CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Date and Time :-	**Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 4.00 p.m.**
Venue:-	**Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.**
Membership:-	**Councillors Browne, Z. Collingham, Cusworth (Chair), and Pitchley (Vice-Chair)**
Contact	**Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor** **Natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk**

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

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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 (Pages 5 - 11)**

   To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 23 January 2024 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. **Performance on a Page (Pages 13 - 24)**

   This agenda item will provide a summary of performance for key performance indicators across the Children in Care (CiC) services. It will provide an overview of the services performance in comparison to the same period 2022-2023. It will also provide trend data, graphical analysis, and latest benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

6.   Sufficiency Update- 16 to 18 plus accommodation

This agenda item will provide an update on sixteen to eighteen plus accomodation.

7.   Update on Awards Ceremony held in March

This agenda item will provide a verbal update on an RMBC child that was a winning entry to the Quorum Voices National Art Competition.

8.   South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency (SYRAA) Terms of Reference (Pages 25 - 31)

This agenda item will ask the Panel to note the revised South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency Terms of Reference.

9.   The Leaving Care Action Plan Update (Pages 33 - 42)

This agenda item will provide a quarterly update on the Leaving Care action plan. A draft Leaving Care action plan was presented to the Panel in December 2023, it was agreed that further updates on the action plan would be provided to the Panel every quarter.

10.   The Looked After Children's Council (LACC) Presentation (Pages 43 - 46)

This agenda item will provide an update from the Looked After Children's Council, including a group presentation.

11.   Future Meeting Dates

This agenda item will ask the Panel to note the meeting dates for the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board for the new municipal year 2024-2025. The following dates were agreed by Full Council on the 28 February 2024:
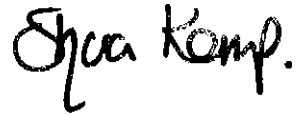
- 11 June 2024
- 10 September 2024
- 10 December 2024
- 21 January 2025
- 25 March 2025
- 6 May 2025

12.   Urgent Business

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

13.   Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be held on 30 April 2024, commencing at 4:00 p.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.

Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

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CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL
Tuesday 23 January 2024

Present:- Councillor Cusworth (in the Chair); Councillors Pitchley and Browne.

Apologies for Absence:- Apologies were received from Councillor Z. Collingham and Officer Lisa Duvalle.

124.   MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2023, were agreed as a correct record.

125.   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

126.   EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Minute 131 (The Looked After Children's Council Update) was exempt from the press and public. The Chair moved the following resolution:- That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual/financial information).

Resolved: - That members of the press and public be excluded for this item.

127.   VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

This item provided a high-level overview of the Virtual School Annual Report 2021-2022 and the following was outlined:

- The format of the Virtual School Annual Report 2021-2022 had changed significantly to previous reports. This was as a result of suggestions provided by Ofsted, to ensure the report was more accessible, whilst ensuring successes were celebrated within the report.
- In relation to early years and primary education, 100% of two-year-olds were accessing early years provision.
- All children on the Virtual School's register were registered to a children's centre from birth.
- There was a good level of development (GLD) for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and for children

without SEND. The GLD exceeded national averages, this was a result of interventions, support and effective partnership working.

- The reading, writing and maths levels for all children with SEND and without SEND exceeded national averages.
- In relation to Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four, the Virtual School was working closely with schools to ensure a continued effective transition from primary to secondary education.
- The impact of long-term work was evident within the report, in relation to the journey of children throughout all the school. This impact was visible in both GCSE and Post- 16 cohorts.
- In relation to GCSE results, a GCSE Grade Four was regarded as a standard pass, this was the first report post-pandemic that included formal end of year GCSE examinations.
- There was a significant improvement in the Department of Education (DfE) Cohort, 8.1% of Looked After Children (LAC) DfE received a Grade Four or above in English and Maths in 2019, in 2022 this increased to 18.8%.
- There was an increase in the number of young people post-16, accessing higher level courses and applying for University. Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) figures had also reduced.
- The levels of non-attendance and exclusions had increased post-pandemic due to increased anxiety and emotional based school avoidance, however this year was the first year that saw these levels drop under 10%.

The Chair thanked the relevant officers and invited questions, this led to the following points being raised during discussions:

- It was noted that the report was in the public domain which would enable the promotion of the successes of the Virtual School. The report would also be shared with senior management, employees, and partners via the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- The next report for the period of 2022-2023 would be presented at the Corporate Parenting Panel shortly. The Virtual School Headteachers would explore whether this could be promoted through Rotherham Council's Communications Team.
- Early indications for the next report were showing as positive overall, although it was acknowledged that there had been a higher level of exclusions.
- The next report would differ to the this year's report, this was due to the changes required in relation to teaching and learning post-pandemic, it was noted that post-pandemic children were a different cohort to pre-pandemic children and therefore their needs reflected this difference.

128.   **QUALITY ASSURANCE UPDATE**

This item provided a high-level update on Quality Assurance in relation to Children in Care (CIC) and the following was outlined:

Fostering Service-
- In relation to fostering, there was a new Quality Assurance (QA) framework. This included a new case file audit form, designed for fostering pre-approval, post approval and the supervisory service. It also included a new dip sample template for fostering, which would be embedded over the next three months.
- The Panel Advisor would further develop the QA function of Panel and build this into the QA framework.
- New fees and allowances had been approved and implemented for the fostering service.
- The Elected Members Fostering Working Group had achieved most of their objectives and would conclude in 2024.
- A monthly fostering scorecard was developed to enable the tracking of performance in fostering, this was reported in to the Operational and Strategic Fostering Board.
- Monthly Performance Meetings were scheduled with the Head of Service to track progress and identify development needs.
- The Fostering Annual Report and Plan was now complete. The plan would be reviewed monthly.
- Fostering Form F assessments were of a good standard, the voice of the carer and the voice of any birth children was evident.
- There had been several Independent Foster Agency (IFA) transfers over to the local authority, this was due to the support they had received from the service.
- The IFA transfer reports provided enough information for the panel to make a recommendation.
- Some development was needed with the wider service around the consistency of QA of documents being submitted to the Fostering Panel.
- The QA framework needed to be embedded in the fostering service.
- The voice of the second carer was not always evident in review reports. This had been raised in individual cases with the relevant team manager.

Residential Services-
- A high-level update was provided on all currently registered children's homes, this included where in the process of registration they were, outcomes of inspections and the levels of current vacancies.
- It was advised that the homes continued to meet the needs of the children, to a high standard and regulation 44 visits were positive, with some low-level recommendations made to the Residential

Service.

- The residential employees maintained good partnership working with wider service areas.
- One of the residential care employees had won an award for Best Support Worker in the North. Another residential home was nominated for the Children's Home Team Award.
- A high-level overview of recruitment in relation to residential services was provided.
- There had been delays in the process of purchasing, completing work and registering new children's homes.
- Recruitment of residential employees had been slower than expected. There had also been some employee absence, which had impacted upon the wider service.
- It was noted that matching children to vacancies needed to be a speedier process.

Children in Care, Care Leavers, and Family Activity Base Services-

- There had been a refresh in quality assurance and performance activity, including a monthly performance meeting and a focus of performance in managers meetings.
- There was dip sampling undertaken by the Service Manager and Head of Service.
- A new Permanence Panel was developed, which focused on destination planning for children in care.
- There was step down meetings which tracked planning for children, to ensure that progress was being made in relation to children moving into in-house residential, foster placement or returning to parents where appropriate.
- The Resource Panel had been initiated to ensure accountability over the spend in children's services.
- The Corporate Parenting Strategy was complete.
- The Care Leaver Offer had been renewed and would be finalised alongside the financial offer shortly.
- The Care Leaver Service Plan had been drafted and this would be reviewed monthly.
- A Children in Care and Residential Service Plan had commenced.
- Recruitment had been a success across the service, a number of Personal Assistants had been recruited, alongside a Team Manager for the Children in Care Service and a Social Worker.
- Quality and planning were being driven across the service, with a focus on robust management and oversight.
- Some of the most complex children had moved into in-house placements, better suited to their needs. Some children had returned to the care of their parent, with careful planning.
- Family time continued to meet the needs of children in the locality service.
- Children and young people were able to express their wishes and views, this was evident in their plans.
- Consistency of planning, including pathway plans required further

focus.

- It was acknowledged that it could often take too long to move children into a suitable in-house placement, when this was determined as an appropriate plan.

Next Steps-

- The Head of Service and Assistant Director would be required to sign off the QA framework for the fostering service.

- Children and Young people would be matched to future children's homes to enable robust planning.

- There would be a focus on the reduction of delays to processes in purchasing and opening new children's homes.

- There would be a focus on destination planning to continue and the timeliness of transitions.

- Performance meetings would focus on compliance and quality across all service areas.

The Chair thanked the relevant officers, and the update was noted.

129.   CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2024-2027

This item provided a high-level update on the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-2027 and the following was outlined:

- The strategy was formally known as the Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers (CL) Strategy.
- There had been slight revisions to the Strategy which were approved by Cabinet on the 22nd January 2024 and were subject to a seven working day call-in period, from the date the decision was published.
- The Strategy had been shared with the Looked After Children's Council and any comments would contribute towards the associated action plans.

During Discussions it was noted that an RMBC child had won the entry to the Coram Voice National Art Competition, feedback from the Awards Ceremony would be provided to the Panel in March.

The Chair thanked the relevant officers, and the update was noted.

130.   THE PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

This item provided a high-level update on the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for Corporate Parenting Panel and the following was outlined:

- Cabinet had approved the changes to the ToR for Corporate Parenting Panel on the 22nd January, this was subject to a seven working day call-in period.
- The changes would be implemented from the beginning of the new municipal year.
- The approved changes would see the Corporate Parenting Panel change to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board, the name change would reflect children's wider needs, including health and education.
- The Panel would move from a public panel meeting to an internal board, this would ensure that young people could attend each meeting.
- The frequency of meetings would increase from four meetings a year to six meetings a year, to ensure sufficient capacity for business to be completed.
- There would be an Annual Report presented to the Improving Lives Select Commission on a yearly basis.

131.   LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S COUNCIL UPDATE

The Chair advised that as this item contained restricted information and as resolved in Minute 126, the Panel would go into private session for the consideration of this item.

The young people on the Looked After Children's Council (LACC) gave a presentation to the Panel on the work of Rotherham's Looked After Children's Council, drawing attention to the following:

- Participation in the Big Ambition National Survey for 16–18-year-olds.
- Delivery of the Summer Festival.
- An International Trip to Paris.
- Participation in the Lost Land Project with Grimm & Co.
- Participation in the Remembrance Sunday Service.
- The LACC Pantomime and Christmas Dinner.

A young person of the LACC was redirected to the relevant Head of Service to discuss a matter that arose within the meeting, that was not part of the agreed agenda, but was acknowledged by the Chair and Panel members.

The Panel thanked the young people for their inspirational presentation and noted the updates provided.

132.   URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to consider.

133.   **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Resolved: - That the next meeting be held on 19 March 2024, commencing at 4.00 p.m. to be held in the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

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Rotherham
**Metropolitan
Borough Council**

Public Report
Corporate Parenting Panel

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Corporate Parenting Panel – 19 March 2024

Report Title
Corporate Parenting Performance Report – Q3 2023/24

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

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Jane Wood, Head of Children in Care,
jane-e.wood@rotherham.gov.uk

Rebecca Harrison, Performance Officer
rebecca.harrison@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report provides a summary of performance for key performance indicators across the Children in Care (CiC) services. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data reports, Appendix 1 which provides performance on a page giving an overview of the services performance in comparison to the same period 2022-23 and Appendix 2 which provides trend data, graphical analysis, and latest 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 2) and consider any issues arising.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1   Performance on a page
Appendix 2   Children in care performance – December 23 (Q3 2023/24)

Background Papers
Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Report – December 23 (Q3 2023/24)

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 – Q2 2023/24

1.   Background

1.1   This report provides evidence to the council's commitment to continuous improvement and providing performance information to enable scrutiny of 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 latest benchmarking data against national, regional, 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 local service context.

1.3   All benchmarking data is as at the latest data release by the DfE and relates to 2022/23 outturn.

1.4   The narrative supplied within the report has been informed by the Head of Service – Children in Care.

2.   Key Issues

2.1   **Children in Care –** At the end of Q3 (2023/24) we saw the number of children in care (CiC) decrease by 44 to 507 when compared to the end of Q3 in 2022/23 when there were 551 CiC. 122 children have become looked after since April 2023, this is a decrease of 25 when compared to the same period in 2022/23 (147). Since April 2023 156 children have ceased to be in care, 3 more than in the same period last financial year (153).

The benchmark measure, rate of children in care per 10,000 population has decreased (-9.2) further to 88.6 at the end of Q3 compared to 97.8 last year. This remains below the latest (2021/22) statistical neighbour's average of 102.4 but remans significantly higher than the national average of 70.0.

There are currently 43 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in the care of the local authority (LA), a decrease of 1 when compared to the end of Q3 in the last financial year. The commissioning team are working to ensure we can offer placements and accommodation commensurate to need. We know this is a potential ongoing pressure due to the growing need to support more UASC, and impact on local placement sufficiency is being monitored.

2.2   **Plans –** At the end of Q3, 76.3% of eligible CiC had an up-to-date plan, which is a 13.9% decrease in comparison to last year when it was 90.2%. This is likely to be because of some instability in staffing in the children in care team. This has included a change in management of the service, some unexpected sickness, and some vacancies. It is expected that this will improve in the next quarter. This is also due to a change in the way in which we report performance in respect of children's plans, measuring them from the point of the children in care review, instead of measuring every six months.

2.3 **Placements –** At the end of Q3 75.7% of CiC were in a family-based setting compared to 77.1% at the end of Q3 2022/23.

63.3% of long-term CiC had been in a stable placement for at least 2 years, a 2.8% decrease when compared to Q3 2022/23 (66.1%). 63.3% continues to be below the latest stat neighbour (71.1%) and national (71.0%) averages. Placement stability is an area of focus that the fostering service, responsible Team Manager and IRO have been engaged with to review what works and what their roles are in working to prevent placement breakdowns. The fostering service has sought to strengthen placement stability via completing the mapping assessment to identify support needs and ensure these are met via the service. The fostering service is expanding their support offer recruiting additional Family Support workers and an extended on-call support offering after hours and weekend contact, as these have been highlighted as best practice. Team Around the Child meetings are in place to support all placements, with a particular focus at linking in support from the agency or Rotherham Therapeutic Team earlier, to prevent disruption. Placement stability meetings take place at appropriate intervals to prevent placement breakdown. The attendance and function of these meetings is to be reviewed to maximise the support available for placements.

The percentage of children having had 3 or more placements in the last rolling 12 months has fluctuated over the last 12 months but was 9.3% at the end of Q3 the same as in Q3 2022/23. 9.3% remains below both the latest national average (10.0%) and statistical neighbour average (9.5%). The work linked to the team around the child will support strengthening placement stability. Additional support packages to grow foster carers for older children, have also been proposed and piloted, to improve local sufficiency.

2.4 **In-house fostering –**There have been 15 foster family approvals (25 new placements) since April 2023, however, 15 families have ceased to be foster carers (loss of 23 placements), which equates to a gain of zero foster families but two placements at the end of the quarter. There have been occasions where foster carers have resigned due to seeking permanent arrangements for the children in their care, such as Special Guardianship Order's or Adoption. It should be noted that most foster carers who have resigned or been de-registered, did not actively have any children in their care in the months leading up to their deregistration. If we were to discount carers that had not been active in the last 3 months before deregistration, we would report a net gain of 9 carers and 17 placements. This is expected to rise between now and the end of April.

Placement sufficiency remains a key challenge and Brightsparks continue to support us in fostering recruitment work. We have a target set to increase the number of fostering families by 20 this financial year.

Current projections (end of January) are positive, and if each panel that is booked during the remainder of Q4 goes as expected we are projecting to have approved 21 foster families (33 new placements) by the end of the financial year 2023/24, against 17 deregistration's (26 placements) which will give us a gain of 4 families (7 placements).

2.5 **Youth Justice –** Of the 507 children and young people in care by Rotherham at the end of the quarter, 7 were also known to the Youth Justice Service. At the same time last year there were 8.

2.6 **Adoptions –** 13 children have been adopted since April 2023 which is a decrease of four when compared to the same period last year.

At the end of Q3, the A10 measure (Average number of days between a child becoming looked after and having an adoption placement) was 343.2 days, a significant reduction on 551.8 days at the same point in 2022/23. The A10 measure performance has been previously directly linked to the court delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The reduction in days is a sign the delays are improving.

The A2 measure (Average number of days between placement order and being matched with adoptive family) was 191.5 days at the end of Q3, an 18.9 day decrease when compared to 210.4 days last year.

2.7 **Health –** The percentage of CiC having an initial health assessment (IHA) within timescale has increased to 76.9% at the end of Q3 when compared to 71.1% at the same point last financial year. Similarly, the number of up-to-date health checks also increased to 88.1% when compared to 74.5% at the same point last year. We often see a delay in accurate performance figures being reported via Liquidlogic due to delays in assessments being signed off and delayed inputting. The named nurse for CiC & Care Leavers can confirm that the below figures are correct for the end of December 23 (Q3):

- Under 5's placed in Rotherham 94%.
- Over 5's placed in Rotherham 95% when those that decline are deducted from figures.
- Under 5's placed out of Rotherham 97%.
- Over 5's placed out of Rotherham 95% when those that decline are deducted from figures.

Up to date dental checks has also increased from 59.6% at the end of Q3 last year to 68.0% (2023/24). Dental assessments are a national issue and remains an area of focus to ensure it does not become a trend here in Rotherham.

2.8 **Reviews and visits –** 89.4% of reviews since April 23 were complete within the timescales set, which equates to 966 reviews in time out of 1080. In the same period 2022/23, 92.2% were complete in time (1042/1130).

At the end of Q3, 94.1% of visits were up-to-date and within timescale of the national minimum standard. At the end of the same period in 2022/23 96.4% were in time, showing a 2.3% decrease this year.

2.9 **Education –** At the end of Q3 we can report that 99.1% of CiC had an up-to-date PEP at the end of the autumn term (Term 1 2023/24). This shows a 7.2% increase when compared to the end of the same term 2022/23.

2.10 **Care Leavers –** There were 337 young people in the care leavers cohort at the end of Q3 which shows an increase of 15 when compared to 2022/23 (322). The Leaving Care Cohort remains high with the level of UASC growing making up 39 of the current cohort (20 at the end of Q3 last year).

72.7% of care leavers had an up-to-date pathway plan at the end of Q3 which is a 2.1% decrease when compared to the same period last year (74.8%). 95.5% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation compared to 97.2% last year.

This remains above the latest stat neighbour (87.7%) and national (88.0%) averages. Of the 14 young people in unsuitable accommodation 7 (50%) are in custody.

72.4% of care leavers were in employment, education, and training (EET) at the end of Q3 compared to 73.0% at the end of Q3 in 2022/23. However, this remains above the latest stat neighbour (52.9%) and national (56.0%) averages.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The full corporate parenting performance report attached at Appendix 2 represents a summary of performance across a range of key national and local indicators. 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 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 Assistant 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 Assistant Director and Heads of Service 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 monthly 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.
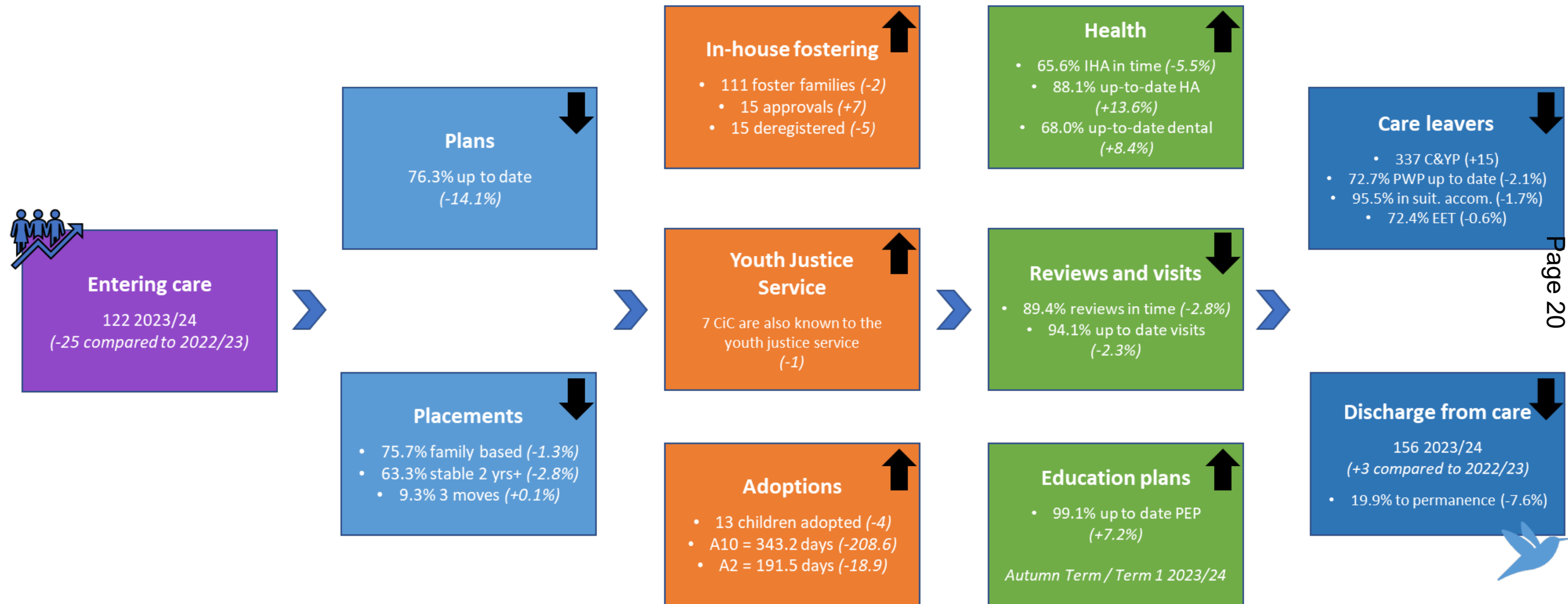
14. Accountable Officer(s)

Jane Wood, Head of Children in Care,
jane-e.wood@rotherham.gov.uk

Monica Green, Assistant Director Safeguarding Children
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This report is published on the Council's website.

Performance on a Page
As of 31st December 2023 (Q3 - 2023/24)

Entering care

122 2023/24
(-25 compared to 2022/23)

Plans

76.3% up to date
(-14.1%)

Placements

- 75.7% family based *(-1.3%)*
- 63.3% stable 2 yrs+ *(-2.8%)*
- 9.3% 3 moves *(+0.1%)*

In-house fostering

- 111 foster families *(-2)*
- 15 approvals *(+7)*
- 15 deregistered *(-5)*

Youth Justice Service

7 CiC are also known to the youth justice service
(-1)

Adoptions

- 13 children adopted *(-4)*
- A10 = 343.2 days *(-208.6)*
- A2 = 191.5 days *(-18.9)*

Health

- 65.6% IHA in time *(-5.5%)*
- 88.1% up-to-date HA *(+13.6%)*
- 68.0% up-to-date dental *(+8.4%)*

Reviews and visits

- 89.4% reviews in time *(-2.8%)*
- 94.1% up to date visits *(-2.3%)*

Education plans

- 99.1% up to date PEP *(+7.2%)*

Autumn Term / Term 1 2023/24

Care leavers

- 337 C&YP *(+15)*
- 72.7% PWP up to date *(-2.1%)*
- 95.5% in suit. accom. *(-1.7%)*
- 72.4% EET *(-0.6%)*

Discharge from care

156 2023/24
(+3 compared to 2022/23)

- 19.9% to permanence *(-7.6%)*

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All performance is 2023/24 year to date (YTD) cumulative or as at the end of December 2023 (end of Q3) unless otherwise stated. Figures in brackets show the difference when compared to the same period in the previous financial year (2022/23).

Improving performance/meeting target   Declining performance/not meeting target   Stable performance

Appendix 2: Children in Care Performance Summary — As at month end: December 2023

*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)

CHILDREN IN CARE

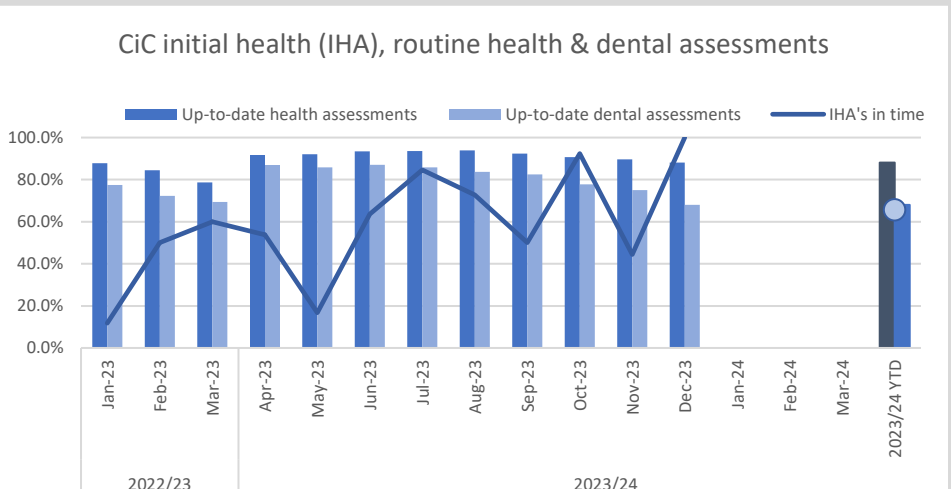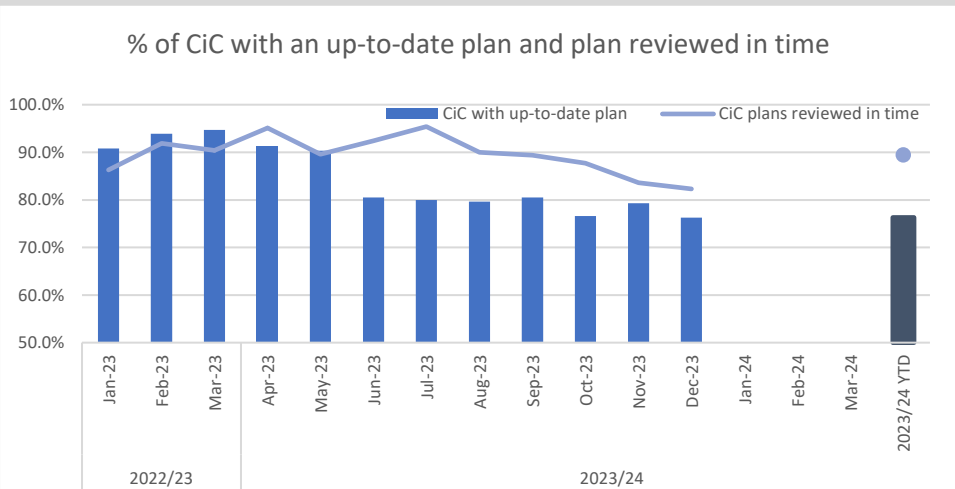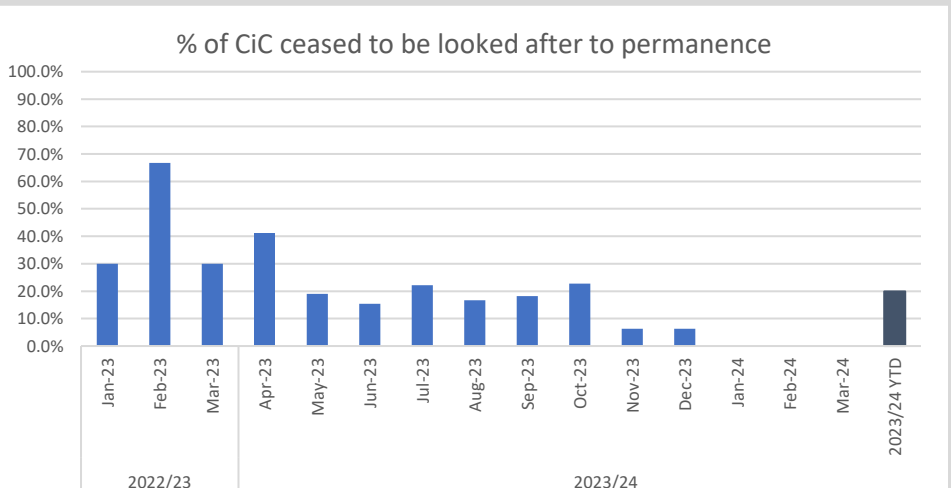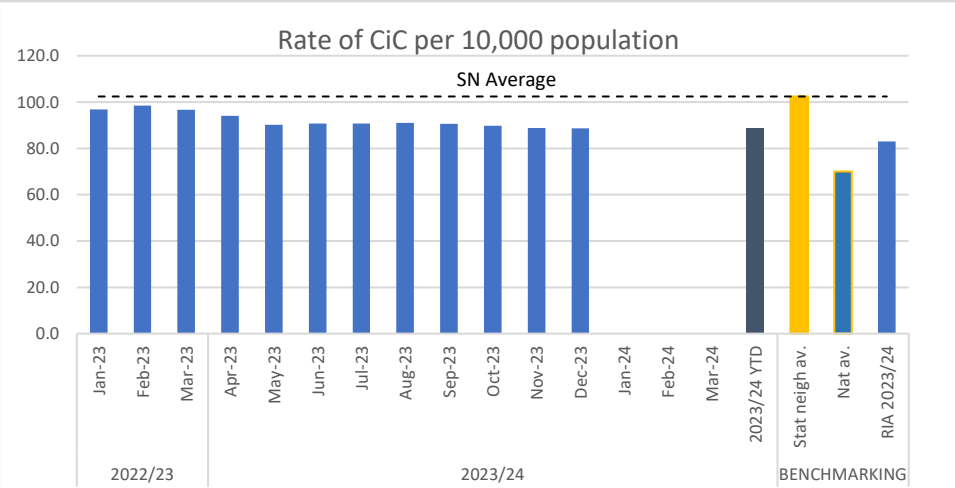| REF NO.	INDICATOR	Council Plan Measures 22/25	TIMELINE	DATA NOTE	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	2023/24 YTD	Good perf is	DOT* (month)	RAG (month)	Red	Amber	Green (target)	2022/23	Yr on Yr trend	Stat neigh av.	Best stat neigh	Nat av.	Top qtile threshold	RIA 2023/24
4.1	No. of children in care		monthly	Count	514	508	507	519	518	507	507	info	↓					545						
4.2	Rate of children in care per 10,000 population aged 0-17	CH04	monthly	Rate per 10,000	89.8	88.8	88.6	90.7	90.5	88.6	88.6	low	↓	Green	95.2+	-	<95.2	96.7		102.4	56.0	70.0	-	83.0
4.3	No. of admissions of children in care		monthly	Count	17	11	16	32	46	44	122	info	↑					181						
4.4	No. of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in care(UASC)		monthly	Count	45	44	43	39	45	43	43	info	↓					36	New measure 2022/23					
4.5	% of eligible children in care with an up to date plan		monthly	%	76.6%	79.3%	76.3%	80.5%	80.5%	76.3%	76.3%	high	↓	Red	<87%	87%+	95%+	94.7%						
4.6	% of children in care visits up to date & completed within timescale of national minimum standard		monthly	%	95.5%	93.9%	94.1%	95.0%	94.6%	94.1%	94.1%	high	↑	Amber	<90%	90%+	98%+	95.6%						
4.7	% of children in care care plans reviewed within timescales		monthly	%	87.7%	83.6%	82.3%	91.9%	92.1%	84.5%	89.4%	high	↓	Red	<87%	87%+	95%+	91.5%						
4.8	% of children in care having an initial health assessment within timescale		monthly	%	92.3%	44.4%	####	50.0%	70.6%	76.9%	65.6%	high	↑					61.5%						
4.9	% of children in care with a up to date health assessments		monthly	%	90.7%	89.7%	88.1%	93.5%	92.4%	88.1%	88.1%	high	↓	Amber	<87%	87%+	95%+	78.7%						
4.10	% of children in care with a up to date dental assessments		monthly	%	77.8%	75.1%	68.0%	87.0%	82.5%	68.0%	68.0%	high	↓	Red	<87%	87%+	95%+	69.4%						
4.11	No. of children in care who are known to the Youth Justice Service (YJS)		monthly	Count	9	9	7	8	10	7	7	info	↓					9	New measure 2022/23					
4.12	No. of children with an Education Health & Care plan in the children in care cohort		monthly	Count	86	84	84	91	88	84	84	info	→					95	New measure 2022/23					
4.13	No. of children in care having at least one missing episode within the period		monthly	Count	13	12	9	26	27	23	48	info	↓					59						
4.14	No. of children who have ceased to be children in care		monthly	Count	22	16	16	56	46	54	156	high	→					195						
4.15	No. of special guardianship orders (SGO) or child arrangement orders (CAO) granted after a period of being children in care(Legal Status)		monthly	Count	9	4	6	22	18	19	59	info	↑					72						
4.16	No. of children in care who have ceased to be looked after due to a special guardianship orders(SGO) or child arrangement orders (CAO)		monthly	Count	4	1	1	8	5	6	19	info	→					39						
4.17	% of children in care who have ceased to be in care due to permanence (SGO, CAO, Adoption)		monthly	%	22.7%	6.3%	6.3%	26.8%	19.6%	13.0%	19.9%	high	→	Red	<27%	27%+	35%+	30.4%						
4.18	% of long term children in care in placements which have been stable for at least 2 years		monthly	%	63.1%	63.4%	63.3%	67.5%	63.3%	63.3%	63.3%	high	↓	Amber	<62%	62%+	70%+	65.2%		71.1	77.0	71.0	74.1	-
4.19	% of children in care who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12 months	OLD	monthly	%	9.2%	10.1%	9.3%	8.7%	8.3%	9.3%	9.3%	low	↓	Amber	16%+	8%+	<8%	9.7%		9.5	6.0	10.0	8.0	-
4.20	% of children in care in a family based setting	OLD	monthly	%	75.1%	76.0%	75.7%	77.5%	75.7%	75.7%	75.7%	high	↓	Red	<77%	77%+	85%+	77.0%						
4.21	% of children in care placed with parents or other with parental responsibility (P1)		monthly	%	4.7%	4.9%	3.9%	5.0%	4.8%	3.9%	3.9%	low	↓					5.7%						
4.22	% of children in care in kinship care		monthly	%	5.8%	6.3%	7.5%	6.6%	6.0%	7.5%	7.5%	high	↑	Red	<8%	8%+	12%+	8.1%						
4.23	No. of placements that have been created for children via foster care (approvals)		monthly	Count	9	0	2	5	9	11	25	high	↑					21						
4.24	No. of adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA		monthly	Count	1	0	0	4	0	1	5	high	→					12						
4.25	Av. days between a child becoming looked after and having a adoption placement (A10)		monthly	YTD Average	384.8	384.8	384.8	242.1	352.0	384.8	384.8	low	→	Green	487+	-	<487	492.5		350.1	274.0	367.0	317.5	-
4.26	Av. days between a placement order and being matched with an adoptive family (A2)		monthly	YTD Average	191.5	191.5	191.5	264.3	216.7	191.5	191.5	low	→	Red	121+	-	<121	197.4		160.4	90.0	175.0	135.5	-
4.27	No. of care leavers		monthly	Count	324	322	337	329	322	337	337	info	↑					319						
4.28	% of eligible children in care & Care Leavers with an up to date pathway plan		monthly	%	79.6%	77.6%	72.7%	80.9%	80.1%	72.7%	72.7%	high	↓					74.5%						
4.29	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation		monthly	%	95.7%	95.7%	95.5%	96.0%	96.3%	95.5%	95.5%	high	↓	Amber	<88%	88%+	96%+	97.2%		87.7	95.0	88.0	93.0	-
4.30	% of care leavers in employment, education or training		monthly	%	70.7%	71.4%	72.4%	70.8%	70.2%	72.4%	72.4%	high	↑	Green	<58%	58%+	66%+	69.6%		52.9	72.0	56.0	61.0	-
4.31	No. of care leavers who are former unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)		monthly	Count	37	37	39	31	36	39	39	info	↑					29	New measure 2022/23					

Children In Care (CiC)

Children in care are children who have become the responsibility of the local authority either voluntarily by parents struggling to cope or through an intervention by children's services because a child is at risk of significant harm. CiC review meetings are convened to consider the plan for the welfare of CiC and how to achieve permanence for them within a timescale that meets their needs. The LA is responsible for visiting CiC wherever they are living to ensure his/her welfare continues to be safeguarded and promoted and the LA should ensure that every CiC has his/her health needs fully assessed and a health plan clearly set out.

507 CiC as at period end

122 Admissions (ytd)

156 Discharges (ytd)

Rate of CiC per 10,000 population

% of CiC ceased to be looked after to permanence

% of CiC with an up-to-date plan and plan reviewed in time

CiC initial health (IHA), routine health & dental assessments

94.1% of CiC visits are up-to-date & complete (NMS)
(National minimum standard is within 1wk of placement, then 6wkly till in placement for 1yr, then 12wkly after.)

**65.6%** of IHA's completed in time (ytd)

Placements

A CiC placement is where a child has become the responsibility of the local authority (CiC) and is placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives. 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.
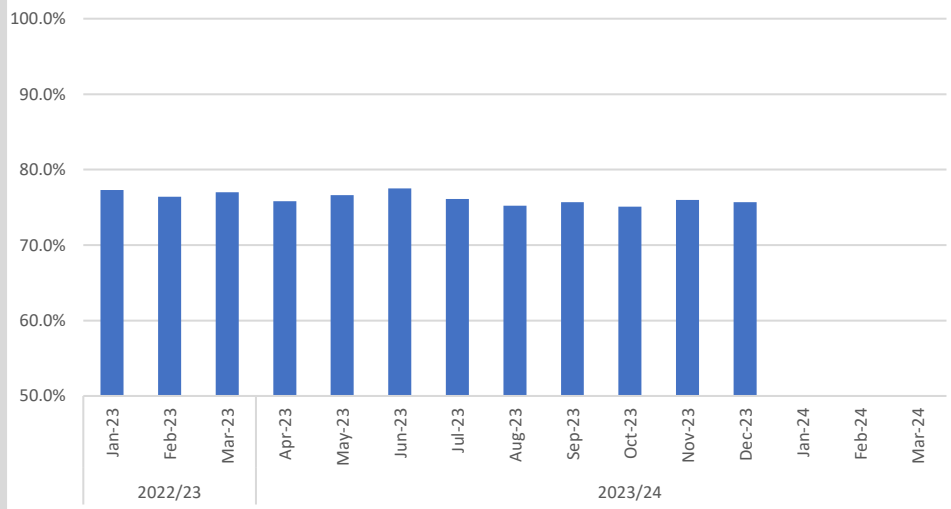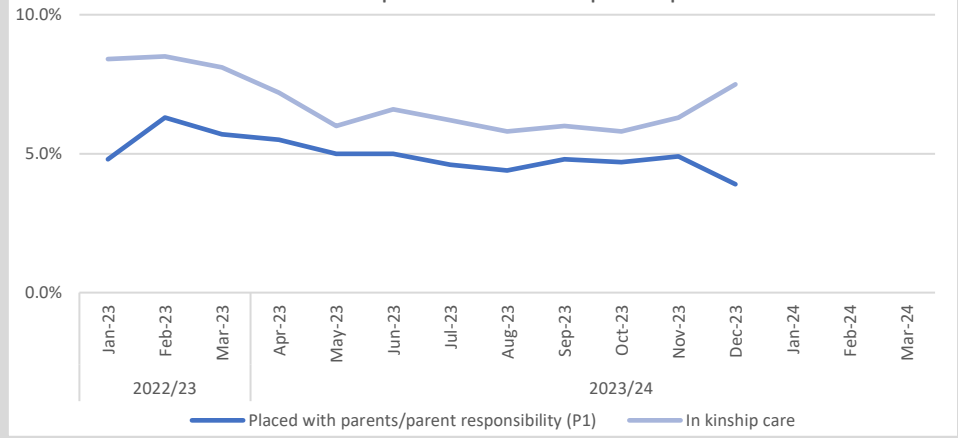
63.3% of long term CiC in a stable placement for 2 years+
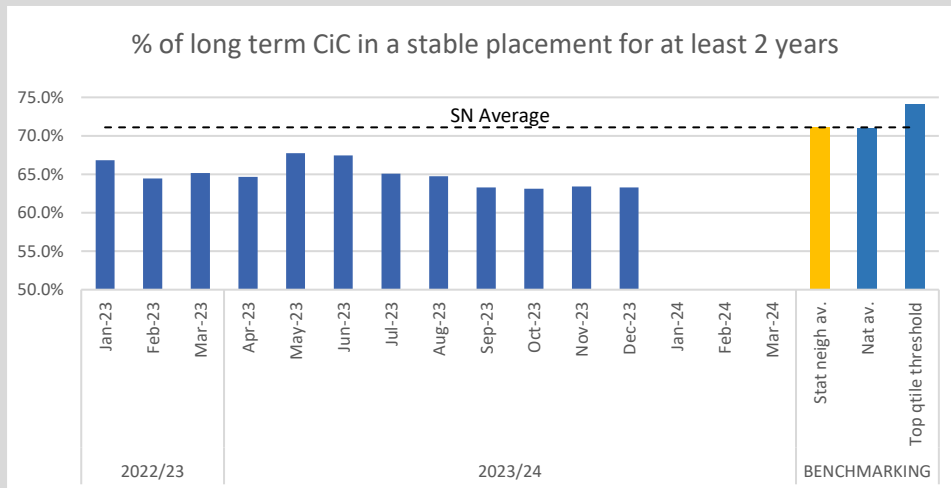
9.3% of CiC have had 3+ placements as at period end

% of long term CiC in a stable placement for at least 2 years

% of CiC who have had 3 or more placements - rolling 12m
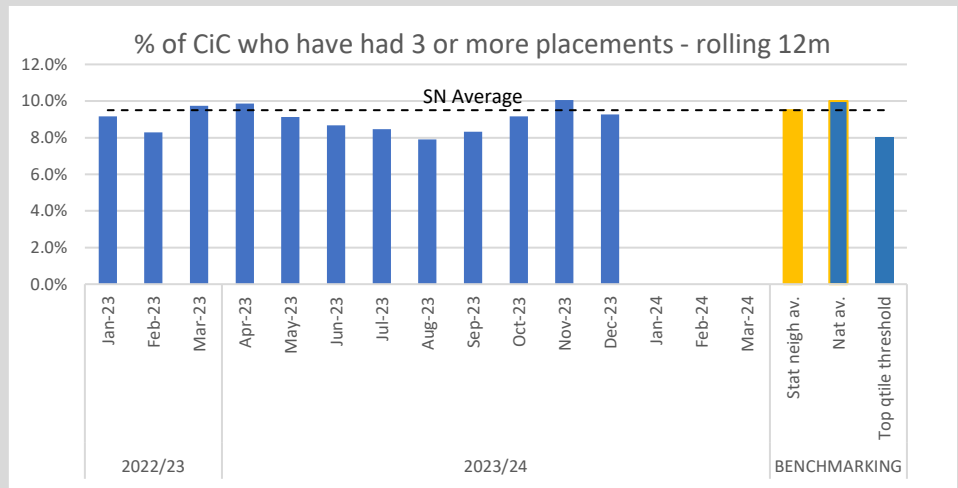
% of children in a family based placement

% of children in a parental or kinship care placement

Placed with parents/parent responsibility (P1) — In kinship care

25 placements created via foster carer approvals (ytd)
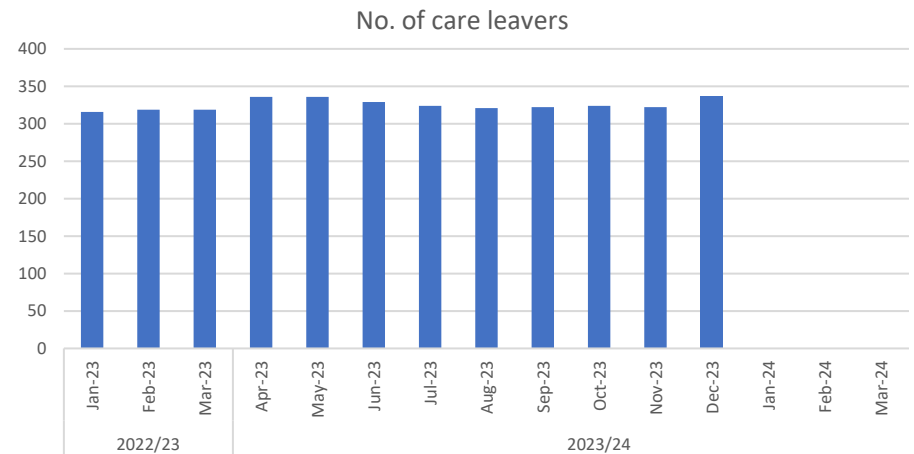
Adoptions & Care Leavers

Following a child becoming looked after, it may be deemed suitable for a child to become adopted which is a legal process of becoming a non-biological parent. The date this is agreed to be in the best interests of the child is known as their 'SHOBPA'. Following this a family finding process is undertaken to find a suitable match based on the child's needs, followed by placement with their adopter(s). Placement are monitored and assessed before the final adoption order is granted.

A care leaver is, a person 25yrs or under; has been looked after by a LA for 13wks+ since 14yrs; and has been looked after by a LA at school-leaving age or after.
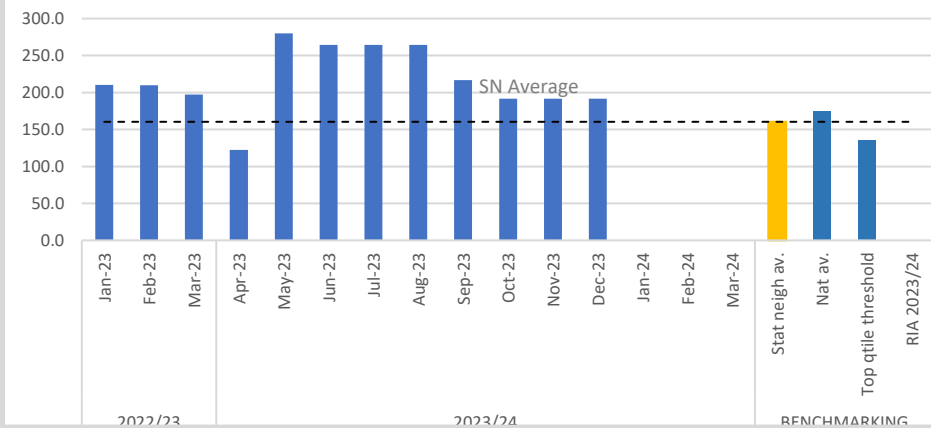
Adoptions

Av. days between becoming CiC & adoption placement (A10)
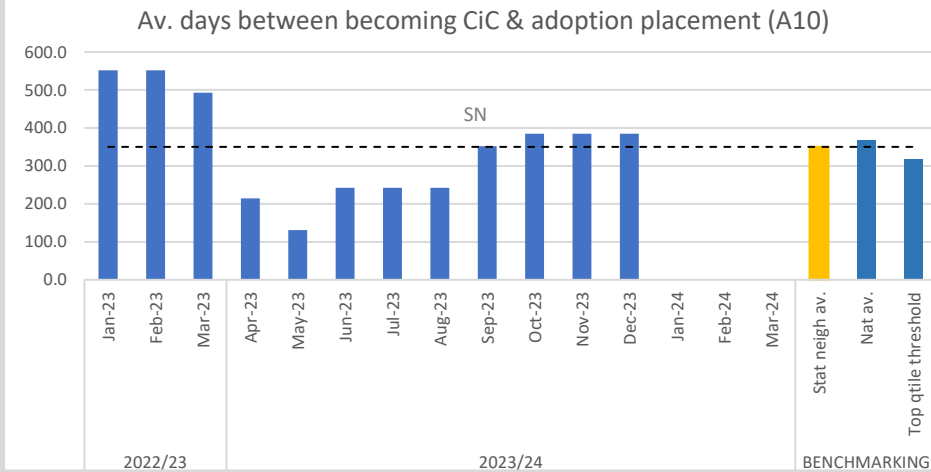
Av. days between placement order & adoptive family match (A2)

5 adoptions completed within 12 months of SHOBPA (ytd)

Care Leavers

No. of care leavers

337 care leavers as at the period end

72.7% of eligible CiC & care leavers had an up to date pathway plan at the period end

95.5% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation at the period end

72.4% of care leavers were in employment, education or training at the period end

South Yorkshire RAA Terms of Reference- Revised March 2023

(One Adoption South Yorkshire)

This governance structure provides a structure for the continuing development and delivery of the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency 'SYRAA'.

The SYRAA is an agreement between the following Local Authorities:

i. City of Doncaster Council;
ii. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council;
iii. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council; and
iv. Sheffield City Council

Together known as the "Partner Agencies".

This Schedule will be subject to revision through the operation and decision-making process of the Head of Service for the SYRAA ("Head of Service") and the SYRAA Governance Board ("Governance Board").

Purpose and Objectives

The following principles were agreed at the SYRAA's inception and SYRAA governance will ensure that there is:

(i) strategic oversight and direction of the SYRAA;

(ii) a clear definition of roles and responsibilities at organisation, group and individual level; and

(iii) a clear structure for coherent, timely and efficient decision-making.

Key features of the SYRAA governance arrangements are:

1). Head of Service

The Head of Service, appointed by the City of Doncaster Council (the "Host Agency") shall provide overall strategic oversight and direction to SYRAA.

The Head of Service shall be line- managed by the Assistant Director for Children, Young People and Families for the Host Agency in accordance with the terms as set out in the Business Case and the Agreement with its Schedules.

The Head of Service will report to and is accountable to the Governance Board.

The Head of Service will also report to:

- The 4 local corporate parenting boards; and
- The 4 local scrutiny panels.

The Head of Service will provide strategic management and will provide assurance to the SYRAA that key aims and objectives are being met and that the SYRAA is performing within the boundaries set by the Governance Board.

2).The Governance Board

The Governance Board is constituted by the appointment of one representative from each Partner Agency at Senior Management level, either the Director of Children's Services or the Executive Director of Children's Services. Partner Agency representatives must have decision-making capabilities at the highest level. The Partner Agency members will have voting rights at the Governance Board.

Representatives will also be included from:

- Adoption UK
- Health
- Education
- Voluntary Alliance
- Adopters and other service users

These representatives will be non-voting members.

The Chief Finance Officer for the SYRAA ("CFO") and the Head of Service will also be members of the Governance Board as non-voting members.

The Voluntary Adoption Agency ("VAA") representatives will not be entitled to a vote.

Aims of the Governance Board

The aims of the Governance Board include:

- To provide oversight, strategic direction and decision making for the SYRAA (to be known as OASY) on behalf of the members.
- To maintain links with interested parties in their own organisations
- To include decisions in regards of direction and constitution of the staff employed by the Host Agency to work on behalf of the SYRAA
- To ensure there is a coherent vision and strategy for the SYRAA and ensure the strategic vision is delivered
- To ensure regular and robust monitoring of performance and service delivery of SYRAA
- To represent the interests of all Partner Agencies in respect of governance and accountability
- Act as a consultative body, performing a check and challenge function to the Head of Service.
- Monitor the monthly initially then bi-monthly and eventually quarterly performance and financial targets.
- Assist in the completion of an annual review and approve the annual report
- Each representative will brief practitioners within their portfolio of responsibility, local council members and local scrutiny groups as appropriate.
- Each representative will report to their respective Council their own findings from the SYRAA annual report.

Financial Responsibilities of the Governance Board

- To ensure the solvency of the SYRAA

- To ensure the SYRAA complies with legal and statutory responsibilities
- To safeguard SYRAA assets
- To ensure the effective and efficient use of SYRAA resources
- To ensure that financial control systems are in place and working effectively
- To approve the annual financial statements and the annual budget
- To appoint the SYRAA's internal and external auditors
- To approve contracts over £20,000 (excluding inter agency placements) in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Structure of the Governance Board/Voting Rights

- The Board will be supported by the SYRAA Business Manager (appointed by the Host Agency) and in their absence the Host Agency will provide business support on behalf of the Partner Agencies.
- Each voting Partner Agency representative will have one vote and all proposals should be made by one partner (at least) and seconded by one partner.
- Decisions will be made on a majority vote of those partners present.
- The Host Agency will chair the Governance Board initially and after 12 months the Governance Board Chair could be rotated on a 12 monthly basis if agreed by the Governance Board. The Governance Board Chair cannot also act as a Partner Agency representative at the Governance Board meetings.
- A Vice Chair will be chosen by the existing Governance Board.
- The Governance Board Chair shall have the casting vote.
- The Governance Board Chair shall have regard for the overall interests of the service not the Partner Agency they represent.
- The Vice Chair will be appointed annually
- A meeting of the Governance Board shall be quorate if 75% of its members who are entitled to vote are present.
- Each member will appoint a proxy member to attend in their absence. The proxy member must have delegated authority. If either the member or proxy cannot attend the Governance Board meeting, then a written submission will be considered.
- Governance Board membership is to be agreed annually in accordance with the terms of the Partnership Agreement.

Governance Board Members agree to:

- Commit to attend at least 5 Governance Board meetings per year or proxy in their absence.
- Commit to not using a proxy for two Governance Board meetings in a row.
- Communicate and promote the SYRAA within their organisations.

Structure of the meetings

- Meeting dates will be agreed twelve-months in advance.

- Governance Board Meetings will be held monthly and then bi-monthly then quarterly. The point at which meetings become quarterly will be determined by the Governance Board.
- Agendas and papers will be circulated 5 working days before the meeting by the SYRAA Business Manager
- The agenda will be set by the Governance Board Chair in conjunction with the Head of Service
- Minutes will be taken of Governance Board meetings and decisions recorded for review.
- Completed minutes will be submitted for agreement at the following meeting.
- Once agreed minutes will be made available to Governance Board members and shared with SYRAA staff and adopters via the SYRAA web-site.

Delegated Decision-making

Finance

Finance Schedule
(Final) 18.12.20.pdf

Staffing

Staff (Final).pdf

Responsibilities of Governance Board Members to report back to their individual Boards

Governance Board members will be responsible to their Local Corporate Parenting Boards and Scrutiny Boards for the activities of the SYRAA on behalf of local children and families.

Each representative will brief their portfolio members and scrutiny groups as appropriate regarding the activities and performance of the SYRAA.

Each representative will report to their own Council or Agency their own findings from the SYRAA Annual Report

Declarations of Interest and Registrations of Governance Board Member Interests

These will be deemed to have been declared as part of Governance Board members employment with their respective authorities.

VAA Board members, adopter representatives, Health and Education representatives may be asked to withdraw from sections of the meeting where information may be sensitive. This will be at the discretion of the Governance Board Chair.

3). Adoption Support Sub-Board

Membership:

- Head of Service
- Service Manager for Adoption Support
- Virtual Heads Representative
- Health Representative
- Adopter-Voice and Adopter Engagement Officer
- Adopter representative from each local authority area

The purpose and role of the meeting is to:

Provide a forum for a proactive dialogue between local partners, adopters and OASY to identify adopter support provision across South Yorkshire and ensure adopters are able to gain access, identify any gaps in provision and plan collectively to address those gaps.

Accountability and Responsibility:

Members commit to attending meetings or nominate a suitable substitute who can attend in their place who will be expected to make decisions as needed. All members of the meeting will be responsible for reporting to their own organisations, through their respective governance arrangements.

This meeting reports through to the SYRAA Governance Board which provides oversight of the SYRAA. Where there is an issue that cannot be resolved at this meeting and a decision cannot be reached the matter will be taken for further discussion and decision at the Governance Board.

Meetings

- Shall be quarterly initially but may be determined to be more frequent or less frequent but no less than bi annually.
- The Head of Service will act as Chairperson for ongoing meetings
- The Business Support Manager will be responsible for agreeing meeting agendas with the Head of Service and approving minutes for circulation.
- Agendas and papers for the meeting will be sent out by the Business Support Manager at least two working days prior to the meeting in order to provide time for members to read them and identify actions for their own organisations.

4). Operational Leads Meeting

Membership:

- Head of Service

- Senior representative from each local authority with a lead on adoption.
- Service Managers from OASY and Service Managers responsible for adoption within the Local Authorities
- Business Support Manager

The purpose and role of the meeting is to:

- To provide a forum for a proactive dialogue between the local authority and SYRAA to improve the outcomes for children, birth parents and adopters across South Yorkshire.
- To make decisions regarding streamlining to improve processes and systems at the interface between each Partner Agency and SYRAA to prevent delay for children and to improve performance and efficiency.
- To discuss and agree decisions regarding the Business Plan for clarity as the work progresses.
- To discuss interface and services provided by partners that impact both on the Partner Agency and SYRAA regarding adoption.

Accountability and Responsibility:

Members commit to attending meetings or nominate a suitable substitute who can attend in their place who will be expected to make decisions as needed. All members of the meeting will be responsible for reporting to their own organisations, through their respective governance arrangements.

This meeting reports through to the SYRAA Governance Board which provides oversight of the SYRAA. Where there is an issue that cannot be resolved at this meeting and a decision cannot be reached the matter will be taken for further discussion and decision at the Governance Board.

Meetings

- Shall be quarterly initially but may be determined to be more frequent or less frequent but no less than bi annually.
- The Head of Service will act as Chairperson for ongoing meetings
- The Business Support Manager will be responsible for agreeing meeting agendas with the Head of Service and approving minutes for circulation.
- Agendas and papers for the meeting will be sent out by the Business Support Manager at least two working days prior to the meeting in order to provide time for members to read them and identify actions for their own organisations.

5). SYRAA Senior Leadership Team Meetings

Membership

- Head of Service
- 3 SYRAA Service Managers
- SYRAA Business Manager

- Adopter Representatives from Adoption-UK and the local Adopter Engagement Officer

The purpose of this meeting is to make operational decisions regarding the direct activity of the SYRAA. Attendees will report on activity in their respective localities and in their respective areas of responsibility.

Accountability and Responsibility:

Members commit to attending meetings or nominate a suitable substitute who can attend in their place who will be expected to make decisions as needed. All members of the meeting will be responsible for reporting to their own localities and their respective areas of responsibility and ensuring that decisions are implemented.

Meetings

- Shall be monthly
- The Head of Service will act as Chairperson for ongoing meetings. In the absence of the Head of Service one of the Service Managers will be designated to chair.
- All members will be responsible for agreeing meeting agendas with the Head of Service and notes and an action log will be provided.
- Agendas and papers for the meeting will be sent out by the Head of Service at least two working days prior to the meeting.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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