       |                  |   |                     | Jan-21    | Feb-21 | Mar-21 | Apr-21    | YTD   |              |                       |                | Red                   | Amber | Target Green | 2018/19              | 2019/20 | 2020/21       | YR ON YR TREND      | STAT NEIGH AV. | BEST STAT NEIGH | NAT AVE | TOP QTILE THRESHOLD | RIA 2019/20  |              |              |       |  |  |
| LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN | 6.1              | No. of Looked After Children  | Count               | 605       | 607    | 596    | 581       | -     | Info         | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 642                  | 595     | 597           |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.2              | Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Council Plan Indicator)  | Rate per 10,000     | 105.2     | 105.5  | 103.6  | 101.0     | -     | Low          | ↓                     |                | 103.6+                | 98.8+ | <98.7        | 112.7                | 104.5   | 103.8         |                     |                |                 |         | 98.2                | 59.0         | 67.0         | -            | 77.0  |  |  |
|                       | 6.3              | Admissions of Looked After Children   | Count               | 15        | 18     | 13     | 10        | 10    | Info         | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 271                  | 214     | 186           |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.4              | No. of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children   | Count               | 20        | 16     | 24     | 25        | 25    | High         | ↑                     |                |                       |       |              | 254                  | 259     | 183           |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.5              | Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (Special guardianship order (SGO), Child arrangement orders (CAO), Adoption) | Percentage          | 39.1%     | 15.4%  | 39.1%  | 52.2%     | 52.2% | High         | ↑                     |                | <27%                  | 27%+  | 35%+         | 31.5%                | 32.4%   | 32.8%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.6              | No. of SGO's started (Legal Status)   | Count               | 7         | 3      | 6      | 6         | 6     | High         | →                     |                |                       |       |              | 62                   | 73      | 42            |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.7              | Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order  | Percentage          | 21.7%     | 7.7%   | 8.7%   | 30.4%     | 30.4% | High         | ↑                     |                |                       |       |              | 13.1%                | 16.2%   | 11.5%         |                     |                |                 |         | 12.3% (2017)        | 22.0% (2017) | 12.0% (2017) | 17.0% (2017) |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.8              | LAC cases reviewed within timescales  | Percentage          | 93.6%     | 98.3%  | 98.4%  | 98.4%     | 98.4% | High         | →                     |                | <87%                  | 87%+  | 95%+         | 88.6%                | 90.8%   | 96.2%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.9              | % of children adopted   | Percentage          | 0.0%      | 0.0%   | 0.0%   | 12.0%     | 12.0% | High         | ↑                     |                |                       |       |              | 12.6%                | 11.2%   | 18.6%         |                     |                |                 |         | 17.3%               | 42.0%        | 12.0%        | 16.6%        | 14.0% |  |  |
|                       | 6.10             | Health of Looked After Children - up to date Health Assessments   | Percentage          | 90.2%     | 89.8%  | 88.3%  | 86.3%     | -     | High         | ↓                     |                | <87%                  | 87%+  | 95%+         | 91.8%                | 88.2%   | 88.3%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.11             | Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments   | Percentage          | 28.9%     | 22.3%  | 20.2%  | 20.9%     | -     | High         | ↑                     |                | <87%                  | 87%+  | 95%+         | 88.4%                | 82.2%   | 20.2%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.12             | Health of Looked After Children - Initial Health Assessments carried out within 20 working days   | Percentage          | 76.5%     | 80.0%  | 81.8%  | 68.8%     | 68.8% | High         | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 51.1%                | 86.4%   | 78.8%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.13             | % of LAC with a PEP (Termly)  | Percentage          | -         | -      | -      | tbc       | 97.9% | High         | n/a                   |                |                       |       |              | 93.6%                | 97.5%   | 98.9%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.14             | % of LAC with up to date PEPs (Termly)  | Percentage          | -         | -      | -      | tbc       | 94.5% | High         | n/a                   |                | <87%                  | 87%+  | 95%+         | 97.4%                | 95.0%   | 96.5%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.15             | LAC Overall absence - % of sessions lost due to absence   | Percentage          | -         | -      | -      | tbc       | 7.6%  | Low          | n/a                   |                |                       |       |              | 4.7%                 | 4.6%    | not available |                     |                |                 |         | 4.3%                | 2.9%         | 4.7%         | 3.9%         |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.16             | % of LAC who are classed as persistent absentees  | Percentage          | -         | -      | -      | tbc       | 22.6% | Low          | n/a                   |                |                       |       |              | 11.7%                | 8.6%    | not available |                     |                |                 |         | 10.0%               | 6.3%         | 10.9%        | 9.2%         |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.17             | % of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion   | Percentage          | -         | -      | -      | tbc       | 4.0%  | Low          | n/a                   |                |                       |       |              | 12.5%                | tbc     | not available |                     |                |                 |         | 13.2%               | 10.6%        | 11.7%        | 10.0%        |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.18             | % of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements  | Percentage          | -         | -      | -      | tbc       | tbc   | Low          | n/a                   |                |                       |       |              |                      |         |               |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.19             | % of eligible LAC with an up to date plan   | Percentage          | 92.0%     | 93.7%  | 95.7%  | 94.4%     | -     | High         | ↓                     |                | <87%                  | 87%+  | 95%+         | 98.0%                | 92.6%   | 95.7%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 6.20             | % LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of national minimum standard   | Percentage          | 93.5%     | 92.8%  | 95.3%  | 95.6%     | -     | High         | ↑                     |                | <87%                  | 87%+  | 95%+         | 96.9%                | 93.4%   | 95.3%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
| CARE LEAVERS          | 7.1              | No. of care leavers   | Count               | 328       | 312    | 319    | 315       | -     | Info         | ↓                     |                |                       |       | 298          | 313                  | 319     |               |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 7.2              | % of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan  | Percentage          | 91.7%     | 92.3%  | 91.8%  | 92.4%     | -     | High         | ↑                     |                | <93%                  | 93%>  | 95%+         | 87.4%                | 94.2%   | 91.8%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 7.3              | % of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan  | Percentage          | 76.8%     | 83.9%  | 82.7%  | 81.2%     | -     | High         | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 82.0%                | 73.1%   | 82.7%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 7.4              | % of care leavers in suitable accommodation   | Percentage          | 96.0%     | 97.4%  | 98.4%  | 98.1%     | -     | High         | ↓                     |                | <86%                  | 86%+  | 94%+         | 93.6%                | 93.0%   | 98.4%         |                     |                |                 |         | 86.6%               | 94.0%        | 85.0%        | 92.0%        |       |  |  |
|                       | 7.5              | % of care leavers in employment, education or training  | Percentage          | 63.4%     | 65.4%  | 64.9%  | 65.1%     | -     | High         | ↑                     |                | <57%                  | 57%+  | 65%+         | 62.8%                | 59.7%   | 64.9%         |                     |                |                 |         | 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  | Percentage          | 69.4%     | 68.8%  | 69.2%  | 70.1%     | -     | High         | ↑                     |                | <61%                  | 61%+  | 69%+         | 61.2%                | 62.1%   | 69.2%         |                     |                |                 |         | 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)   | Percentage          | 10.1%     | 8.6%   | 9.0%   | 9.2%      | -     | Low          | ↑                     |                | 18%+                  | 10%+  | <10%         | 13.3%                | 11.1%   | 9.0%          |                     |                |                 |         | 10.0%               | 6.0%         | 10.0%        | 8.0%         |       |  |  |
|                       | 8.3              | % of LAC in a family based setting (Council Plan Indicator)   | Percentage          | 80.6%     | 80.5%  | 79.9%  | 80.3%     | -     | High         | ↑                     |                | <77%                  | 77%+  | 85%+         | 81.9%                | 81.5%   | 79.9%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 8.4              | % of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)   | Percentage          | 5.1%      | 4.0%   | 4.2%   | 4.1%      | -     | Low          | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 7.2%                 | 5.4%    | 4.2%          |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 8.5              | % of LAC in a Commissioned Placement  | Percentage          | 50.4%     | 49.8%  | 50.3%  | 52.5%     | -     | Low          | ↑                     |                |                       |       |              | 52.3%                | 51.9%   | 50.3%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
| FOSTERING             | 9.1              | No. of LAC in a Fostering Placement   | Count               | 386       | 396    | 391    | 388       | -     | High         | ↓                     |                |                       |       | 427          | 405                  | 391     |               |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 9.2              | % of LAC in a Fostering Placement   | Percentage          | 63.8%     | 65.2%  | 65.6%  | 66.8%     | -     | High         | ↑                     |                |                       |       |              | 66.5%                | 68.1%   | 65.5%         |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 9.3              | No. of Foster Carers (Households)   | Count               | 146       | 147    | 146    | 145       | -     | High         | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 149                  | 147     | 146           |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 9.4              | No. of Foster Carers Recruited  | Count               | 0         | 2      | 1      | 0         | 0     | High         | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 11                   | 18      | 21            |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
|                       | 9.5              | No. of Foster Carers Deregistered   | Count               | 3         | 0      | 2      | 0         | 0     | Low          | ↓                     |                |                       |       |              | 21                   | 20      | 21            |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |
| 10.1                  | No. of adoptions | Count   | 2                   | 1         | 5      | 3      | 3         | High  | ↓            |                       |                |                       |       | 32           | 29                   | 34      |               |                     |                |                 |         |                     |              |              |              |       |  |  |

\*DOT - Direction of travel represents the direction of 'performance' since the previous month showing if the number or percentage has gone up or down. Colours have been added to help distinguish better and worse performance with the exceptions of measures that are for information only. Key Below,-

↑↓ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = improvement in performance  
↑↓ - increase/decrease in number/percentage = decline in performance  
→ - number/percentage remained same as previous month

↑ - increase in number/percentage (info measures)  
→ - remained same as previous month (info measures)  
↓ - decrease in number/percentage (info measures)

|           | NO.  | INDICATOR  | DATA NOTE<br>(Monthly) | 2020 / 21 |        |        | 2021 / 22 |       | GOOD PERF IS | DOT*<br>(Month on Month) | RAG<br>(in month) | Target and Tolerances |       |              | YR ON YR PERFORMANCE |         |         |                | LATEST BENCHMARKING |                 |         |                     |             |
|-----------|------|--|------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------|---------|---------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|
|           |      |  |                        | Jan-21    | Feb-21 | Mar-21 | Apr-21    | YTD   |              |                          |                   | Red                   | Amber | Target Green | 2018/19              | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | YR ON YR TREND | STAT NEIGH AV.      | BEST STAT NEIGH | NAT AVE | TOP QTILE THRESHOLD | RIA 2019/20 |
|           |      |  |                        |           |        |        |           |       |              |                          |                   |                       |       |              |                      |         |         |                |                     |                 |         |                     |             |
| ADOPTIONS | 10.2 | No. of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA  | Count                  | 1         | 0      | 1      | 2         | 2     | High         | ↑                        |                   |                       |       | 11           | 9                    | 6       |         |                |                     |                 |         |                     |             |
|           | 10.3 | % of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA  | Percentage             | 50.0%     | 0.0%   | 20.0%  | 66.7%     | 66.7% | High         | ↑                        |                   |                       |       | 34.4%        | 31.0%                | 17.6%   |         |                |                     |                 |         |                     |             |
|           | 10.4 | Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A10) | YTD Average            | 419.7     | 426.9  | 446.6  | 523.3     | -     | Low          | ↑                        |                   |                       | 487<  | 386.9        | 391.5                | 446.6   |         | 359.7          | 310.0               | 376.0           | 333.0   | 360.0               |             |
|           | 10.5 | Average number of days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)    | YTD Average            | 183.8     | 189.4  | 210.6  | 259.7     | -     | Low          | ↑                        |                   |                       | 121<  | 212.4        | 146.0                | 210.6   |         | 160.0          | 91.0                | 178.0           | 138.0   | 167.0               |             |

# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

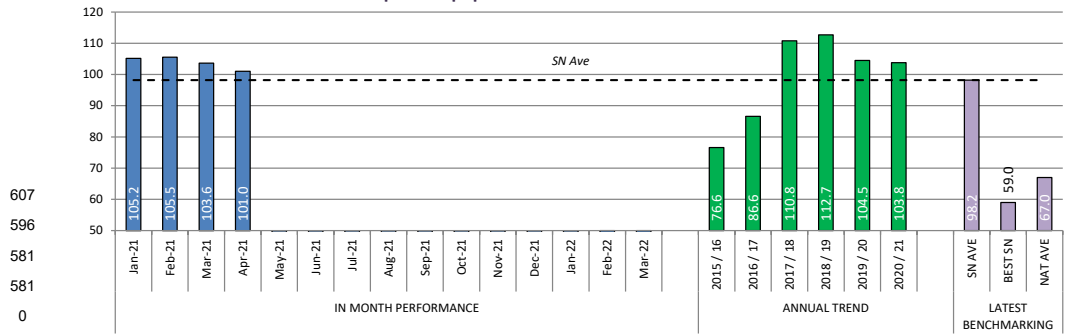
**DEFINITION** Children in care or 'looked after children' are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority. This can happen voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm.

| 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 |

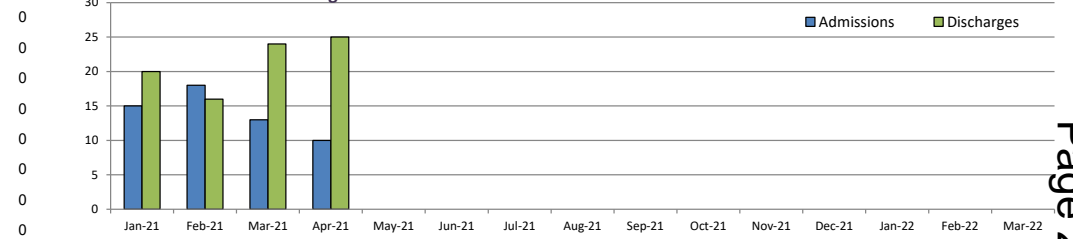
| IN MONTH PERFORMANCE | Jan-21 | 105.2 | 605 | 15 | 20 | 39.1% | 7 | 21.7% |
|----------------------|--------|-------|-----|----|----|-------|---|-------|
|                      | Feb-21 | 105.5 | 607 | 18 | 16 | 15.4% | 3 | 7.7%  |
|                      | Mar-21 | 103.6 | 596 | 13 | 24 | 39.1% | 6 | 8.7%  |
|                      | Apr-21 | 101.0 | 581 | 10 | 25 | 52.2% | 6 | 30.4% |
|                      | May-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Jun-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Jul-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Aug-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Sep-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Oct-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Nov-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Dec-21 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Jan-22 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Feb-22 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |
|                      | Mar-22 |       |     |    |    |       |   |       |

| YTD                 | 2021 / 22     | -     | -   | 10  | 25    | 52.2% | 6     | 30.4%        |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| ANNUAL TREND        | 2015 / 16     | 76.6  | 432 | 208 | 192   | 40.1% | -     | -            |
|                     | 2016 / 17     | 86.6  | 488 | 262 | 215   | 27.9% | -     | 9.8%         |
|                     | 2017 / 18     | 110.8 | 627 | 330 | 194   | 27.3% | 67    | 8.2%         |
|                     | 2018 / 19     | 112.7 | 642 | 271 | 254   | 31.5% | 62    | 13.1%        |
|                     | 2019 / 20     | 104.5 | 595 | 214 | 259   | 32.4% | 73    | 16.2%        |
| 2020 / 21           | 103.8         | 597   | 186 | 183 | 32.8% | 42    | 11.5% |              |
| 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) |

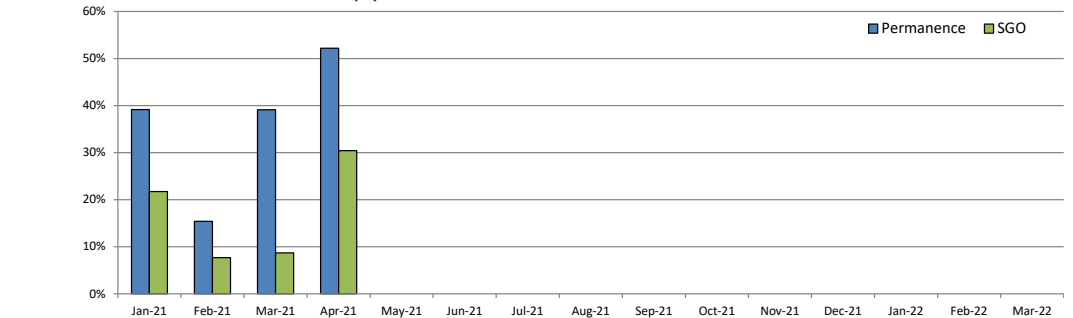
Rate of Looked After Children per 10K pop



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.

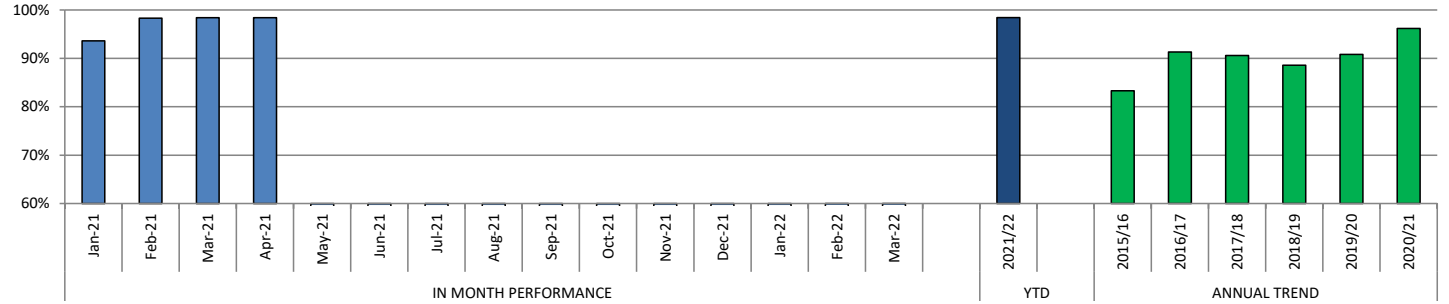
| 6.8                                       | 6.19                        | 6.20   |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| % of LAC cases reviewed within timescales | LAC with an up to date plan | % LAC visits up to date & complete within timescale of National Minimum standard |

| IN MONTH PERFORMANCE | Jan-21 | 132 of 141 | 93.6% | 92.0% | 564 of 603 | 93.5% |
|----------------------|--------|------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
|                      | Feb-21 | 117 of 119 | 98.3% | 93.7% | 563 of 607 | 92.8% |
|                      | Mar-21 | 184 of 187 | 98.4% | 95.7% | 574 of 602 | 95.3% |
|                      | Apr-21 | 125 of 127 | 98.4% | 94.4% | 562 of 588 | 95.6% |
|                      | May-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Jun-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Jul-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Aug-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Sep-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Oct-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Nov-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Dec-21 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Jan-22 |            |       |       |            |       |
|                      | Feb-22 |            |       |       |            |       |
| Mar-22               |        |            |       |       |            |       |

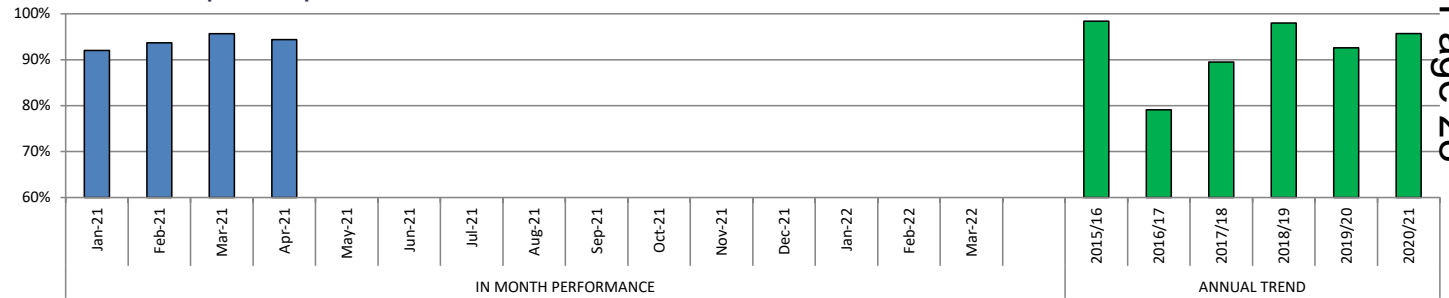
| YTD | 2021/22 | 125 of 127 | 98.4% | - | - | - |
|-----|---------|------------|-------|---|---|---|
|-----|---------|------------|-------|---|---|---|

| 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% |
|              | 2020/21 | 1662 of 1728 | 96.2% | 95.7% |  | 95.3% |

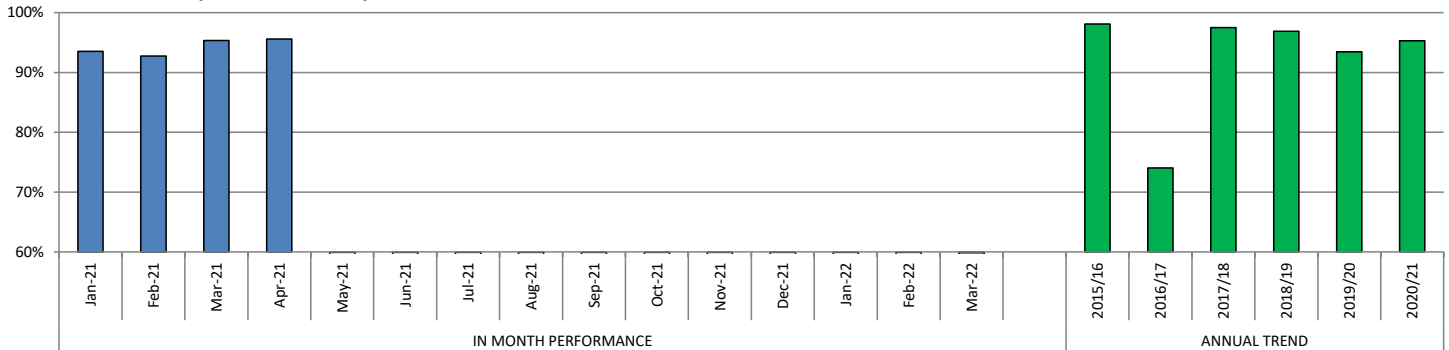
% of LAC cases reviewed within timescales



LAC with an up to date plan



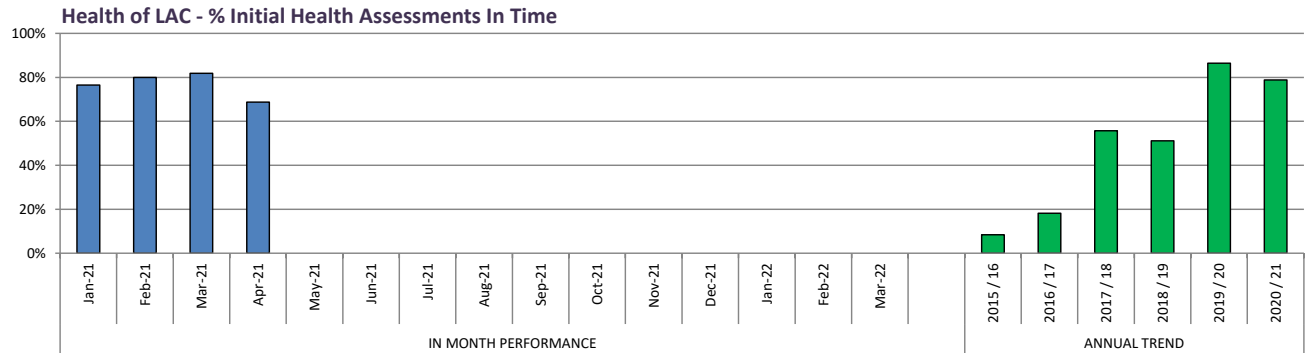
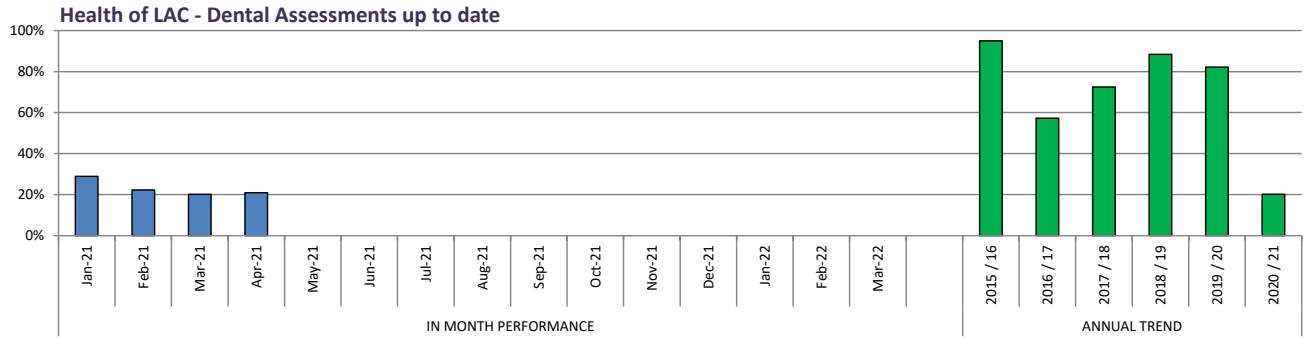
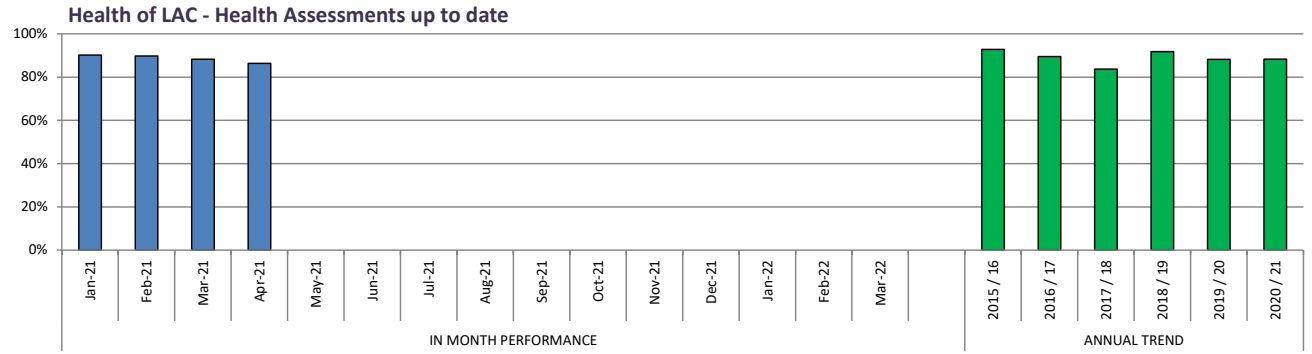
% LAC visits up to date & complete within timescale of National Minimum standard



# 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.

|                             |                     | 6.10  | 6.11  | 6.12   |  |       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--|--|-------|
|                             |                     | Health of LAC - Health Assessments up to date | Health of LAC - Dental Assessments up to date | Health of LAC - No. Initial Health Assessments In Time | Health of LAC - % Initial Health Assessments In Time |       |
| <b>IN MONTH PERFORMANCE</b> | Jan-21              | 90.2%   | 28.9%   | 13 of 17   | 76.5%  |       |
|                             | Feb-21              | 89.8%   | 22.3%   | 12 of 15   | 80.0%  |       |
|                             | Mar-21              | 88.3%   | 20.2%   | 9 of 11  | 81.8%  |       |
|                             | Apr-21              | 86.3%   | 20.9%   | 11 of 16   | 68.8%  |       |
|                             | May-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | Jun-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | Jul-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | Aug-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | Sep-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | Oct-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | Nov-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | Dec-21              |   |   |  |  |       |
| <b>YTD</b>                  | 2021 / 22           | -   | -   | 11 of 16   | 68.8%  |       |
|                             | <b>ANNUAL TREND</b> | 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%  |       |
| 2020 / 21                   | 88.3%               | 20.2%   | 119 of 151                                    | 78.8%  |  |       |
| <b>LATEST BENCHMARKING</b>  | SN AVE              |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | BEST SN             |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | NAT AVE             |   |   |  |  |       |
|                             | NAT TOP Q TILE      |   |   |  |  |       |



# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - EDUCATION

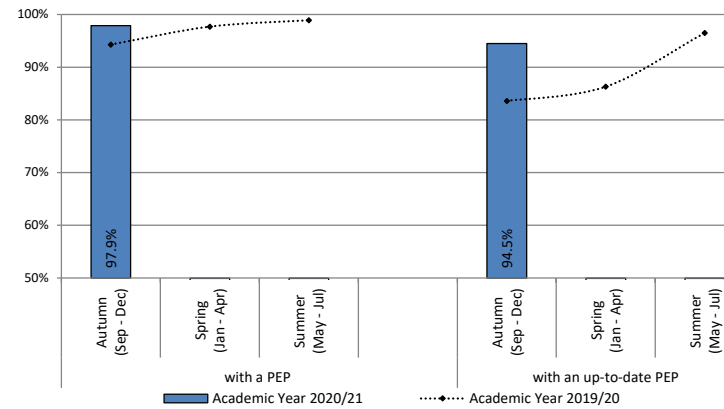
## DEFINITION

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.)

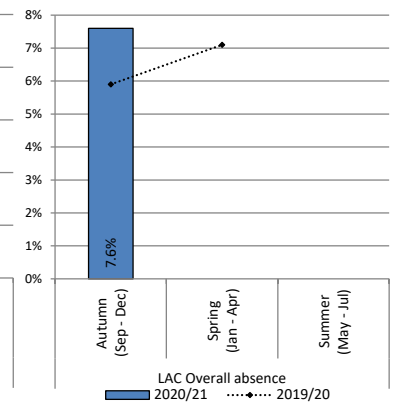
**Data Note:** All of the below information has now been moved to the eGov system and the Virtual Heads are currently working with the Performance Team and eGov colleagues to create and validate reports which may cause some changes in performance moving forward.

|                              |                       | 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 | % of LAC who are classed as persistent absentees (Missing 10%+ sessions) | % of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion | % of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements (All LAC) |
| IN MONTH PERFORMANCE         | Autumn Term (2020/21) | 97.9%   | 94.5%  | 7.6%<br>(unvalidated due to system changes)             | 22.6%<br>(unvalidated due to system changes)                             | 4.0%<br>(unvalidated due to system changes)     | tbc  |
|                              | Spring Term (2020/21) |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|                              | Summer Term (2020/21) |   |  |   |  |   |  |
| YTD                          | 2020/21               | -   | -  | -   | -  | -   | -  |
| 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   | -  |
|                              | 2019/20               | 98.9%   | 96.5%  | not available   | not available  | not available                                   | -  |
| 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 QTILE         | -   | -  | 4.0%  | 9.2%   | 10.0%   | -  |

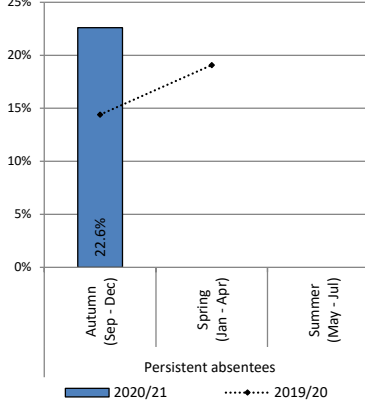
**% of LAC with a PEP & % with an up-to-date PEP**



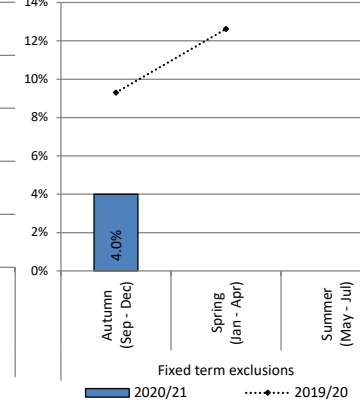
**% of sessions lost due to absence**



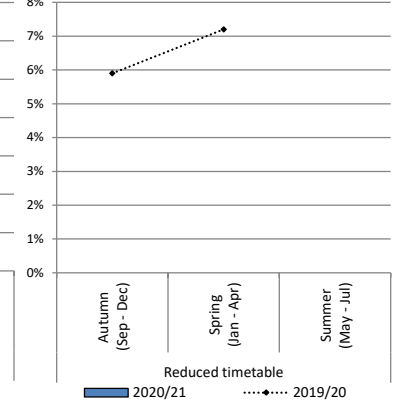
**% of LAC persistent absentees**



**% 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**

At the end of March 21, the percentage of children and young people experiencing long term placement stability remained high with 69.2% of long-term LAC having a stable placement for at least 2 years. This is an increase on 2019/20 (62.1%) and is the highest, it has been since yearend 2015/16 (72.7%). Performance is also above the latest stat neighbour (68.5%) and national averages (69.0%). This is a really positive outcome in relation to the pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic on placements and is a testament to the work done by social workers, the SSW's therapeutic team and virtual school to maintain placement stability.

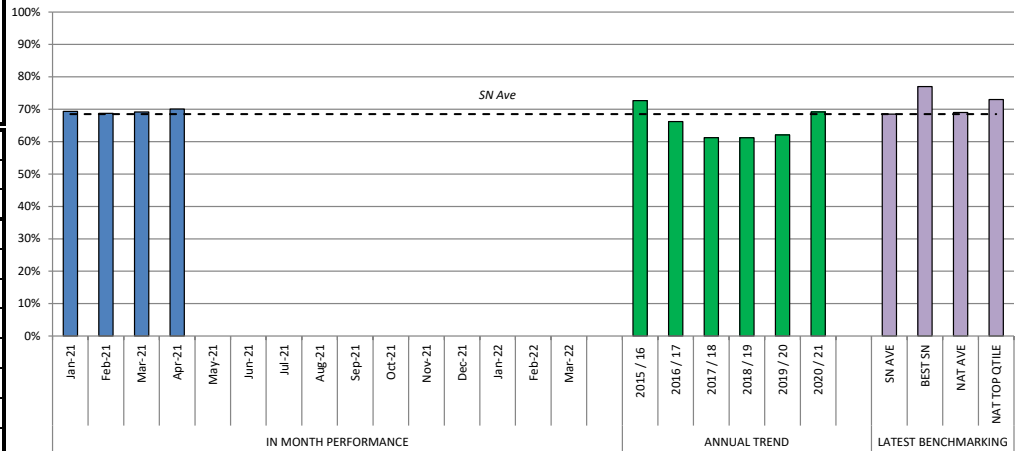
2020/21 has seen a positive decline in the percentage of children having 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months to 8.9% (53/597) which is below the 2019/20 yearend performance (11.1%) and the latest stat neighbour (10.0%) and national averages (10.0%). This had been gradually increasing since September 20 to 10.1% (61/602) in January 21 and the fluctuation in performance reflects some of the placement instability brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and is further complicated by a challenge around the placement availability for some of the older and more complex LAC. Joint work between commissioning, LAC service and provider services continues to support the development of local and skilled placements.

The percentage of children in a family-based placement has been fairly consistent throughout the year with the majority of months having between 81-82%. At the end of March 21 this had reached 81.1% which a slight decline on 2019/20 (81.5%). There continues to be positive foster recruitment inhouse but balanced against a number of foster carers resigning. As above recruitment, retention, and the development of inhouse foster carers remains a key area focus. The number of LAC in commissioned placements also showed a positive reduction this year to 50.3%.

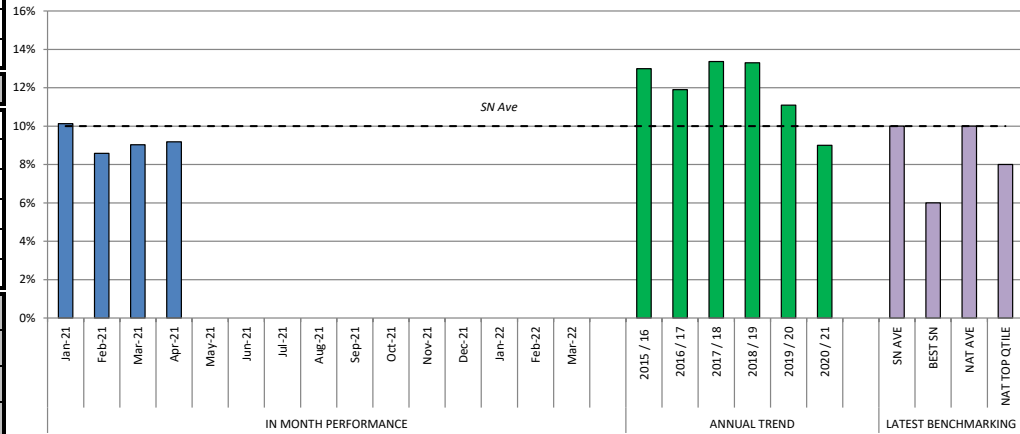
*Date Note [March 20]: External Fostering numbers are now report direct from Liquid Logic.*

|                      |                  | 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-21           | 163 of 235 69.4%                                     | 61 of 602 10.1%  | 80.6%   | 5.1%  | 305 of 605 50.4%   |
|                      | Feb-21           | 165 of 240 68.8%                                     | 52 of 606 8.6%   | 80.5%   | 4.0%  | 302 of 607 49.8%   |
|                      | Mar-21           | 166 of 240 69.2%                                     | 54 of 598 9.0%   | 79.9%   | 4.2%  | 300 of 596 50.3%   |
|                      | Apr-21           | 171 of 244 70.1%                                     | 54 of 588 9.2%   | 80.3%   | 4.1%  | 305 of 581 52.5%   |
|                      | May-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Jun-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Jul-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Aug-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Sep-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Oct-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Nov-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Dec-21           |  |  |   |   |  |
|                      | Jan-22           |  |  |   |   |  |
| Feb-22               |                  |  |  |   |   |  |
| Mar-22               |                  |  |  |   |   |  |
| YTD                  | 2021 / 22        | -  | -  | -   | -   | -  |
| 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%   |
| 2020 / 21            | 166 of 240 69.2% | 54 of 598 9.0%                                       | 79.9%  | 4.2%  | 300 of 597 50.3%  |  |
| LATEST BENCHMARKING  | SN AVE           | 68.5%  | 10.0%  |   |   |  |
|                      | BEST SN          | 77.0%  | 6.0%   |   |   |  |
|                      | NAT AVE          | 69.0%  | 10.0%  |   |   |  |
|                      | NAT TOP QTILE    | 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**



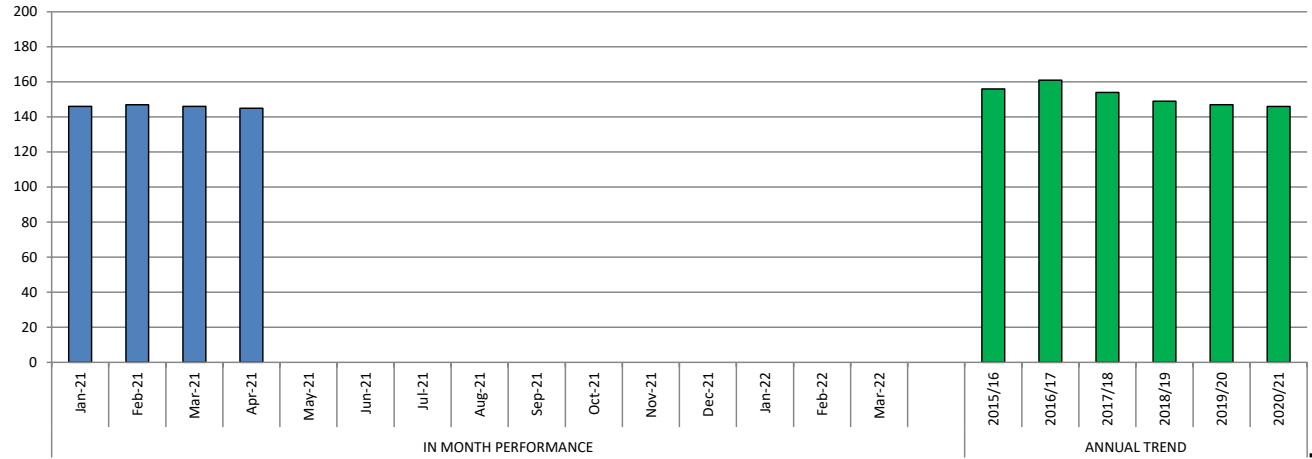
# FOSTERING

**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 .

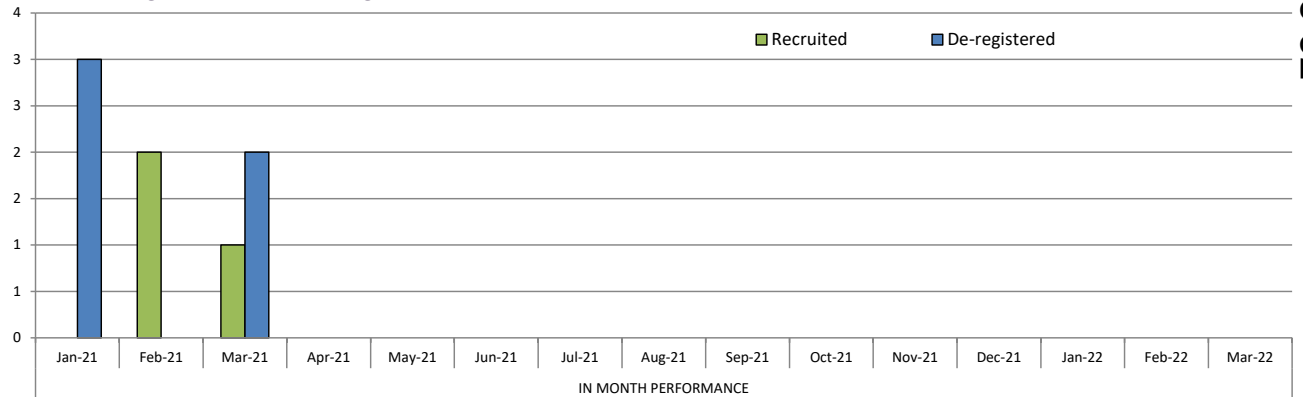
| 9.1   | 9.2  | 9.3                                  | 9.4  | 9.5  |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Number of LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend) | % of total LAC in a Fostering Placement (excludes relative/friend) | Number of Foster Carers (Households) |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

| IN MONTH PERFORMANCE | Jan-21  | 386 | 63.8% | 146 | 0  | 3  |
|----------------------|---------|-----|-------|-----|----|----|
|                      | Feb-21  | 396 | 65.2% | 147 | 2  | 0  |
|                      | Mar-21  | 391 | 65.6% | 146 | 1  | 2  |
|                      | Apr-21  | 388 | 66.8% | 145 | 0  | 0  |
|                      | May-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Jun-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Jul-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Aug-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Sep-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Oct-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Nov-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Dec-21  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Jan-22  |     |       |     |    |    |
|                      | Feb-22  |     |       |     |    |    |
| Mar-22               |         |     |       |     |    |    |
| YTD                  | 2021/22 | -   | -     | -   | 0  | 0  |
| ANNUAL TREND         | 2015/16 | -   | -     | 156 | 13 | 16 |
|                      | 2016/17 | 353 | -     | 161 | 32 | 22 |
|                      | 2017/18 | 414 | 64.5% | 154 | 16 | 25 |
|                      | 2018/19 | 427 | 66.5% | 149 | 11 | 21 |
|                      | 2019/20 | 405 | 68.1% | 147 | 18 | 20 |
|                      | 2020/21 | 391 | 65.5% | 146 | 21 | 21 |

Number of Foster Carers



Fostering Recruitment & De-registrations





# ADOPTIONS

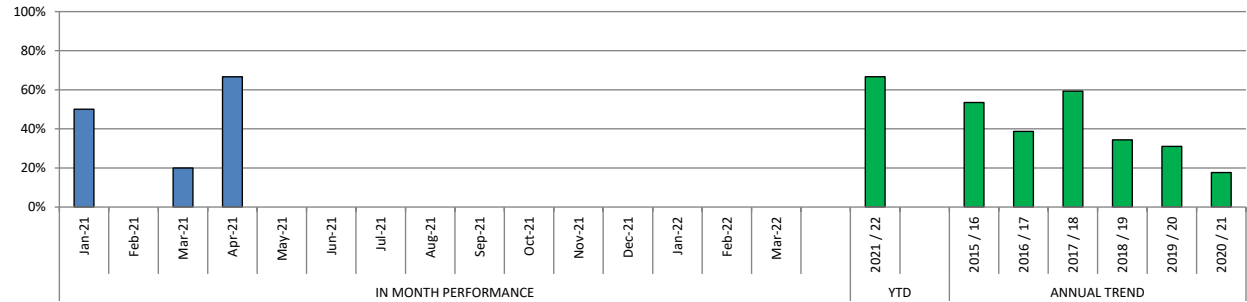
## DEFINITION

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.

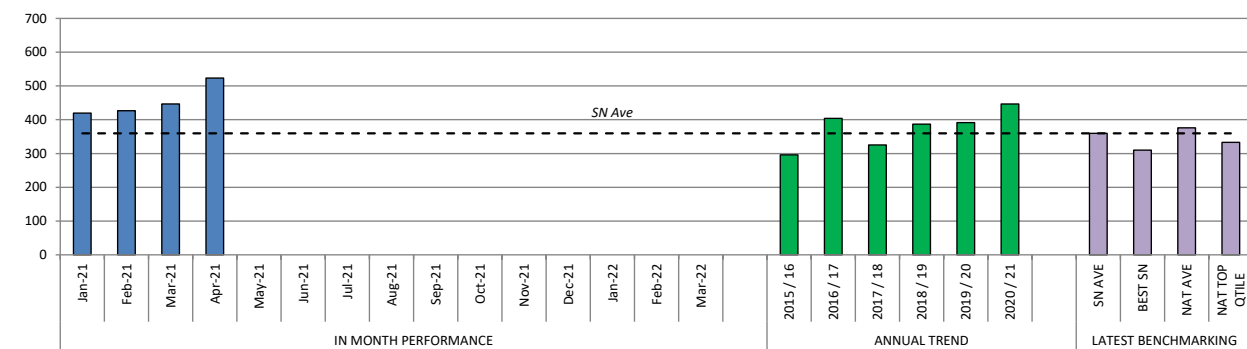
Data Note: Performance is taken from a manual tracker updated in service as not all of the data is currently recorded on LCS.

|                      |               | 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-21        | 2                   | 1  | 50.0%  | 419.7  | 183.8  |
|                      | Feb-21        | 1                   | 0  | 0.0%   | 426.9  | 189.4  |
|                      | Mar-21        | 5                   | 1  | 20.0%  | 446.6  | 210.6  |
|                      | Apr-21        | 3                   | 2  | 66.7%  | 523.3  | 259.7  |
|                      | May-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Jun-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Jul-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Aug-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Sep-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Oct-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Nov-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Dec-21        |                     |  |  |  |  |
|                      | Jan-22        |                     |  |  |  |  |
| Feb-22               |               |                     |  |  |  |  |
| Mar-22               |               |                     |  |  |  |  |
| YTD                  | 2021 / 22     | 3                   | 2  | 66.7%  | -  | -  |
| 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  |
| 2020 / 21            | 34            | 6                   | 17.6%  | 446.6  | 210.6  |  |
| LATEST BENCHMARKING  | SN AVE        |                     |  |  | 359.7  | 160.0  |
|                      | BEST SN       |                     |  |  | 310.0  | 91.0   |
|                      | NAT AVE       |                     |  |  | 376.0  | 178.0  |
|                      | NAT TOP QTILE |                     |  |  | 333.0  | 138.0  |

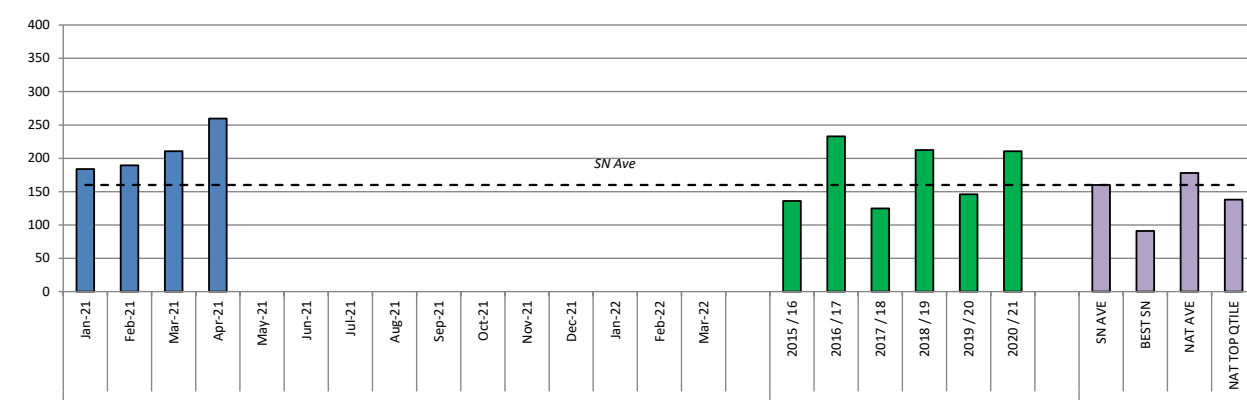
% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA



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



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



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

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

# 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.

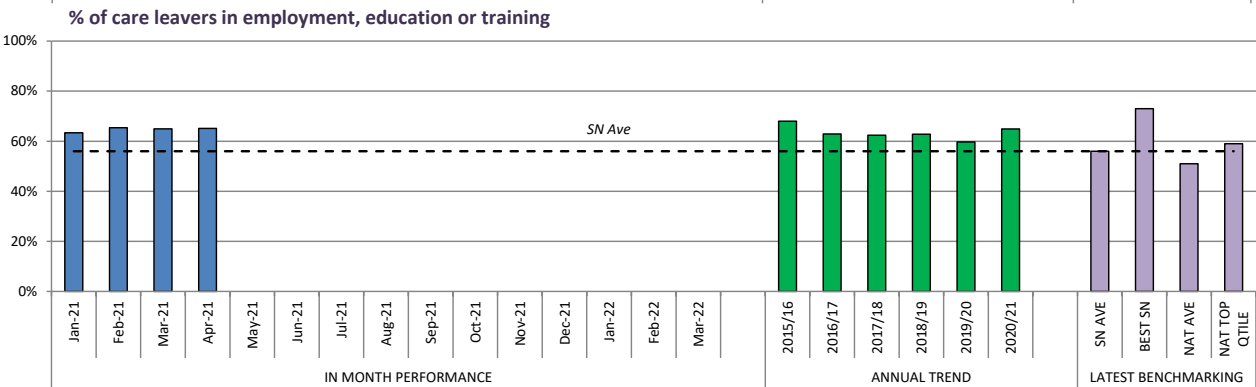
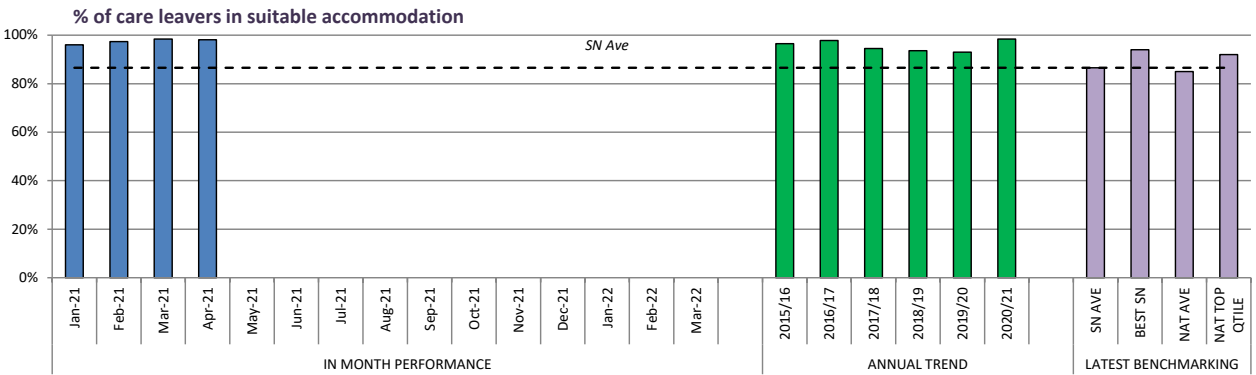
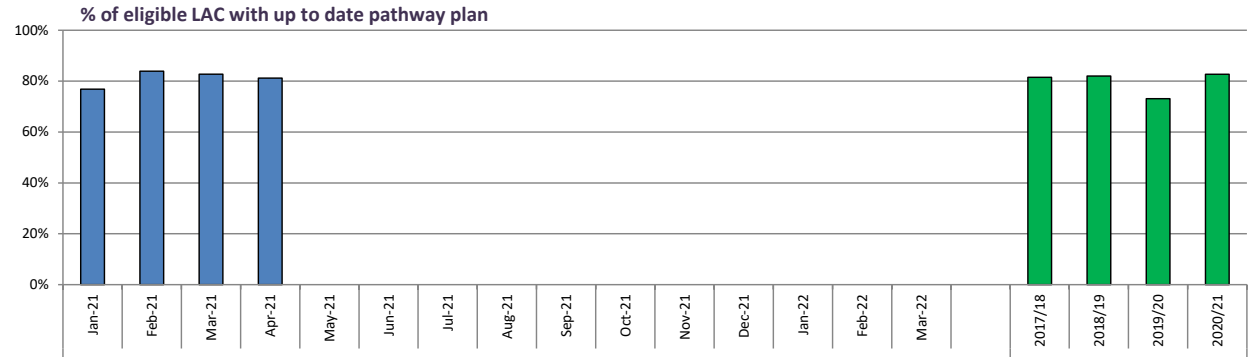
|  | 7.1                    | 7.2  | 7.3   | 7.4   | 7.5  |
|--|------------------------|--|---|---|--|
|  | Number of care leavers | % of eligible Care Leavers with a pathway plan | % of eligible Care Leavers with up to date pathway plan | % of care leavers in suitable accommodation | % of care leavers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

| IN MONTH PERFORMANCE | Jan-21 | 328 | 91.7% | 76.8% | 96.0% | 63.4% |
|----------------------|--------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                      | Feb-21 | 312 | 92.3% | 83.9% | 97.4% | 65.4% |
|                      | Mar-21 | 319 | 91.8% | 82.7% | 98.4% | 64.9% |
|                      | Apr-21 | 315 | 92.4% | 81.2% | 98.1% | 65.1% |
|                      | May-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Jun-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Jul-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Aug-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Sep-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Oct-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Nov-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Dec-21 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Jan-22 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Feb-22 |     |       |       |       |       |
|                      | Mar-22 |     |       |       |       |       |

| YTD | 2021/22 | - | - | - | - | - |
|-----|---------|---|---|---|---|---|
|-----|---------|---|---|---|---|---|

| 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% |
|              | 2020/21 | 319 | 91.8% | 82.7% | 98.4% | 64.9% |

| 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% |



**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Corporate Parenting Panel – 13 July 2021

**Report Title**

Further 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

**Report Summary**

The EU Settlement Scheme was fully launched by the Home Office on 30<sup>th</sup> 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 further 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.

**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




## Further update regarding settled status for Looked After Children who are EU citizens

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The EU Settlement Scheme was fully launched by the Home Office on 30<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and who does not pose a public security risk (serious or persistent criminal). The deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021; 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.

| EU Settlement Application Overview                        | Date of update 24/06/21 |  | Total | Change since last report (11/06/21)  |
|---|-------------------------|--|-------|--|
| CYPS LAC and CL   |                         |  |       |  |
| Applications submitted and decision received              | Settled:                | 53 (No change)   | 64    | +2  |
|   | Pre-Settled:            | 11 <sub>(+2)</sub>  |       |  |
| Applications on hold                                      |                         |  | 2     | +2  |
| Applications submitted awaiting decision from Home Office |                         |  | 35    | No change  |

|   |  |            |                 |
|---|--|------------|-----------------|
| <b>Applications started but not submitted</b><br>(collating final documents – ID and residency) |  | 0          | No change       |
| <b>Applications not yet started</b>   | Paper:                                       | 0          | 0<br>No change  |
|   | Online:                                      | 0          |                 |
| <b>Applications withdrawn</b>   | British Citizenship awarded:                 | 6          | 12<br>No change |
|   | Nationality not eligible:                    | 5          |                 |
|   | Not eligible based on residency:             | 1          |                 |
|   | To be progressed by another local authority: | 0          |                 |
| <b>Total Cohort</b>   |  | <b>113</b> | <b>+4</b>       |

- 2.2 We are in communication with the Home Office as there are young people who application for EU settled status is being delayed as they are subject to ongoing criminal investigations and as such their applications are on hold until the respective cases are concluded, a further review will be completed in 6 months unless cases are heard and decisions made sooner, support from colleagues in YOT has been helpful this week to try and expedite these matters and Personal Advisors have been made aware.
- 2.3 We continue to progress new applications if children come into care where their parents have not made applications.
- 2.4 We have actively engaged in regional meetings in advance of the application deadline was the key messages at the last meeting in June were:
- The Yorkshire and Humber EUSS Group will continue post deadline for applications to allow LA's to continue to share case studies and best practice.
  - The number of applications for children in Rotherham and Bradford are above the national average (final figures to be shared in due course, circa 24% with the national average 18/19%).
  - Immigration status of any person applying to the EU Settlement Scheme that has not received a formal outcome will be unchanged until a decision is made.
- 2.5 We have been notified by the Home Office a number of sibling groups (who make up some of the 35 applications submitted and no decision) will be

processed based on the supporting information we have submitted so are expectant of positive decisions in the next week.

- 2.6 The Home Office have issued blank LA forms to allow EUSS applications to be submitted without requesting from the EU Resolution Centre.
- 2.7 If there are any outstanding applications not completed there are contingencies in place. The Home Office continue to 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. The service will continue to raise any individual issues with the Home Office staff to ensure swift resolution. 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 CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no implications directly arising from this report.

## 12. Implications for Partners

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

## 13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 14. Accountable Officer(s)

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

|  | <b>Named Officer</b>         | <b>Date</b>                                 |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Chief Executive  | Not required for this report | <a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a> |
| On behalf of Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer) | Neil Hardwick                | 28/06/21                                    |
| On behalf of Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)         | Clare Jordan                 | 28/06/21                                    |
| Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)                         | Not applicable               | <a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a> |



|   |                |                                |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Head of Human Resources<br>(if appropriate) | Not applicable | Click here to enter a<br>date. |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|

*Report Author: Ailsa Barr, assistant director*  
01709 822558 [ailsa.barr@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:ailsa.barr@rotherham.gov.uk)

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



## **Rotherham Looked After Children's Council & Lil' LAC CLUB June Update- Corporate Parenting Panel**

The LAC Council and Lil' LAC Club have creatively adapted the way we were engaging with each other during the Coronavirus pandemic. We have seen a shift from face to face weekly group meetings to holding virtual meetings on Zoom and more recently MS Teams.

Young people have faced many challenges, emotionally, educationally and socially as they have navigated through the corona-coaster of changes to their lives. In response, we have engaged in numerous activities, specifically tailored to meet their needs to keep our children connected, maintain social capital, to support their mental well-being and resilience.

By supporting individuals, talking through changes, feelings, worries, sending out information, providing Tablets to those who could not access the virtual technology and help them keep connected with the outside world, providing Bags of Care full of arts, crafts, reading materials and bath bombs, to help raise their spirits, to give our most vulnerable something else to focus on and give them the tools to stay safe. We have seen a shift from group working to engaging with our young people individually via text, phone, emails, facetime and meeting with individuals face to face and even emailing each other.

### **New Beginnings**

The LAC Council group met face to face outside for the first time on Weds 21<sup>st</sup> April. This was an absolute joy for everyone, we had a 'chips & chat' session walking through Clifton Park sitting on the benches and having a chippy tea! The numerous experiences and opportunities offered to children & young people at the LAC Council, Lil' LAC Club and the wider LAC population through Voice & Influence Campaigns, participation activities & community events are specifically designed to empower, increase social capital, raise self-awareness and self-esteem, to foster resilience and support better outcomes for our vulnerable children & young people. Here are some of the things that we have been doing to achieve these outcomes that we would like to share with you:-

## **LAC Council Voices Shaping Services & rebuilding the future**

### **Young Persons Interview Panel**

Members of the LAC Council were excited to engage in interviewing candidates for the *Head of Service – Safeguarding & Quality Assurance Post* in June. Alongside another young person from Early Help the panel created their own questions to ascertain whether the candidates were young people friendly, had a commitment to ensuring the Voice & Influence of all Rotherham Children & Young People and also how were they going to address the findings from the Independent Review on Council run Children's Social Care. The interviews were conducted with the candidates virtually and the young people found the experience of having a Voice in saying what LAC think of potential candidates is important, valuing and empowering for them.

## The Big Ask

The LAC Council were invited by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza to engage in '**the Big Ask**', the largest ever survey of children in England, designed to find out what their concerns and aspirations about the future are. Our looked after young people completed the online survey during the LAC Council group sessions. The results from this survey will help to identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

## Neglect Strategy

The LAC Council engaged in the new and improved consultation by answering questions and lending their Voices to inform the Rotherham Neglect Strategy. This group session was intense and at times emotional as the Neglect topic generated much discussion amongst our young people that went beyond the consultation questions themselves and allowed members to express personal feelings and perceptions in the safety and security of the LAC Council nurturing and compassionate environment. These young people are not only united through their care status but also their bravery and drive to improve knowledge within Social Care for others, those as yet anonymous children and young people who have yet to be emancipated from neglect.

## CYPS Partnership Board

In March LAC Council members delivered their update report in a presentation at the CYPS Partnership Board for the first time online. Their aims were to introduce themselves to the board, outline the LAC Council aims and priorities for this year and highlight their successful campaigns. The group are regularly invited to this meeting but unfortunately cannot physically attend, however, a positive outcome of the blended new way of interacting due to COVID has meant the young people can have their voices heard and participate through online Teams/Zoom meetings and no longer rely on attending meetings face to face.

## Voice & Influence Strategy

LAC Council members are actively engaging alongside other youth groups, and adult facilitators in Rotherham CYPS's, the Voluntary & community sector in the co-production of the Rotherham Voice & Influence Strategy. This is an ongoing piece of voice & Influence work that is to be shaped by our diverse tapestry of children & young people to ensure this work is truly co-produced in partnership. Well done everyone 😊

## LAC Virtual Offer



every mind matters

## Virtual Youth Sessions

LAC Participation has also joined up with Rotherham United Community Sports Trust to increase the LAC Virtual Offer for our younger LAC. We reached out for support from RUCST to help us deliver fun filled activities online on Monday evenings during our last lockdown as we recognised that our LAC were experiencing ZOOM fatigue and needed a shift of pace and creativity to keep them interested, keep engaging with us and having fun. Carla & Nicole came up with an exciting programme each week and we saw the children playing catch phrase, musical bingo, family fortunes, Virtual escape rooms. The children could be sorted into teams inside their own virtual rooms and discuss their answers and play strategy out of ear shot of the rival teams. Lots of fun was had 😊



## LAC Participation

### LAC Water Sports Activity Day

In June, LAC Participation joined Affinity CIC & Wickersley Partnership Trust to deliver a Water Sports Experience at Ulley Country Park for 24 of Rotherham's Looked After Children & Young People. The day was led by the trust's trained paddle sport instructors who offered a kayaking experience with canoeing, raft building and supervised jumping off the jetty. We were treated to a glorious sunny fun filled day the young people had a fabulous time playing about on the water, building confidence, laughing and squealing with delight at these exciting experiences.



Some of our Foster Carers have taken the time to send us positive feedback and asking for more opportunities to engage in LAC activity days during the summer holidays.

Hi Lisa,  
Exxx loved today, thank you all so much.

All the best  
TRACEY

Morning, thank you for the day at ulley, Hxxxx really enjoyed it.....Brilliant day thanks again.  
Steve

Hi Lisa, Txxx had a great time at Ulley the other week. He really enjoyed himself, so thank you very much for inviting him.  
Emily x

'I wanted to email to say thank you so much the activity day at Ulley. The welcome at the gate was great.....The activities provided were well managed, so i was reliably informed by S. .... Once again thank you so much for the day, an out and out success at our house and we are excited for the next one' Thanks Again Denise

## LAC Treasurer & Vice Treasurer



**LACC  
Treasurer**

It is the custom of the LAC Council to vote in a Treasurer and Vice Treasurer from their peers to support the management of the LAC Council & Lil LAC Club budget. This would under normal circumstances have taken place in April for the candidates to take on the role throughout the financial year April until March. This year our elections were held in June, each of the 3 candidates presented themselves and their speeches to the LACC saying what they could bring to the role and why LAC members should give them their votes. This year was an exceptionally strong and close contest. Thank you to



**LACC Vice  
Treasurer**

everyone who took part. The LAC Council would like to announce **Zuzana** as the LAC Council Treasurer and **Alicia** as the LAC Council Vice Treasurer.

## Future Planning to Improve LAC Voice & Influence

Over the coming months the LAC Council will be looking closely at the Priorities for the coming year, the Aims of the LAC Council, our LACC Constitution and the role of the group in having LAC Voices heard and those voices influencing positive changes in Services for LAC, our communities. We will be reviewing the current Corporate Parenting Promises to young people and how these will be realised and measured through the Corporate Parenting Panel.

### Thank You All! 🙏

Children and Young people from the LAC Council, Lil LAC Club and those who have engaged in LAC participation online sessions & events would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of our friends, volunteers and supporters over the last 6 months. These include:-

Chris Dawson – Educational Psychologist

Peter Douglas – Head of Virtual School

Charlotte Elliot – CEO Affinity 2020

Carla Whitehead – Rotherham United Community Sports Trust

Nicole Cant – Rotherham United Community Sports Trust

Joel Mettam – Rotherham United Community Sports Trust

LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Volunteers

### Authors Contact Details:

Lisa Du-Valle

LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Lead  
Children in Care

Tel: 01709 822130 or Mob: 07748143388

Email: [lisa.duvalle@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.duvalle@rotherham.gov.uk)



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