

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date and Time :-	Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 3.30 p.m.
Venue:-	Virtual Meeting
Membership:-	Councillors Bird, Browne, Castledine-Dack, Collingham, Cooksey, Cowen, Cusworth (Chair), Griffin, McClure, Pitchley, and Yasseen
Contact	Katherine Harclerode, Governance Advisor katherine.harclerode@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2021 (Pages 3 - 7)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 13 July 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. Adoptions Update (Pages 8 - 22)

To receive a report information in respect of adoptions.

6. Access to Vaccinations for 12-15 year-old children who are Looked After

To receive a verbal update in respect of availability of vaccinations to Looked After Children between the ages of 12 and 15.

7. Corporate Parenting Performance Report (Pages 23 - 41)

To receive a quarterly performance report in respect of Corporate Parenting objectives.

8. LAC Update (Pages 42 - 45)


To receive an update regarding recent activities and priorities of the LAC Council and Little LAC.

9. Urgent Business

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

10. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on 23 November 2021, commencing at 3.30 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.



Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

**CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Tuesday 13 July 2021**

Present:- Councillors Cusworth (in the Chair), Collingham, Cooksey, and Pitchley.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bird and McClure.

89. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 02 MARCH 2021.

The Chair asked that thanks to Gordon Watson, the previous Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel, and to all the previous Members of the Panel be recorded in recognition of all their work on behalf of Looked After Children and Young People.

Resolved:-

1. That the minutes be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

91. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

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

92. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Resolved:-

1. That Councillor Pitchley be appointed Vice-Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel for the 2021/22 municipal year.

93. INTRODUCTION TO CORPORATE PARENTING

Consideration was given to a presentation to introduce the new Members of the Panel to the goals and aims of the Panel. The presentation emphasised the responsibilities of Corporate Parents and affirmed the need for the Panel to be a platform from which looked after children and young people hold the Council to account.

In discussion, it was noted that having a councillor on the physical/emotional health and wellbeing meetings helped the health service to be transparent and better meet the needs of the young people.

It was noted that previously a councillor championed the various areas of the LAC lives, which was useful.

It was emphasised that the Panel should use the young people's language to be able to demonstrate what the service has done in response to the young people's requests.

It was noted that the Panel should also hold officers to account regarding their commitment to lowering the number of LAC who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

It was suggested that care leavers and care-experienced young people be involved in the Panel, its work, and its meetings.

It was further noted that the Panel can be a touchstone for areas where the Council needs to lobby on behalf of young people where there are policies that are not supporting the young people.

It was suggested that an upcoming item on the Virtual School would be welcome.

The statutory requirements aside, it was suggested that the prioritisation of questions and challenging needs to reflect the priorities of the young people and to allow the young people to feed their priorities into the Panel on a regular basis in an ongoing dialogue.

It was noted that the priority was to get the LAC Council involved in Panel meetings, even if that means changing the format of meetings to make them more accessible to the young people.

It was noted that the Looked After Children's Health team had structured their service evaluations using guiding questions supplied by the young people. It was suggested that this approach could be taken across the remit of the Panel – to ask the young people what they want the Panel to be and do.

It was further noted that ethnic minority populations are overrepresented in the demographics of the Looked After Children, and it would be useful to consider how the service might better support or involve these communities.

It was noted that prioritising the views of the young people was paramount, and that there was a secondary role for scrutiny as part of the Panel looking at the data together to find ways to improve.

It was noted that the meetings might need to be constructed in a different way, with less emphasis on formalities of the professional meeting. It was suggested that the Panel had the opportunity to find out what freedom and flexibility for engaging the young people was available to the Panel. It was suggested that informal settings can be as and even more effective than more formal settings.

It was further suggested that, to facilitate the access and engagement of the young people, the next meeting be held in person.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a task and finish group undertake to review and refresh the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel with a view to developing a Corporate Parenting Strategy and engaging actively with the Looked After Children and Young People and Care Leavers in the future work of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

94. YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROMISES

Consideration was given to a presentation regarding the nine Promises that the Looked After Children's Council had developed that they wanted the Corporate Parents to commit to doing for them and what each Promise means. The promises were offered for discussion in anticipation of the young people's reviewing them again in the autumn. It was noted that the promises had remained unchanged thus far and would be used to drive the Task and Finish group and inform the work of Corporate Parenting Panel and to measure its effectiveness in delivering those Promises.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

95. CORPORATE PARENTING PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report and presentation outlining performance data regarding Corporate Parenting. The presentation included various figures, including data regarding placement, education, health, and permanence related measures, as well as the trajectory of performance versus the previous year. Emphasis was placed on the elements reflected in the Efficiency Strategy.

In discussion, officers and partners offered clarification as to the exceptions or decreases in performance, which were attributed to the pandemic, for example, delays in health assessments or dental checks. 96-98% have been completed on time for the last few months for those who did not exercise their right not to have a health assessment if they do not want one. It was suggested that the outcome of the LAC Health pilot group work be brought to a later meeting of the Panel.

Members sought clarification around causes of delays in adoptions. It was noted that initial care and legal proceedings took longer last year than would have been desired. An early permanence plan can be used where appropriate. Some very young children can have adoption time extended because a child cannot be placed for adoption until a placement order is received. For sibling groups, the service can sometimes be tenacious about finding an adoptive family where that is appropriate. The adoptive family cannot be sought or the matching process begun until a placement order has been made.

Further clarification was sought around how Rotherham is performing in adoption in relation to other areas. The response from officers offered to reference and analyse the national information as soon as it is available in October. These figures were offered to be circulated as soon as they are available.

Members requested additional information regarding what would help expedite adoption or long-term placement for the percentage of young people for whom an adoptive or family placement would be suitable. The response for officers suggested that there is a real need for more long-term foster carers who are willing to foster older young people who are in challenging adolescent years. Members were encouraged to endeavour to raise the profile of fostering in Rotherham. The service needs Rotherham people who want to foster Rotherham children to register with the Council as foster carers, bringing their skills or being willing to learn new skills to foster these older and adolescent children.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

96. E.U. SETTLEMENT UPDATE

Consideration was given to an update report regarding the Council's efforts to obtain settled status for Looked After Children who are citizens of the European Union. The report noted that all the applications had been progressed and completed, and that provisions are in place to apply for settled status for any children who may come into care who are citizens of the European Union and have not yet applied.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

97. LAC COUNCIL UPDATE

Consideration was given to an update from the LAC Council in respect of the young people's recent activities. These included a consultation, assisting with recruitment for the next Head of Safeguarding, providing feedback to the Children's Commissioner, feeding into the Neglect Strategy and the Safeguarding Board, engaging with Looked After Young People who are not members of the LAC Council, electing officers, and future planning. Recent outdoor recreational activities with Affinity were also described.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted.

98. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair confirmed there were no urgent items needing to be determined at the meeting.

99. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair confirmed the next meeting of Rotherham Corporate Parenting Panel is to be held on 19 October 2021, commencing at 3.30 pm in Rotherham Town Hall.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel – 19 October 2021

Report Title

One Adoption South Yorkshire (OASY) – the First 6 months

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

Rebecca Wall, Head of Children in Care

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Stephanie Evans, Head of One Adoption South Yorkshire

Stephanie.Evans@dcstrust.co.uk**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The attached report provides a summary of performance of progress of the One Adoption South Yorkshire Adoption Service from January 2021 to June 2021.

Recommendations

1. The panel is asked to receive this report as an update on current progress and future planning linked to children where the plan is one of adoption

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 One Adoption South Yorkshire - 6 month progress report

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Lives Select Commission – September 2021

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

One Adoption South Yorkshire (OASY) – the First 6 months

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1. Background

The attached report provides a summary of performance of progress of the One Adoption South Yorkshire Adoption Service (OASY) from January 2021 to June 2021. Rotherham joined the local OASY Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) in January 2021. The OASY is based on a partnership model, allowing Rotherham staff to remain employed by Rotherham, while ensuring that children with a plan of adoption benefit from the pooled resources and practice model from across South Yorkshire.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The report reflects the work undertaken in the first 6 months, the progress linked to national Key performance indicators across all 4 teams within the OASY Service and the plans. The Head of Service has coordinated the report which has then been approved by the OASY Board in July 2021.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The attached report is for consideration and review by Corporate Parenting Panel, with the option to seek further clarity on the progress for Rotherham Children subject to an Adoption plan.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Not applicable

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 A Not applicable

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

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report. 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.

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

7.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 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.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The OASY performance report relates to services and outcomes for children in care subject to an Adoption plan.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications within this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Partners and other directorates are engaged in improving the performance and quality of services to children, young people, and their families via the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP). The RSCP Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup receive this performance report within the wider social care performance report on a regular basis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The move to a Regional Adoption Agency holds inherent risk around losing pace and sight of adoption outcomes for Rotherham. Having regular performance reporting supports maximising visibility of outcomes and ensuring that Rotherham continues to active positive outcomes for those children on an adoption pathway.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Rebecca Wall, Head of Children in Care,
rebecca.wall@rotherham.gov.uk

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

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

One Adoption South Yorkshire



One
Adoption
Agency
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

SIX MONTH REPORT
Jan 2021 - June 2021



FOREWORD

This is the first Formal Report from One Adoption South Yorkshire. We are very proud to share with you what we have achieved in our first six months in operation.

We came into being in very inauspicious circumstances. Having worked together for some time developing a Regional Adoption Agency structure which would work for South Yorkshire everything was finally agreed for a 'go-live' date of 1st January 2021.

As Head of Service I arrived for my first day in Doncaster and had just enough time to pick up a laptop and a mobile phone before we went into the most serious lockdown of the Covid-crisis at the end of that very same day.

The RAA teams across South Yorkshire have been fantastic in coming together and creating new structures and new ways of working from their bedrooms and attics.

We also would like to thank all our partners, adopters, locality teams, virtual school head teachers, medical advisers, panel chairs, finance and commissioning teams for supporting us and bearing with us as we created a brand new agency with microphones on mute and IT equipment and Wi-Fi signals crashing all around us.

Well done to everyone involved. Things will only get better from now on.

Stephanie Evans
Head of One Adoption South Yorkshire



Who Are One Adoption South Yorkshire?

LOCALITY	SM	TM	AP	PANEL-ADVISE R	RECRUITMENT	FAMILY-FINDING	POST ADOPTION SUPPORT	TOTAL NUMBER OF SW STAFF (NOT FTE)
BARNSELEY	0.2	1	1	0	6.5 FTE SW between recruitment and family finding 4.5	6.5 FTE SW between recruitment and family finding 2	1 SW FTE 0.8 Dev Worker – letter-box	14
DONCASTER	0.8	0.2	1.8	0.6	3.45 FTE 0.5 SCA	1.65 FTE	3.2 FTE 2.5 SCA (incl letter-box) New shared post 0.5 with SGO – Educ Supp	16
ROTHERHAM	0.2	2	0	0	5.8 FTE 1 Support Worker	2.6 FTE 1 Co-ordinator	1.5 FTE 1FSW 1 contact co-ordinator	18
SHEFFIELD	1	2.5 FTE	0	0.6	6 FTE 1 Interviewing officer	4 1 SCA	3.8 FTE 1.5 SCA 0.6 Letter-box co-ordinator	25

Service Manager – Barnsley – Sharon Wood
 Service Manager – Doncaster – Claire Holmes
 Service Manager – Rotherham – Lindsey Knight
 Service Manager – Sheffield – Vicky Brooke

Team Manager – Barnsley – Michael Richardson
 Team Manager/Advanced Practitioner – Doncaster – Mel Johnson
 Team Managers – Rotherham – Helen Mangham and Jill Stanley
 Team Managers – Sheffield – Liz Rowe, Jane Sandland and Laura Williams

Agency Adviser – Doncaster – Sue Carroll
 Agency Adviser – Sheffield – Gary Wilson

Advanced Practitioner – Barnsley – Jayne Haywood
 Advanced Practitioners Doncaster – Mel Johnson and Sam Parkey

RAA Governance Board – meets monthly

Riana Nelson, Director of Learning Opportunity, Skills and Culture, DMBC – Chair
 Director of Children’s Services – RMBC
 Assistant Director Children in Care, Sheffield City Council
 Director of Children’s Services, Barnsley
 Director of Children’s Social Care, Doncaster Children’s Services Trust
 Adoption-UK – Adopter Voice
 Virtual Head, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
 Yorkshire Adoption Agency – Voluntary Adoption Agency Representative



How Does One Adoption South

Yorkshire Work?

One Adoption South Yorkshire is a 'partnership' model, Regional Adoption Agency. There are now 31 Regional Adoption Agencies in England rather than the 180 original adoption agencies and only 5 or 6 local authorities remain unaligned and all of them have plans to join a RAA in the not too distant future. The partnership model is used by many of the more recently created RAAs.

As a partnership model all the teams remain employed by their previous employing authority and for the moment they all remain in their original sites. Obviously since the beginning of the RAA everyone has been working from home and the different authorities currently have very different approaches to staff returning to offices but most staff are very keen to get back to 'actual' working as soon as it is safe to do so.

Doncaster Children's Services Trust is the host agency. There is a very small 'Hub' team comprising the Head of Service, a full-time Business Support Officer and a planned, but not yet available, half-time Data and Performance Analyst. The Business Support post has just been appointed to and the Performance Analyst post is expected to be filled by August. As host agency DCST is responsible for employing the Hub staff and supporting the management of those aspects of the budget which are held centrally.

Practitioners and Business Support staff remain locally based as do the Panel Advisers and the Panel Administrators. The Adoption Panels were re-configured in May 2021 into East and West panels. The East panel covers Rotherham and Doncaster and the West panel covers Barnsley and Sheffield. There are a minimum of two panels per month in each area and each Panel has a Chair and two Vice-chairs to ensure there is sufficient capacity to cover all the expected approvals and matches each year. The intention is to engage both Chairs centrally through DCST and have a 'central list' of panel members comprising all RAA panel members but the Panels will continue to meet at least once per month in each of the 4 localities.

Each local authority has also made a 'contribution in kind' for support services such as Human Resources, Finance, Communications, Business Intelligence and Commissioning.

At National level the Regional Adoption Agencies are well supported with regular leadership meetings and developmental opportunities for practitioners and adopters.



Performance

Performance data is collected both for the individual authorities and for the RAA as a whole and is split between the adopter data and the children's data. At the present time we are able to produce reliable data based on the requirements of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board but there are some areas of data collection, particularly around post adoption support and the stability of adoptive families that we will need to develop further in the future.

Adopter Data

National Adoption Regulations have specific expectations regarding the length of each element of the journey to approval for adopters.

Stage 1 – Should be completed within 2 months

Stage 2 – Should be completed within 4 months

No. at Stage 1

	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Barnsley	5	8	7
Doncaster	8	7	9
Rotherham	5	4	7
Sheffield	11	9	6
One Adoption SY	29	28	29

No. at Stage 2

	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Barnsley	11	14	10
Doncaster	4	5	4
Rotherham	9	5	9
Sheffield	7	9	13
One Adoption SY	31	33	36

Ave days between Application (Stage 1 Start)/(Stage 2 Start) and Approval

	Qtr 1 20_21	Qtr 2 20_21	Qtr 3 20_21	Qtr 4 20_21	Full Year
Barnsley	170.9	207.0	212.6	260.3	209.3
Doncaster	230.9	194.8	198.0	238.3	214.9
Rotherham	227.4	226.8	241.3	143.9	207.0
Sheffield	244.3	197.4	253.3	338.3	239.1
One Adoption SY	212.4	205.2	228.5	226.3	217.5

The annual average across the RAA is longer than the expected target of 186 days from Registration of Interest to Approval and the table shows that, in some months, specific adopters in specific teams have taken longer than the average. This kind of individual variation is very hard to avoid due to the specific circumstances of individual adopters but the table shows an acceptable level of performance across all teams, although there remains scope for improvement.

No. of Adopters Approved

	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Total
Barnsley	4	1	3	3	3	1	2	0	3	3	1	2	26
Doncaster	3	0	4	0	2	2	2	1	3	0	1	2	20
Rotherham	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	0	4	3	24
Sheffield	0	2	2	4	5	1	3	4	0	1	0	2	24
One Adoption SY	9	4	11	9	11	6	9	7	9	4	6	9	94

As you can see the four offices have been very similar in performance over the last year. This has been consistent with their performance as individual agencies in previous years. The business case for the RAA indicated that there would need to be 92 adopter approvals per year to meet the needs of the children needing families across South Yorkshire. Last year's performance would therefore indicate a positive performance against this target.



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 However there are early indications that one of the challenges for OASY, as for many RAAs, is to recruit adopters who will be a good match for the children needing families.

A very basic illustration of this is if we compare this table of the ethnic characteristics of adopters within the RAA with the ethnic characteristics of children needing families.

Ethnicity of adopters

	ABAN	AIND	AOTH	BAFR	CHNE	MOTH	MWAS	NOBT	WBRI	WIRI	WOTH	Total
Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	89	1	1	92
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	0	2	70
Rotherham	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	76	0	3	82
Sheffield	3	2	0	2	1	1	0	3	112	0	2	126
One Adoption SY	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	345	1	8	370
% Barnsley	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	97%	1%	1%	
%Doncaster	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	97%	0%	3%	
%Rotherham	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	93%	0%	4%	
%Sheffield	2%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%	89%	0%	2%	
% One Adoption SY	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	93%	0%	2%	

Ethnicity of Children

	ABAN	AIND	AOTH	BAFR	BOTH	CHNE	MOTH	MWAS	MWBA	MWBC	NOBT	WBRI	WIRI	WIRT	WOTH	WROM	Total
Barnsley	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	44
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	25
Rotherham	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	46	0	0	0	7	62
Sheffield	0	0	7	0	4	0	1	0	4	3	0	43	0	2	4	5	73
One Adoption SY	0	0	9	2	4	0	2	7	4	4	0	154	0	2	4	12	204
% Barnsley	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	91%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
%Doncaster	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
%Rotherham	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	2%	0%	74%	0%	0%	0%	11%	
%Sheffield	0%	0%	10%	0%	5%	0%	1%	0%	5%	4%	0%	59%	0%	3%	5%	7%	
% One Adoption SY	0%	0%	4%	1%	2%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%	75%	0%	1%	2%	6%	

At the outset of the RAA in January 2021 we had 20 more adopters available than we had children to place. Early analysis would suggest that this was partly due to adopters having different characteristics and different expectations about the children they felt able to care than the children needing to be placed. But this was also possibly due to the impact of covid on both the courts and social work practice meaning that care proceedings were taking longer and fewer children were available for adoption. In the early months of the RAA many of these adopters were matched with children from within the RAA and in some cases externally so the current position is much improved.

Children Placed for Adoption – 20-21

	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Total
Barnsley	2	3	1	1	7	3	2	3	1	3	3	3	32
Doncaster	2	0	1	3	3	5	1	2	0	0	1	1	19
Rotherham	0	3	3	2	3	3	5	4	4	0	0	3	30
Sheffield	5	0	4	4	1	5	2	2	1	6	1	4	35
One Adoption SY	9	6	9	10	14	16	10	11	6	9	5	11	116

The RAA Business Case expected that across South Yorkshire 154 children would be placed for adoption each year. So these figures would indicate that the figure last year was lower than expected. Again as you can see the four areas are very similar in the number of children placed. The Doncaster figure is slightly lower than in previous years and this is something the RAA will be working on with colleagues in Doncaster as there could be several reasons for why this would be the case.



	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Total
Barnsley	2	1	1	1	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	15
Doncaster	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	9
Rotherham	0	1	3	1	2	3	1	0	4	0	0	2	17
Sheffield	2	0	4	1	0	3	0	1	1	4	1	2	19
One Adoption SY	5	2	9	3	9	8	3	5	5	4	2	5	60
% Barnsley	100%	33%	100%	100%	86%	0%	50%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	47%
%Doncaster	50%	-	100%	0%	33%	40%	100%	50%	-	-	100%	100%	47%
%Rotherham	-	33%	100%	50%	67%	100%	20%	0%	100%	-	-	67%	57%
%Sheffield	40%	-	100%	25%	0%	60%	0%	50%	100%	67%	100%	50%	54%
% One Adoption SY	56%	33%	100%	30%	64%	50%	30%	45%	83%	44%	40%	45%	52%

This is obviously a key area of interest for the new RAA. The aim would be to place as many children as possible with our own adopters. There is a financial element to this as every external placement incurs a cost. The local authorities have maintained the cost of an adoption placement at the same level for several years but the Voluntary Adoption Agencies have been increasing their charges in recent years. However the aim to place as many children with in-house adopters is not just about costs. We know our own adopters much better than those from other agencies so we can more confidently match them with our children. We are in a much better position to support adoptive families when they are within our own area rather than hundreds of miles away and a key aim of the SYRAA is to create a local adoption community where we can support our adoptive families, our adopters can support each other and we have good relationships with partners in education, health and community services which can offer additional support where needed.

In order to support good matching within the RAA one of the very first actions back in January was to set up a monthly matching panel where any child needing more careful consideration for matching or where we may have to search externally for a family could be considered. At the same time we began negotiations with Link-maker, the national matching agency to re-configure the four agencies into one on their system. As everyone is on different recording systems and different communication systems the single area on Link-maker has been the key to successful matching. Across the RAA everyone can see all the adopters' profiles and all the children's profiles at any time. Even at this early stage practitioners have made real efforts to move away from familiar ways of working such as looking first at what adopters are available within their own locality and are now looking much more broadly across all four teams from the earliest opportunity. The South Yorkshire RAA is a good size, with a total population of 1.4 million to give sufficient choice and a broad enough geographical sweep for us to find the right families for our children.

It is still too early to be able to demonstrate whether we are placing more children within the RAA as the available data still relates mostly to placements planned before the RAA began. The next report for the end of the year 21/22 will show the full impact of the changes made. For the moment there is anecdotal evidence of more placements planned within the RAA and fewer external placements being explored.

Timeliness

Average time from Placement Order to Matching (A2 Indicator) (for those children adopted)

	Qtr 1 20 21	Qtr 2 20 21	Qtr 3 20 21	Qtr 4 20 21	Full Year
Barnsley	154.5	192.9	89.0	92.4	130.4
Doncaster	54.5	215.7	247.5	197.4	193.2
Rotherham	-	158.2	220.1	292.4	217.0
Sheffield	133.5	191.3	94.4	136.3	151.4
One Adoption SY	114.2	186.2	164.7	178.3	173.9

The national target for the A2 indicator is 121 days. As is evident from the table above there have been periods where this target has been achieved by most of the partner agencies and there has been one quarter where the RAA average was below the national target. This is because there are relatively small numbers of children involved and for most very young children this target can be achieved by most agencies. So the months where an agency has only placed babies will be the ones under target. The months where an agency has placed older children they are likely to exceed the target. The aim is always to reduce the waiting times for all children and the RAA will continue to do work on the timeliness of placements.

Average time between entering care and being placed with adoptive family

	Qtr 1 20 21	Qtr 2 20 21	Qtr 3 20 21	Qtr 4 20 21	Full Year
Barnsley	262.7	404.6	301.0	350.7	347.4
Doncaster	241.3	442.9	384.0	520.0	437.9
Rotherham	180.0	404.5	515.0	525.0	471.7
Sheffield	451.5	437.3	399.9	402.3	421.6
One Adoption SY	288.3	423.8	437.3	447.9	423.3

The national target for this measure is 426 days and as this table demonstrates the full-year average for the RAA is under this target and there are some quarters where many of the individual teams are well under it. As above this depends on the ages and characteristics of the children whether they are very young or not, whether they are part of a sibling group or not, whether they have complex needs or not. However as with the A2 measure improvements can always be made and this particular target is a measure of how well the RAA is working with the local authorities as they are the ones responsible for initiating care proceedings and making the decisions in respect of the children.

This table shows all the children where an adoption order has been made in the last year but does not show the improved timeliness figure for those children adopted by foster carers. Where this happens the time period is reduced to the date the child was first placed with the foster carers which obviously results in much shorter period between entering care and being placed with a permanent family.



Ultimately the key to any Regional Adoption Agency's success will be the quality of its post adoption support. The aim of any RAA is to provide permanent loving and supportive homes for children and supporting families into the future will be necessary to ensure their success. Potential adopters will choose the agency they wish to go with according to what they have heard about the quality of the assessment, the success in placing children but also according to what they have heard about the support for families after the adoption order has been made.

The OneAdoptionSouthYorkshire vision is to contribute towards making South Yorkshire a great place to raise children in general but in particular to create a supportive community for adopters and adopted children. For this vision to become a reality requires commitment from all partners as well as the ongoing efforts of RAA practitioners.

Many of the teams are already providing excellent post adoption services with activity groups for children and support groups for parents readily available but as can be seen in the early staffing table capacity is uneven across the teams and this is an area where we need to develop more consistency as we start to work together as a single service.

The RAA needs to work closely with the four virtual heads and local schools to ensure that children's needs are recognized in schools, staff are well prepared to respond to individual need and the pupil premium is well spent. We need to work closely with colleagues in children and young people's mental health services right across the spectrum, public, private, school-based, community based, supported by the Adoption Support Fund, provided by voluntary agencies or free from the NHS. We need to work closely with adopters and adopted children so we know what works and what they think would best meet their needs. We need to get involved with our local communities so that adopted children are involved in universal activities such as local sporting and cultural activities. We need to work with colleagues in Children's Social Care and local Youth Services to ensure that where these specialist services are needed adopted children get the support they need.

The RAA has existing commissioned services which support the Post-Adoption offer and in the first year we will be reviewing these and considering whether they meet the needs in their current form or whether we might want to think about using these services differently.

In the early stages of the RAA we intend to focus Post Adoption Support development on two key areas:-

- The initial post placement offer to new adopters – at the moment this is very different in each of the 4 areas. In the coming months we will be consulting with practitioners, with adopters, with partners and with colleagues in Finance to develop an appropriate and consistent offer.
- The longer-term multi-disciplinary offer which could, if required, support a family and a child into early adulthood.

We intend to put together both offers using a combination of in-house RAA resources, commissioned services, support from local authority colleagues and support from partner agencies.



Finance

One Adoption South Yorkshire was created by bringing together the Adoption budgets from the four partner agencies.

These budgets have now been configured into 3 sections:-

The Staffing budgets – all staff continue to be employed by their previous employing authority. There have been no secondment arrangements or TUPE arrangements. The staffing complement remains exactly as it was and the budgets remain with the local authorities with recruitment and other employment activities managed through the respective Human Resources teams. The staffing budgets are managed locally and no overspends are possible. However any underspends can be re-cycled into the RAA staffing arrangements with the agreement of the employing Local Authority.

The Locality Budgets – each of the four localities has retained an element of their original adoption budget which covers staff mileage, local Adoption Panel expenses, support funds for adopters and adopter expenses.

The Central Budget – included within the central budget are the employment costs of the very small group of hub staff, the Head of Service, a full-time business support officer and a part-time data and performance analyst. There is no additional funding for these posts, the cost has to be found through underspends on the existing budget. The Central budget includes the inter-agency budgets for all 4 areas, the budget which covered the commissioned services for all 4 areas and a small central marketing budget for local events and activities.

The main marketing and communication strategy is managed through a commissioned service from Leeds City Council which covers the management of the OneAdoption web-site on behalf of all 3 of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Adoption Agencies.

The Adoption Support Fund

The Adoption Support Fund was transferred from the 4 local agencies to the Central RAA portal on 1.4.21. This has been a substantial piece of work involving setting up new contracting and payment processes and could only have been achieved with the exceptional support of the agency business support officer assisted by the Finance Officers and social workers from all the teams.

The Adoption Support Fund is a substantial funding commitment by central government to adoptive families and the management of this fund is a substantial undertaking. In 20/21 the area now covered by OneAdoptionSouthYorkshire claimed around £1.5 million for therapy for individual families.

Currently the funding is agreed from year to year which makes forward planning extremely difficult but there are already clear opportunities arising from bringing the arrangements together under the RAA as it is much easier to oversee the kinds of therapies being sought and the range of providers and in the future it should be much better planned and better coordinated enabling us to make the best use of the funds available.



Future Development

There are so many opportunities for future development that it is a challenge to know where to start.

The basis of the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency was to set up with everything as it was, with minimal disruption to staff, to agencies, to adopters and most importantly to children. There were clear benefits to working together but these had not been translated into practice at the point of implementation.

Now that matching is well-established across the RAA and everyone is using Link-maker to identify suitable matches across the sub-region rather than just within their own team children are being placed more quickly and the reduction in waiting times for adopters is beginning to be evident. The central web-site and the electronic expression of interest has seen a significant increase in the number of adopters coming forward. Training has been offered centrally for some time and now the service is now offering joint marketing and joint introduction meetings. With the basic service functioning well we can now move on to consider those areas where we need to improve:-

- Recruiting a more diverse range of adopters to meet the specific needs of many of the children we are family-finding for. There are multi-ethnic and multi-cultural communities in South Yorkshire and as a RAA we need to be promoting ourselves, making ourselves more approachable if that is the issue and finding the right families for children
- Post Adoption Support – the quality of our post adoption support is key to adopters having confidence to adopt with us in the first place and key to keeping families together as the vicissitudes of life take their course. At the moment each area team has its own approach to settling in grants, allowances, training and initial support – we need to come together with a consistent offer right across the RAA.
- Support for birth parents and more direct approaches to post adoption contact. At the moment most arrangements for post adoption contact is via the letter-box scheme but with the advent of social networking and the increased use of Early Permanence Placements where adopters have more contact with birth parents we need to be considering and refining our approach.

Over the rest of this year we need to continue to review our performance, review the budgets, receive feedback from adopters and consider what changes we can and should be making to produce the outstanding service we envisage.



OASY plan 21 -
24.pdf

If you are able to open this link this is the One Adoption Three
Year Development Plan





Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel – 19 October 2021

Report Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – Qtr 1 2021/22

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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

Report Author(s)

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Rebecca Harrison, Performance Officer

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Borough-Wide

Report Summary

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 (Appendix 1) which provides trend data, graphical analysis, and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

Recommendations

1. The panel is asked to receive this report with the accompanying dataset (Appendix 1) and consider any issues arising.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Looked after children quarterly performance report – June 21 (Qtr1)

Appendix 2 Performance on a page

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 – Qtr 1 2021/22

1. Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Please note that all benchmarking data is as at the latest data release by the DfE and relates to 2018/19 outturn.
- 1.4 The narrative supplied within the report has been informed by the Assistant Director for Children's Services and the Head of Children in Care.

2. Key Issues

Through this reporting period, services and interventions offered by the council have continued to be impacted upon by Covid -19. RMBC children and young people's service 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.

- 2.1 **Looked After Children** - During quarter 1 2021/22, 27 children became looked after compared to 42 in the same period of 2020/21 (-15). There were also 61 children who ceased to be looked after in the quarter, almost double (+27) the amount in the same period last year (34).

Both the positive reduction in children entering and the positive increase in children leaving care has resulted in an overall decline in the number of looked after children in Rotherham to 563 children (603 – Qtr 1 2020/21). This decrease has reduced the 10k population rate to 97.9 at the end of quarter 1 in comparison to 105.9 at the end of the quarter last year. In comparison to the latest available benchmarking data (2020) 97.9 is in line with our statistical neighbour's average of 98.2 but is still significantly higher than the national average of 67.0.

- 2.2 **Plans** - At the end of the quarter 95% of all looked after children plans were up to date which in comparison to last year is a small increase of 0.8% from 94.2%.
- 2.3 **Placements** - The percentage of looked after children in a family-based setting continues to be fairly consistent reaching 80.3% at the end of the quarter but shows a small decrease when compared to the same period last year 81.7%. Similarly, the percentage of children placed with parents remains stable at 3.6%

at the end of the period, although showing a decline of 1.2% in comparison to 2020/21.

68.6% of long-term LAC had been in a stable placement for at least 2 years at the end of the quarter showing a positive increase of 3.1% when compared to the same period last year (65.5%). Performance continues to be positive despite the pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic on placements and remains in line with the latest stat neighbour (68.5%) and national averages (69.0%).

Children having had 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months remains below the latest statistical neighbour (10.0%) and national averages (10.0%) at 9.6%. This is also a small decrease on 2020/21 when there was 10.1% of children at the end of the quarter.

- 2.4 **In-house fostering** – There were 143 in-house foster carer households registered at the end of the quarter in comparison to 152 (-9) last year. This continues the downward trend in numbers. In the quarter there were 4 approvals (6 in qtr1 20/21) and 8 deregistrations (1 in qtr1 20/21). The themes around resignations are linked to families revisiting their commitments in light of their own families.

Similarly, the number of LAC in a fostering placement has declined to 377 at the end of the quarter, compared to 409 quarter 1 2020/21. A key element to factor into fostering placement capacity is the pandemic and a reduction in experienced carers as they revisit their fostering options and other areas experience an increase in their LAC populations. In addition, experienced 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.

- 2.5 **Adoptions** – There were 9 children adopted in the quarter and a number of children remain in the adoption pathway, which compared to the same period last year (1 adoption in qtr1 20/21) is a significant improvement (+8). However, the start of 2020/21 was heavily affected by delays as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the end of quarter 1, the A10 measure (Average number of days between a child becoming LAC & having an adoption placement) was 475.4 days (0 days 20/21) and the A2 measure (Average number of days between placement order & being matched with adoptive family) is 282.3 days (unreportable 20/21 – see note below). These both continue to be higher than recent years however this was anticipated due to the court delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. 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.

N.B. At the end of the same period in 2020/21 the A1 measure was reported at 0 days due to the 1 adoption taking place being a child placed with their adoptive family on the same day as entering care. The A2 measure was unreportable due to the 1 adoption case in April not requiring a placement order.

- 2.6 **Health** – The number of up-to-date health and dental checks have both fluctuated and declined since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic with dental checks being affected significantly due to the enforced closure of most dentists or emergency care only being available. However, quarter 1 has seen the number of up-to-date dental checks increase to 30.7% at the end of the quarter but in comparison to quarter 1 last year (64.8% qtr1 20/21) this is very low. Whereas the percentage of up-to-date health assessments has declined in the quarter from to 78.1% which again in comparison to the same period last year shows a decline (83.5% qtr1 20/21).

23 initial health assessments were completed in quarter 1 with 15 of them being in time (65.2%). This is a positive start to the year considering the current demands and pressures related to the Covid-19 pandemic however, 34 assessments were completed in the same period last year with 79.4% (27 assessments) being in time.

- 2.7 **Reviews & visits** – 96% of reviews compete in quarter 1 were within timescales which equates to 364 out of 379 reviews. This is in comparison to 95.6% (388/409) in quarter 1 last year, a 0.4% increase.

At the end of the quarter, 96.8% of visits were up to date and within timescale of the national minimum standard. At the same point in 2020 only 87.1% were in time, showing a 9.7% improvement this year.

- 2.8 **Education** – Personal Education Plans (PEPs) have continued to be completed throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and performance has improved when compared to the same term last year. At the end of the Spring term 2021 99.0% of LAC had a PEP compared to 97.7% Spring 2020.

Rotherham has a local standard to ensure that each PEP is of good quality and refreshed every term (rather than the annual minimum standard). At the end of the Spring 2021 term 94.6% of those LAC with a PEP had a PEP completed within the term, an 8.3% improvement on Spring 2020 (86.3% Spring 2020).

- 2.9 **Care Leavers** – At the end of the period the care leavers cohort had continued the downward pattern and had reached 312 which is a reduction of 20 when compared to the same point in 2020 (332).

90.0% of care leavers had a pathway plan at the end of the quarter which is a reduction when compared to the same period last year (92.4%). Similarly, the number of those plans that were up to date has also fallen (-9.2%) from 90.8% quarter 1 2020/21 to 81.6% at the end of the current quarter 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.

Both the care leavers in suitable accommodation and the care leavers in employment, education, and training (EET) measures have remained fairly stable. The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has continued to be positive with 96.5% of children meeting the measure at the end of the quarter. This also shows a 1.6% improvement on the same point in 2020 when it was 94.9%. However, the EET measure has been stable during the quarter but shows a 3.9% reduction year on year with 61.2% at the end of this quarter compared to 65.1% at the same point in 2020.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 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.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Not applicable

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 A Not applicable

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

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report. 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.

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

7.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 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.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The performance report relates to services and outcomes for children in care.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications within this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Partners and other directorates are engaged in improving the performance and quality of services to children, young people, and their families via the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP). The RSCP Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup receive this performance report within the wider social care performance report on a regular basis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Inability and lack of engagement in performance management arrangements by managers and staff could lead to poor and deteriorating services for children and young people. Strong management oversight by Directorship Leadership Team and the ongoing weekly performance meetings mitigates this risk by holding managers and workers to account for any dips in performance both at a team and at an individual child level.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

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

Children & Young People Services



Looked After Children Quarterly performance report

As at month end: June 2021 (Qtr 1)

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

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Created by: Performance & Quality Team

Contact: cyps-performance@rotherham.gov.uk

Performance summary

As at month end: June 2021 (Qtr 1)

*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)	2021 / 22				GOOD PERF IS	DOT* (Month on Month)	RAG (in month)	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE			LATEST BENCHMARKING					
			Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	YTD				Red	Amber	Target Green	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	586	560	563	-	Info	↑				595	597							
	6.2	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population aged under 18 (Council Plan Indicator)	Rate per 10,000	101.9	97.4	97.9	-	low	↑		103.6+	98.8+	<98.7	104.5	103.8		98.2	59.0	67.0	-	77.0
	6.3	Admissions of Looked After Children	Count	10	5	12	27	Info	↑					214	186						
	6.4	No. of children who have ceased to be Looked After Children	Count	25	26	10	61	High	↓					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	52.0%	34.6%	10.0%	43.8%	High	↓		<27%	27%+	35%+	32.4%	32.8%						
	6.6	No. of SGO's started (Legal Status)	Count	7	4	1	12	High	↓					73	42						
	6.7	Percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after due to a Special Guardianship Order	Percentage	40.0%	15.4%	0.0%	22.9%	High	↓					16.2%	11.5%		12.3% (2017)	22.0% (2017)	12.0% (2017)	17.0% (2017)	
	6.8	LAC cases reviewed within timescales	Percentage	98.5%	95.6%	93.6%	96.0%	High	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	90.8%	96.2%						
	6.9	% of children adopted	Percentage	12.0%	19.2%	10.0%	14.8%	High	↓					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	91.9%	86.5%	78.1%	-	High	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	88.2%	88.3%						
	6.11	Health of Looked After Children - up to date Dental Assessments	Percentage	29.7%	30.0%	30.7%	-	High	↑		<87%	87%+	95%+	82.2%	20.2%						
	6.12	Health of Looked After Children - Initial Health Assessments carried out within 20 working days	Percentage	68.8%	50.0%	66.7%	65.2%	High	↑					86.4%	78.8%						
	6.13	% of LAC with a PEP (Termly)	Percentage	99.0%	-	-	97.5%	High	n/a					97.5%	98.9%						
	6.14	% of LAC with up to date PEPs (Termly)	Percentage	94.6%	-	-	86.5%	High	n/a		<87%	87%+	95%+	95.0%	96.5%						
	6.15	LAC Overall absence - % of sessions lost due to absence	Percentage	-	-	-	7.6%	Low	n/a					4.6%	not available		4.3%	2.9%	4.7%	3.9%	
6.16	% of LAC who are classed as persistent absentees	Percentage	-	-	-	22.6%	Low	n/a					8.6%	not available		10.0%	6.3%	10.9%	9.2%		
6.17	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	Percentage	-	-	-	4.0%	Low	n/a					tbc	not available		13.2%	10.6%	11.7%	10.0%		
6.18	% of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements	Percentage	-	-	-	tbc	Low	n/a													
6.19	% of eligible LAC with an up to date plan	Percentage	94.4%	97.1%	95.0%	-	High	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	92.6%	95.7%							
6.20	% LAC visits up to date & completed within timescale of national minimum standard	Percentage	95.6%	95.9%	96.8%	-	High	↑		<87%	87%+	95%+	93.4%	94.5%							
CARE LEAVERS	7.1	No. of care leavers	Count	315	317	312	-	Info	↓				313	319							
	7.2	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with a pathway plan	Percentage	92.7%	91.5%	90.0%	-	High	↓		<87%	87%+	95%+	94.2%	91.8%						
	7.3	% of eligible LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan	Percentage	81.5%	76.9%	81.6%	-	High	↑					73.1%	82.7%						
	7.4	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	Percentage	96.8%	96.8%	96.5%	-	High	↓		<86%	86%+	94%+	93.0%	98.4%		86.6%	94.0%	85.0%	92.0%	
	7.5	% of care leavers in employment, education or training	Percentage	63.5%	62.8%	61.2%	-	High	↓		<57%	57%+	65%+	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	69.5%	68.6%	68.6%	-	High	→		<61%	61%+	69%+	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	9.2%	9.5%	9.6%	-	low	↑		18%+	10%+	<10%	11.1%	8.9%		10.0%	6.0%	10.0%	8.0%	
	8.3	% of LAC in a family based setting (Council Plan Indicator)	Percentage	80.5%	80.2%	80.3%	-	High	↑		<77%	77%+	85%+	81.5%	79.9%						
	8.4	% of LAC placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)	Percentage	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	-	Low	↓					5.4%	4.2%						
	8.5	% of LAC in a Commissioned Placement	Percentage	52.0%	53.4%	52.4%	-	Low	↓					51.9%	50.3%						
FOSTERING	9.1	No. of LAC in a Fostering Placement	Count	388	376	377	-	High	↑				405	391							
	9.2	% of LAC in a Fostering Placement	Percentage	66.2%	67.1%	67.0%	-	High	↓					68.1%	65.5%						
	9.3	No. of Foster Carers (Households)	Count	147	147	143	-	High	↓					147	146						

*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 <i>(Monthly)</i>	2021 / 22				GOOD PERFS	DOT* <i>(Month on Month)</i>	RAG <i>(in month)</i>	Target and Tolerances			YR ON YR PERFORMANCE			LATEST BENCHMARKING				
				Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	YTD				Red	Amber	Target Green	2019/20	2020/21	YR ON YR TREND	STAT NEIGH AV.	BEST STAT NEIGH	NAT AVE	TOP QTILE THRESHOLD	RIA 2019/20
FOS	9.4	No. of Foster Carers Recruited	Count	1	2	1	4	High	↓				18	21							
	9.5	No. of Foster Carers Deregistered	Count	1	2	5	8	low	↑				20	21							
ADOPTIONS	10.1	No. of adoptions	Count	3	5	1	9	High	↓				29	34							
	10.2	No. of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	Count	0	0	0	0	High	→				9	6							
	10.3	% of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA	Percentage	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	High	→				31.0%	17.6%							
	10.4	Average number of days between a child becoming Looked After and having a adoption placement (A10)	YTD Average	536.0	457.9	475.4	-	low	↑				487<	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	322.0	288.0	282.3	-	Low	↓				121<	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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

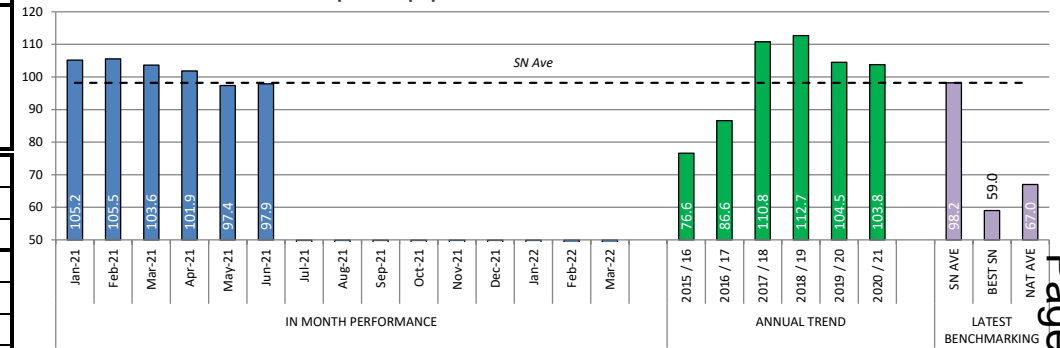
The number of LAC has fluctuated since summer 2020 but at the end of June 21 there were 563 LAC, showing a positive reduction from 614 in August 20. This equates to 97.9 per 10,000 population which is now lower than the latest stat neighbour average (98.2) but higher than the latest national average (67.0). The Rotherham LAC cohort would need to reach 385 to meet the latest national average.

27 children became looked after and 61 children ceased to be looked after during quarter 1, with 43.8% of these children leaving care to permanence. This reduced the number of children becoming looked after and the positive trajectory towards permanence figures reflects the positive impact of the SoS framework, the impact of relationship based social work, which ensures the service is focused on working with extended families and support networks to support children to be with their wider connected family.

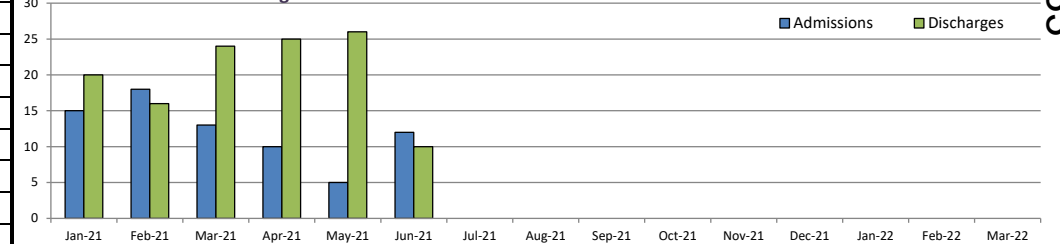
22.9% of children ceasing to be LAC during quarter 1 did so to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) and 12 SGO's were started in the quarter.

		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%	4	7.7%
	Mar-21	103.6	596	13	24	39.1%	6	8.7%
	Apr-21	101.9	586	10	25	52.0%	7	40.0%
	May-21	97.4	560	5	26	34.6%	4	15.4%
	Jun-21	97.9	563	12	10	10.0%	1	0.0%
	Jul-21							
	Aug-21							
	Sep-21							
	Oct-21							
	Nov-21							
	Dec-21							
	Jan-22							
Feb-22								
Mar-22								
YTD	2021 / 22	-	-	27	61	43.8%	12	22.9%
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)

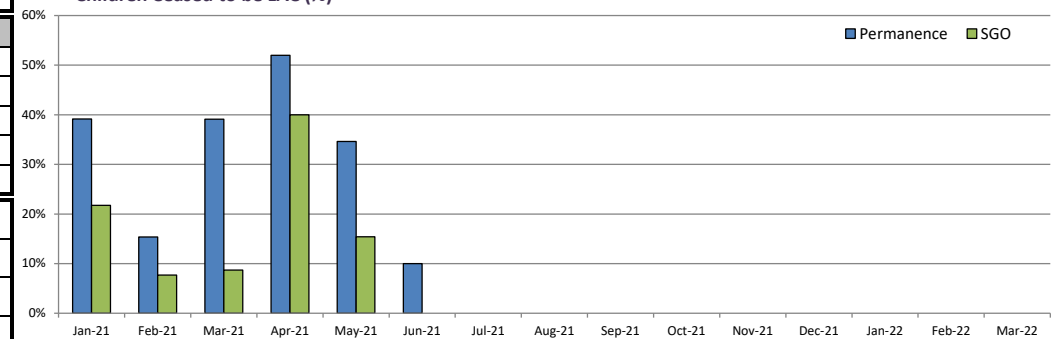
Rate of Looked After Children per 10K pop



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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

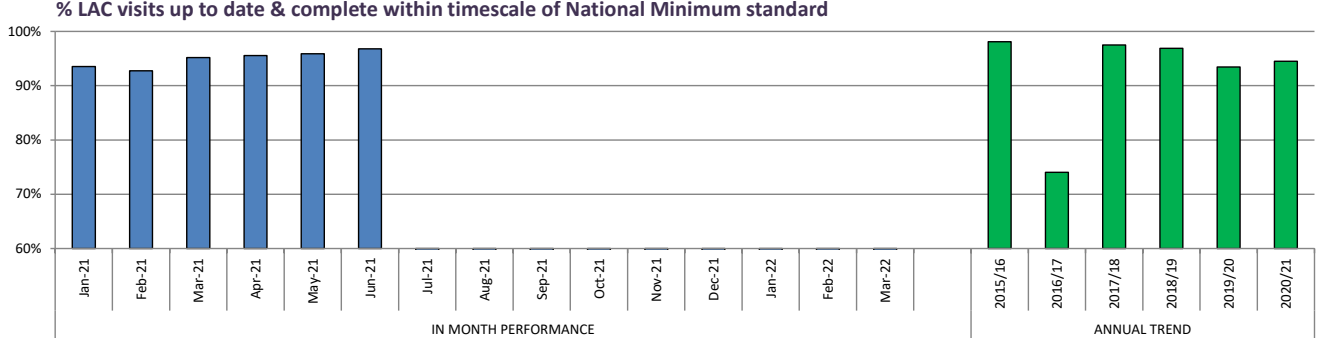
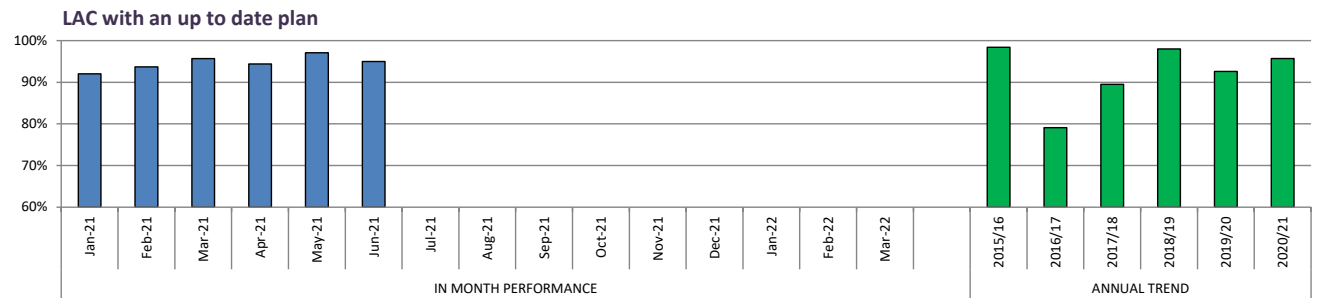
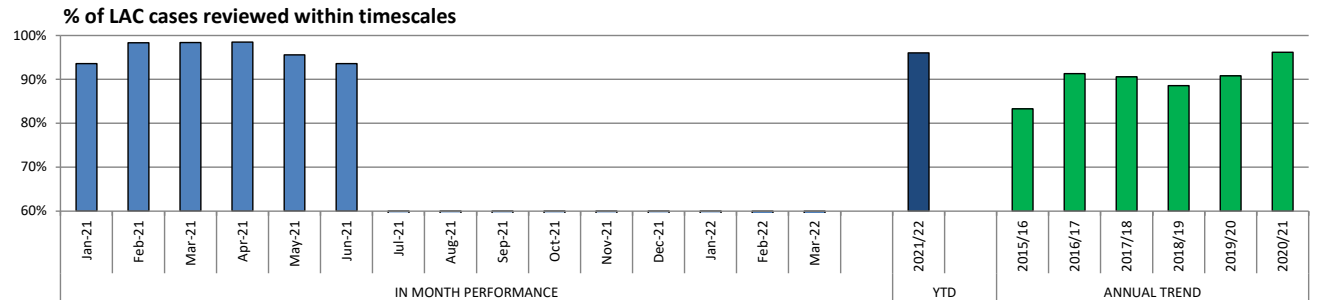
Quarter 1 has seen a decline month on month in the number of LAC cases reviewed within timescale reaching 93.6% (102/109) at the end of June 21. It is worth noting that in May 21 95.6% were in time with 6 reviews being out of time, similarly in June there were 7 reviews out of time but due to the overall cohort of reviews being due reducing this has impacted the percentage in time.

LAC with an up-to-date plan has remained fairly consistent quarter on quarter ending with 95.0% of plans being up to date at the end of June 21.

The number of visits being completed within the national minimum standard remained stable throughout quarter 1 with 95%+ being in time month on month. 96.8% were up to date at the end of June 21 with all visits in the month being physical visits.

	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		YTD		ANNUAL TREND	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Jan-21	132 of 141	93.6%	364 of 379	96.0%	1502 of 1658	90.6%
Feb-21	117 of 119	98.3%			1662 of 1728	96.2%
Mar-21	184 of 187	98.4%				
Apr-21	132 of 134	98.5%				
May-21	130 of 136	95.6%				
Jun-21	102 of 109	93.6%				
Jul-21						
Aug-21						
Sep-21						
Oct-21						
Nov-21						
Dec-21						
Jan-22						
Feb-22						
Mar-22						
2015/16		83.3%			652 of 714	91.3%
2016/17		91.3%			1668 of 1883	88.6%
2017/18		90.6%			1612 of 1775	90.8%
2018/19		88.6%			1662 of 1728	96.2%
2019/20		90.8%				
2020/21		96.2%				



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - HEALTH

DEFINITION Local authorities have a duty to safeguard and to promote the welfare of the children they look after, therefore the local authority should make arrangements to ensure that every child who is looked after has his/her health needs fully assessed and a health plan clearly set out.

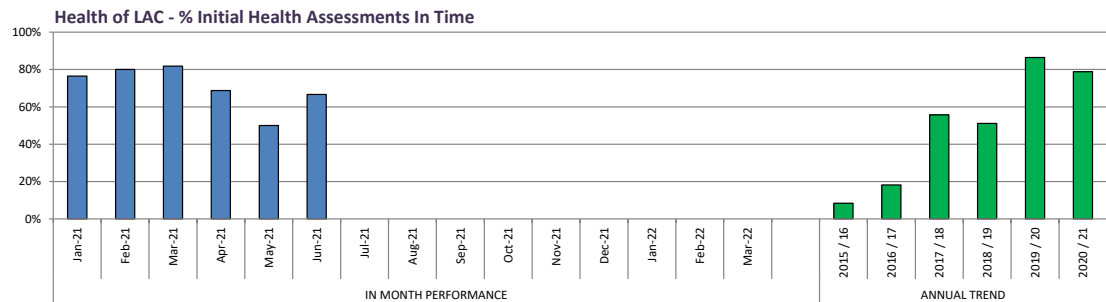
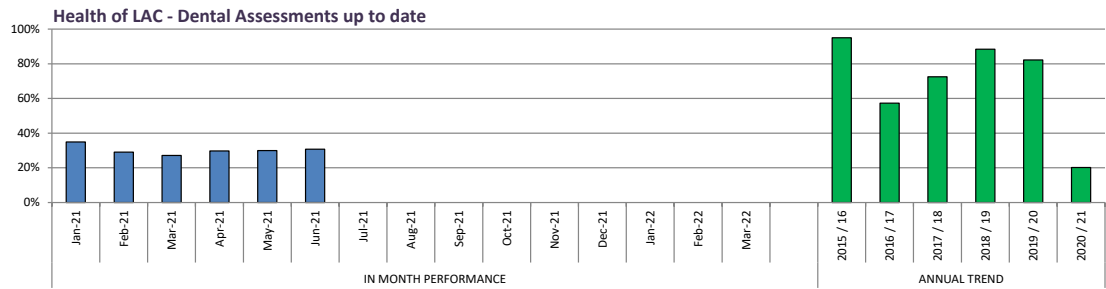
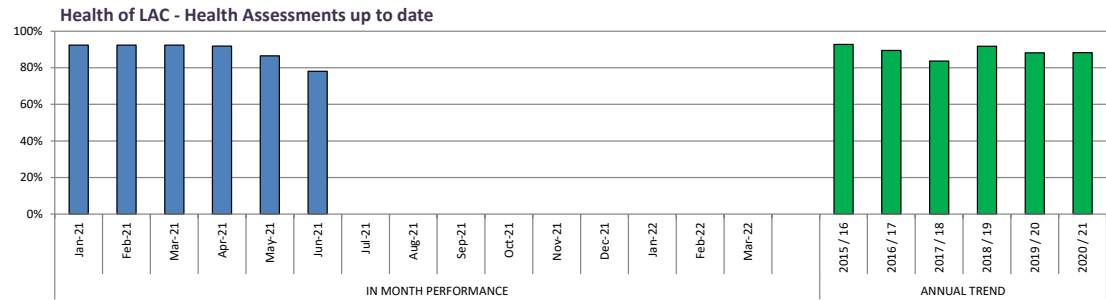
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

Health checks have seen a rapid decline during quarter 1 from 92.4% at the end of March 21 to 78.1% at the end of June 21. Given the Covid-19 pandemic, there is ongoing positive commitment to ensuring children's health needs are met, while this may not always be able to be captured in the full written health assessment.

Dental checks have been continuing a month-on-month downward trend since the Covid-19 pandemic started reaching 27.1% in March 21. However, quarter 1 has started to see this improve slightly ending with 30.7% LAC with an up-to-date dental assessment. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, dental surgeries either closed or only provided emergency care at times which 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 an increase in dental checks.

23 initial health assessments were completed in quarter 1 with 15 of them being in time (65.2%). For initial assessments the percentage is impacted upon by reduced numbers and often covid and self-isolating. This is a positive start to the year considering the current demands and pressures related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

		6.10	6.11	6.12	
		Health of LAC - Health Assessments up to date	Health of LAC - Dental Assessments up to date	Health of LAC - No. Initial Health Assessments In Time	Health of LAC - % Initial Health Assessments In Time
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-21	92.4%	34.9%	13 of 17	76.5%
	Feb-21	92.4%	29.1%	12 of 15	80.0%
	Mar-21	92.4%	27.1%	9 of 11	81.8%
	Apr-21	91.9%	29.7%	11 of 16	68.8%
	May-21	86.5%	30.0%	2 of 4	50.0%
	Jun-21	78.1%	30.7%	2 of 3	66.7%
	Jul-21				
	Aug-21				
	Sep-21				
	Oct-21				
	Nov-21				
	Dec-21				
	Jan-22				
Feb-22					
Mar-22					
YTD	2021 / 22	-	-	15 of 23	65.2%
ANNUAL TREND	2015 / 16	92.8%	95.0%		8.4%
	2016 / 17	89.5%	57.3%		18.2%
	2017 / 18	83.7%	72.5%		55.7%
	2018 / 19	91.8%	88.4%	136 of 266	51.1%
	2019 / 20	88.2%	82.2%	172 of 199	86.4%
2020 / 21	88.3%	20.2%	119 of 151	78.8%	
LATEST BENCHMARKING	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.)*

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

In comparison to the same time period last year, PEP completion has improved for both measures and improved within this academic year as well. The new early years development plan (PEP) for all LAC from birth to 2 years old is now in place. The ePEP system has been adapted to reflect the 0-2 years milestones in line with both education and health. The plan is identifying progress and any gaps in developments.

Virtual School monitored attendance throughout COVID lockdown with approximately 75 - 85% of learners attending a school setting for their education.

Data for reduced provision is currently not available from the ePEP system. The performance team are working closely with eGOV to ensure that reduced provision, attendance, and exclusion data analysis tools are available via the ePEP system moving forward and that these can be backdated. The ePEP has also been updated to support streamlining the document and building on the signs of safety mapping techniques we have been using. This will support greater clarity around learner needs, support and plans and improve the quality of the PEP document.

A new team member will join the secondary & post 16 team in September replacing an adviser. The Post 16 Adviser will be transferring to a full-time contract and starting a Level 6 careers guidance qualification to provide a greater level of support to our post 16 learners, their carers, social worker and leaving Care Personal Adviser. A new team member will also be joining the primary and early years team mid-September following the retirement of an advisor.

The role of the Virtual Headteacher has been extended to include all those children with or who have had a social worker. To support this a grant of £100,000 has been provided. A proposal will be discussed at DLT in September which includes some changes to the Virtual School structure and some support and resourcing to agencies across the authority.

An expression of interest has been submitted to the DfE to support a pilot for post 16 Pupil Premium. If successful, this will enable opportunities to support learners throughout further education and virtual school have worked with local providers to ensure a robust plan is in place to support delivery and improve outcomes for our Post 16 learners.

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.

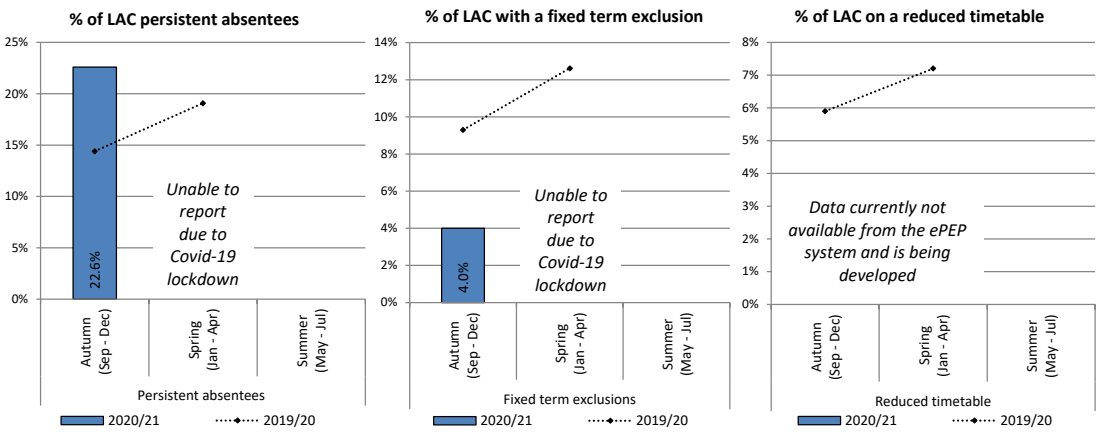
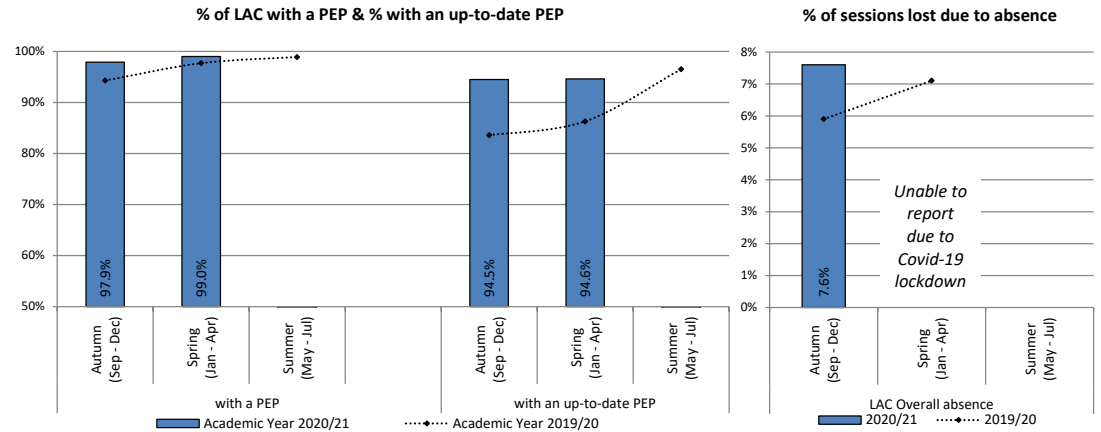
	6.13	6.14	6.15	6.16	6.17	6.18
	% LAC with a Personal Education Plan (Termly)	% LAC with up to date Personal Education Plan (Termly)	LAC Overall absence - % of sessions lost due to absence	% of LAC who are classed as persistent absentees (Missing 10%+ sessions)	% of LAC with at least one fixed term exclusion	% of LAC on reduced timetable arrangements (All LAC)

IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Autumn Term (2020/21)	97.9%	94.5%	7.6% <i>(unvalidated due to system changes)</i>	22.6% <i>(unvalidated due to system changes)</i>	4.0% <i>(unvalidated due to system changes)</i>	<i>tbc</i>
	Spring Term (2020/21)	99.0%	94.6%	<i>(Spring Term 2020/21 was during a Covid-19 lockdown. LAC attendance was monitored and reported via the weekly 'GOLD Meetings'.)</i>			
	Summer Term (2020/21)						

YTD	2020/21	-	-	-	-	-	-
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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%	<i>tbc</i>	-
2019/20	98.9%	96.5%	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>	<i>not available</i>	-	

LATEST BENCHMARKING	SN AVE	-	-	4.3%	10.0%	13.2%	-
	BEST SN	-	-	2.9%	6.3%	10.6%	-
	NAT AVE	-	-	4.7%	10.9%	11.7%	-
	NAT TOP Q TILE	-	-	4.0%	9.2%	10.0%	-



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PLACEMENTS

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

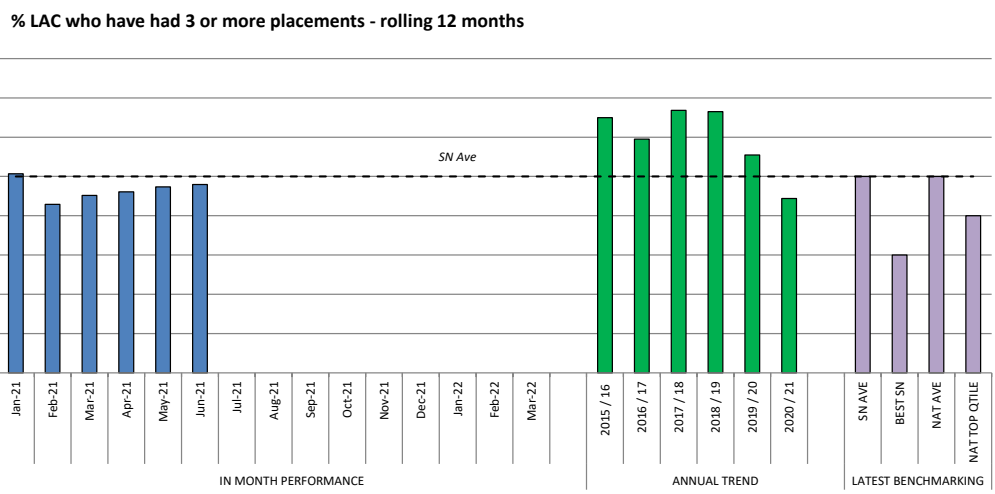
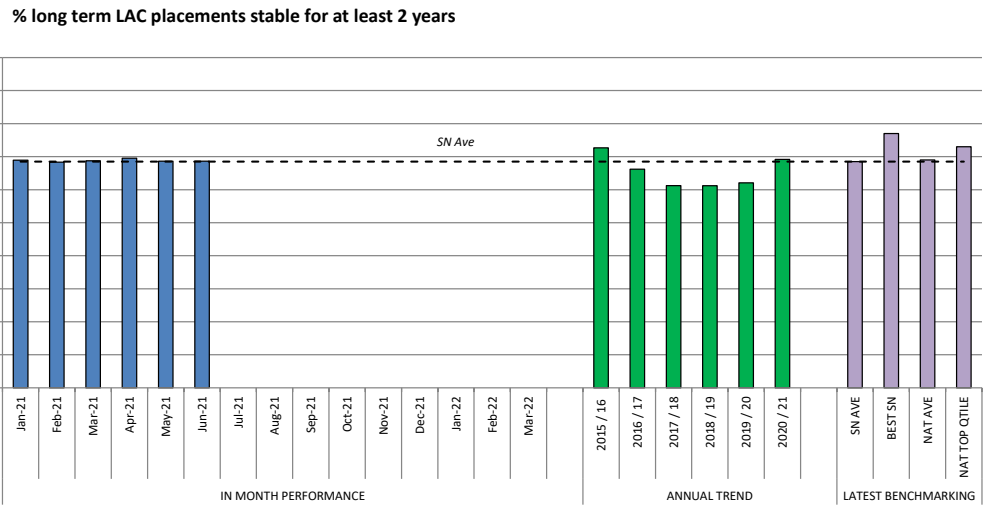
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

The percentage of children and young people experiencing long term placement stability continues to be fairly static with 68.6% of long-term LAC having a stable placement for at least 2 years at the end of quarter 1. Performance also remains in line with the latest stat neighbour (68.5%) and national averages (69.0%). This continues to be positive 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.

At the end of quarter 1 only 9.6% of children have had 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months which remains below the latest stat neighbour (10.0%) and national averages (10.0%). This measure has fluctuated in recent months which 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.

The percentage of children in a family-based placement has been fairly consistent with 80.3% of LAC being in a family-based setting at the end on June 21. 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 focus.

		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 (IFA & Residential)
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-21	162 of 235 68.9%	61 of 602 10.1%	80.6%	5.1%	305 of 605 50.4%
	Feb-21	164 of 240 68.3%	52 of 606 8.6%	80.5%	4.0%	302 of 607 49.8%
	Mar-21	165 of 240 68.8%	54 of 598 9.0%	79.9%	4.2%	300 of 596 50.3%
	Apr-21	169 of 243 69.5%	54 of 586 9.2%	80.5%	4.1%	305 of 586 52.0%
	May-21	164 of 239 68.6%	53 of 560 9.5%	80.2%	3.8%	299 of 560 53.4%
	Jun-21	164 of 239 68.6%	54 of 563 9.6%	80.3%	3.6%	295 of 563 52.4%
	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%			



FOSTERING

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

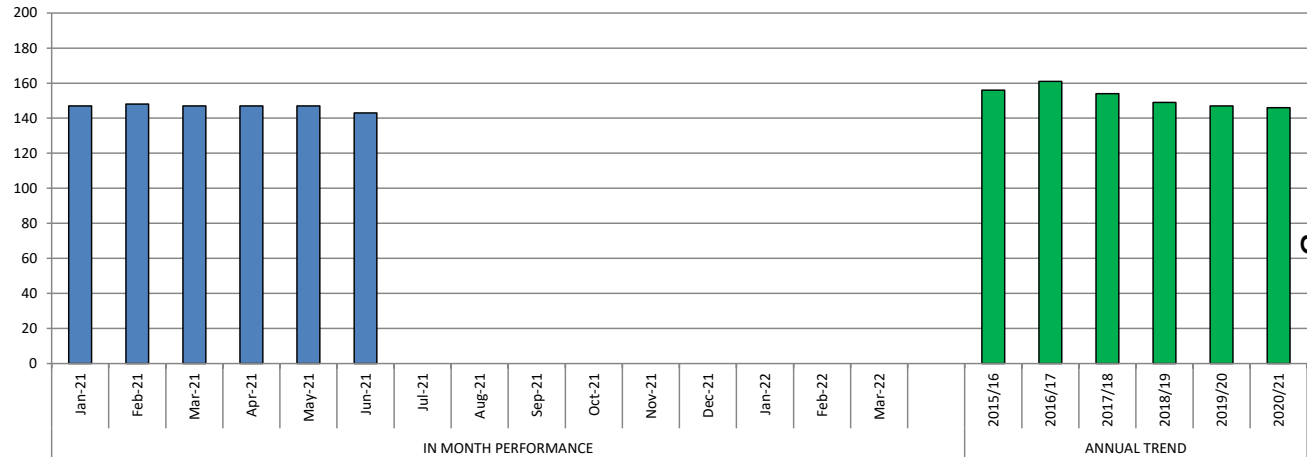
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

There were 377 LAC in a fostering placement at the end of quarter 1 which equates to 67.0% of LAC. This is an increase when compared to the end of the previous quarter (65.6%).

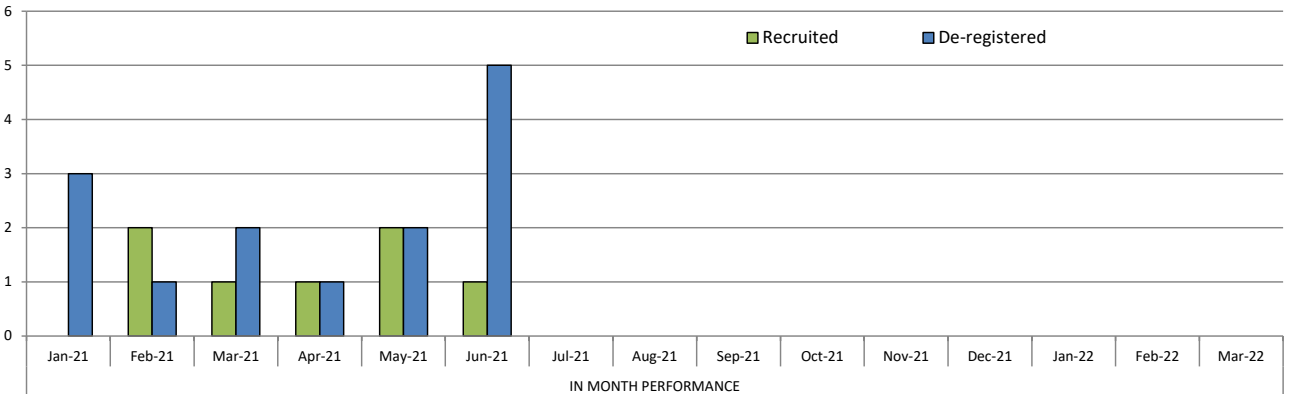
The number of fostering households fell further during quarter 1 to 143 at the end of June 21, with only 4 new carers being recruited in quarter but 8 resignation. The challenge is that the new foster carer approvals are quite often being matched with the number of resignations and de-registrations.

		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%	147	0	3
	Feb-21	396	65.2%	148	2	1
	Mar-21	391	65.6%	147	1	2
	Apr-21	388	66.2%	147	1	1
	May-21	376	67.1%	147	2	2
	Jun-21	377	67.0%	143	1	5
	Jul-21					
	Aug-21					
	Sep-21					
	Oct-21					
	Nov-21					
	Dec-21					
	Jan-22					
Feb-22						
Mar-22						
YTD	2021/22	-	-	-	4	8
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.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

9 adoptions have already taken place this year during quarter 1 which is reassuring to see and highlights that despite the COVID-19 pandemic the service has continued to ensure transitions to support adoption, adoption support and applications have continued to be progressed, ready for court coming back online.

At the end of quarter 1, the A1 measure is 475.4 days and the A2 measure is 282.3 days. These both continue to be higher than recent years however this was anticipated due to the court delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

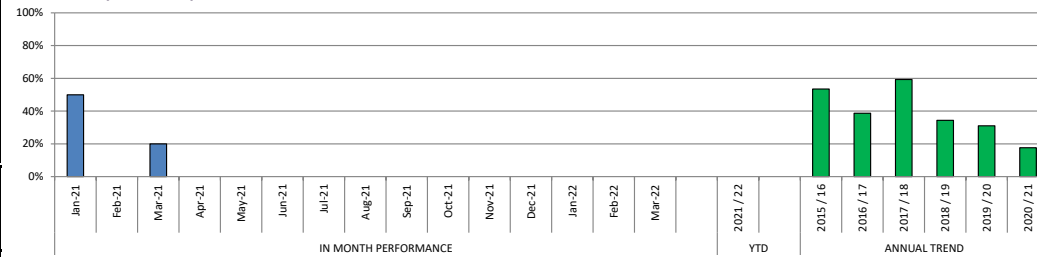
Data Note: Performance is taken from a manual tracker updated in service as not all of the data is currently recorded on LCS.

	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	0	0.0%	536.0	322.0
	May-21	5	0	0.0%	457.9	288.0
	Jun-21	1	0	0.0%	475.4	282.3
	Jul-21					
	Aug-21					
	Sep-21					
	Oct-21					
	Nov-21					
	Dec-21					
	Jan-22					
Feb-22						
Mar-22						
YTD	2021 / 22	9	0	0.0%	-	-
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 Q/TILE				333.0	138.0

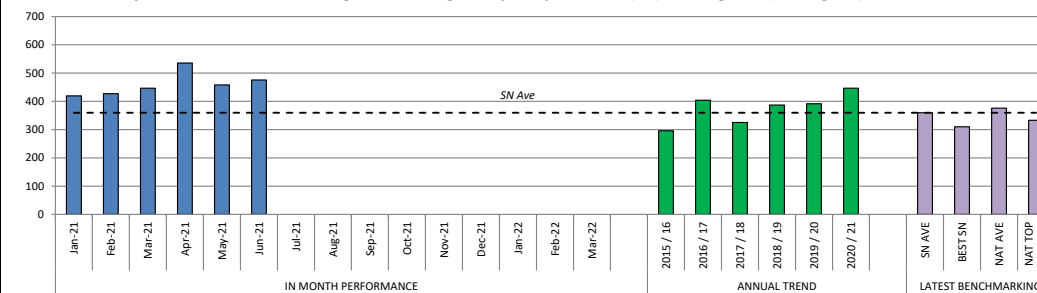
*Annual Trend relates to current reporting year April to Mar - not rolling year

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

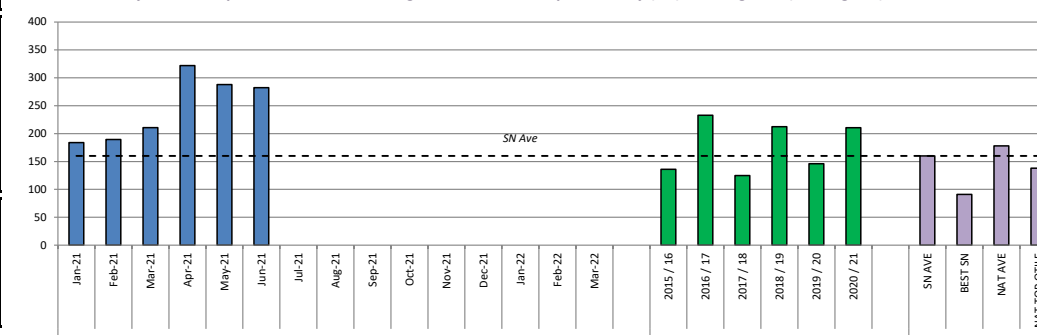
% adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA



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



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



CARE LEAVERS

DEFINITION

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

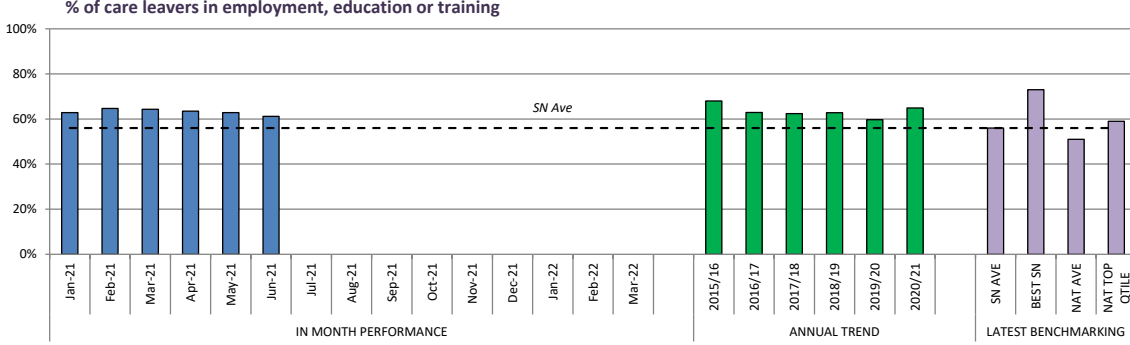
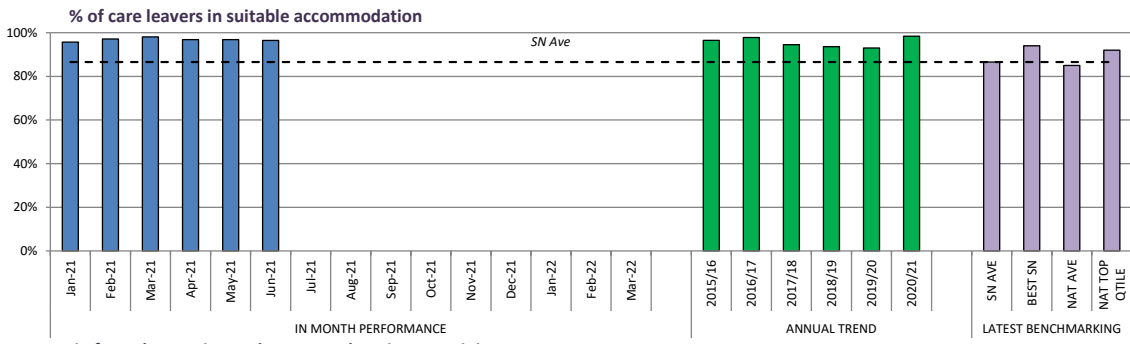
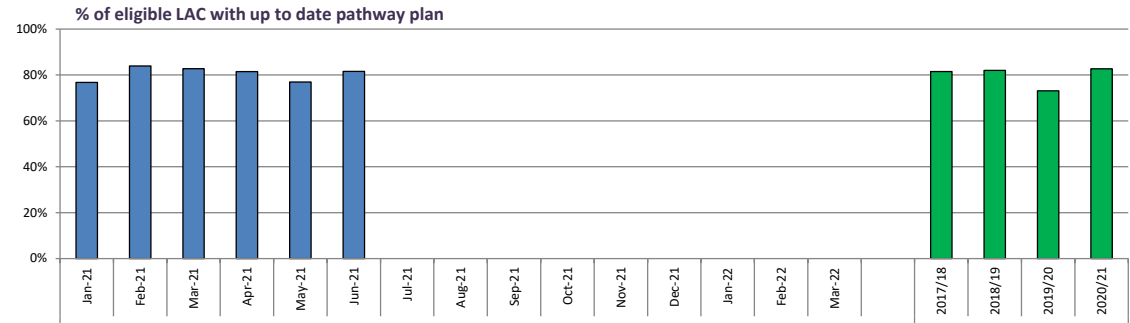
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES / CONCERNS

At the end of quarter 1 the care leavers cohort was 312 which is continuing the recent reducing pattern in numbers.

Care Leavers with a pathway plan continues to be fairly stable, however the timeliness of pathway plans fluctuates month on month on month with 81.6% at the end of March 21. Timeliness continues to be an ongoing area of focus for the LAC and leaving care service.

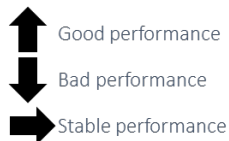
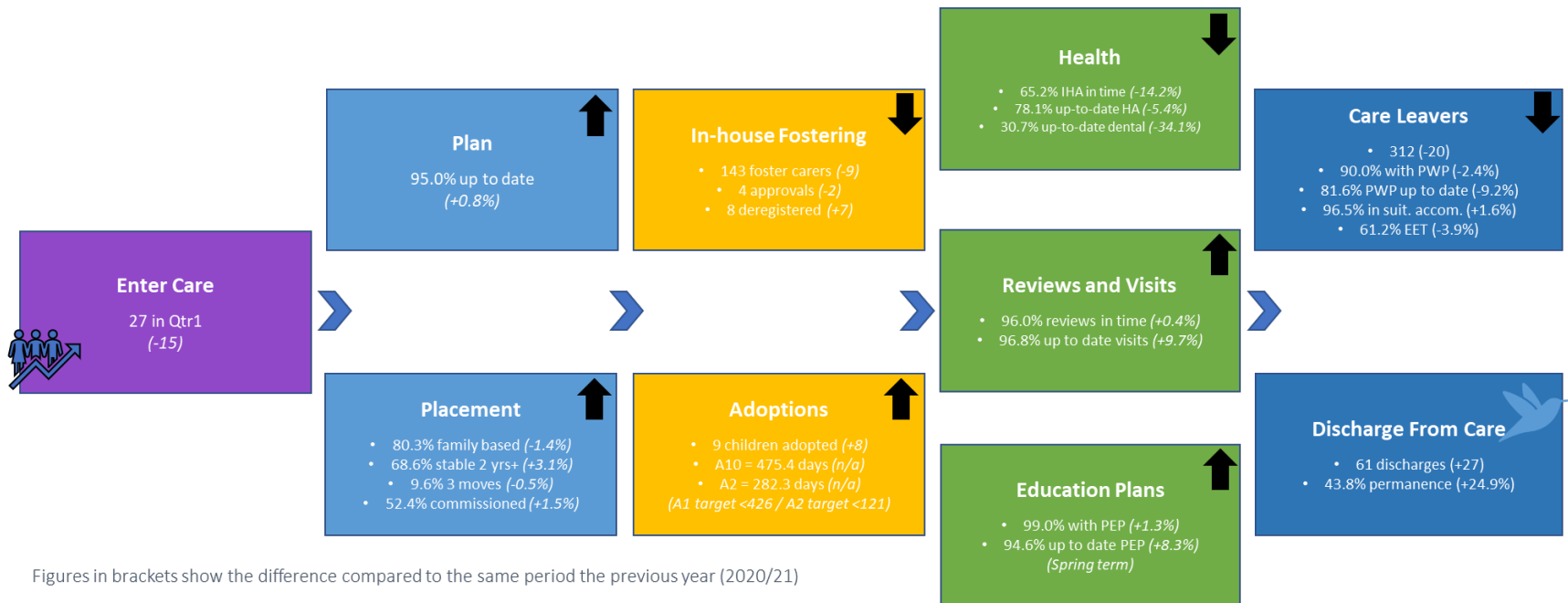
The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains positive and recent months have seen this stabilise and end quarter 1 with 96.5%. This continues to be above the latest stat neighbour (86.6%) and national averages (85.0%). Quarter 1 has seen a downward trend in the number of care leavers in employment, education, or training reaching 61.2% at the end of June 21. However, this remains higher than the latest stat neighbour (56.0%) and national averages (51.0%). Both of these measures remain positive given the Covid-19 pandemic which shows the ongoing positive work of the network around the young people, despite the challenges of the pandemic and acknowledged impact on this age group nationally.

		7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5
		Number of care leavers	% of eligible Care Leavers with a pathway plan	% of eligible Care Leavers with up to date pathway plan	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	% of care leavers in employment, education or training
IN MONTH PERFORMANCE	Jan-21	328	91.7%	76.8%	95.7%	62.8%
	Feb-21	312	92.3%	83.9%	97.1%	64.7%
	Mar-21	319	91.8%	82.7%	98.1%	64.3%
	Apr-21	315	92.7%	81.5%	96.8%	63.5%
	May-21	317	91.5%	76.9%	96.8%	62.8%
	Jun-21	312	90.0%	81.6%	96.5%	61.2%
	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%	93.8%	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				92.0%	59.0%
	QTILE					



Performance on a Page

As of 30th June 2021 (End of Qtr 1 2021/22)





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

Summary

The LAC Council Voice & Influence and participation sessions are back up and running and our children and young people have been busy having fun, socialising and working together achieving fabulous results by continuing to help shape Rotherham Services through their voices being heard in the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, NHS Consultation, actively engaging in the Children's Capital of Culture Consultation, working together to review and update the Rotherham Corporate Promises and working on the ongoing Voice & Influence Strategy. Young people have been engaging in Participation activities over the summer school break including, the Skeggy Vegas trip, Art Focussed workshops, Communication Games, Taste Test & a trip to Clifton Park Museum and grounds.

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

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

Rotherham LAC Council have given their views to be heard in a national consultation of children in care into the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. The young people engaged in a menu of engagement activities over the summer including 'Care is...', where young people are asked to give 6 words (positive and negative) to describe Care plus 'Design a Social Worker' where young people created a body map together and wrote the Skills and Qualities that they feel is important in a Social Worker. These Skills and Qualities include:-

- Don't assume you know what I mean, check that you do by asking open ended questions
- Stick up for me (don't join in with the negative stereotype of me)
- Make us feel we are your priority
- Be reliable (do what you say you are going to, come when you say, answer my texts/calls)
- Be Caring, Loving & Kind

Rotherham LAC Council voices work has now been fed back to 'A National Voice' alongside 300 LAC voices from across 19 other local authorities to contribute to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

Consultation on LAC Nurses Trial Questions

The Looked After Children's Nurses are compiling a questionnaire to gain feedback regarding their involvement with LAC to ensure young people have an opportunity to share their thoughts with the team after their health assessments. The LAC Council have given their voices to the trial feedback questions making suggestions to improve the questions and communicate their feelings about the statutory health assessment to give nurses a greater understanding of their consent experiences.

Children's Capital of Culture Consultation

In September, the LAC Council were invited to a Children's Capital of Culture (CCoC) Consultation event at Rotherham Civic Theatre. Sarah Christie introduced the idea of the CCoC taking place in Rotherham in 2025. Young people were excited to view the presentation of all the potential 'Go See Visits' locally and across the country including the National Videogame Museum, Theatre Deli, Yorkshire Sculpture Park & Saltaire to name a few. The group will start their 'Go See' venue visits in the new year. These visits will enable our young people to think more creatively about possibilities to show off Rotherham for the Children's Capital of Culture.



Corporate Promises

The LAC Council have been reviewing the Corporate Promises that they co-developed a few years ago. Importantly, for our young people to see real progress on the Corporate Promises they need to be visible to them so the group have been working on identifying areas within the 9 promises that are not only connected to their 3 priorities for the next year but also suggested practical support to fill identified gaps in support for example:

**I am your worker and I promise I will...
help you to live in a safe place where you are protected from harm**

'Make sure we have someone to talk to after hours when the SW/ PA's have gone home'
(LAC Council members)

Importantly, an addition to the Corporate Promises measurers, young people have recognised and highlighted good relationships are key to successful working with young people and have added to Corporate Promises:-

Take time to build a positive relationship with me, hear my voice, my choice, my feelings & emotions, make me feel important & valued, recognise the power imbalances between us, get to know who I am not what my notes say, understand what is important to me as this will guide you to keep your promises to me.

Currently this Corporate Promises work is in draft form and should be completed within the next few months.

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 Participation



LAC Skeggy Vegas Trip

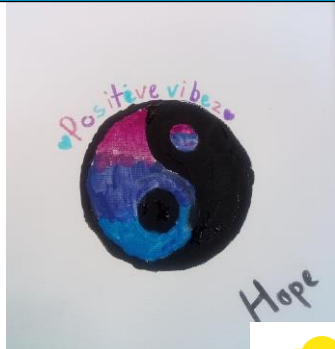
In August the LAC Council & Lil LAC Club were joined by other LAC from across the borough to go on our annual LAC Skeggy Vegas Trip. The trip is part funded by CIDON Construction Barnsley and the LAC Council Budget. We also recruited 6 fabulous volunteers who gave up their day to support the young people to have a fun filled experience, without whom the day could not have gone ahead. Much to the young people's embarrassment we travelled on the slowest 'sharabang' still road worthy and were glad to arrive at warm sunny Fantasy Island!!



Young people enjoyed being together, going on the Fantasy Island Roller Coaster rides and sharing a meal together outside at a young person friendly 'chippy' who welcome us each year.

Summer Sessions - Young people have engaged in numerous participation sessions over the summer exploring art painting on canvas, glass & card, creating with plasticene, playing communication games, having fun with the blindfolded taste tests & Agree Disagree discussions and a museum visit.

Art Focus with Paint & Plasticene



Museum Visit



every mind matters



Communication Games



Blindfolded Taste Tests



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:-

- Sarah Christie – Programme Manager, CCOC 2025
- Steve Simpson – Director CIDON Construction
- LAC Voice, Influence & Participation Volunteers

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