

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH**

Date: Wednesday, 8 July, 2009

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered later in the agenda as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies.
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 25th March, 2009 (copy attached) (Pages 1 - 7)
6. Looked After Children Council (report attached) (Pages 8 - 18)
7. Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel - Draft Work Programme 2009/2010 (report attached) (Pages 19 - 22)
8. Offending by Looked After Children (report attached) (Pages 23 - 26)
9. Outcomes for Children and Young People Placed on Care Orders with Family Members or At Home (report attached) (Pages 27 - 29)
10. Fostering Fortnight / Recruitment Update (including BME Recruitment) (report attached) (Pages 30 - 31)
11. Looked After Children Profile (report attached) (Pages 32 - 35)
12. Looked After Children - Percentage of Looked After Children Missing School 2008/09 (report attached) (Pages 36 - 37)

13. Issues Emerging from Regulation 33 Reports on residential Homes (report attached) (Pages 38 - 50)
14. Performance Against Key Indicators (report attached) (Pages 51 - 63)

**Date of Next Meeting:-
Wednesday, 23 September 2009**

Membership:-

Chairman – Councillor G. A. Russell.
Councillors Austen, Burton, Dodson, J. Hamilton, Jack, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Swift.
Together with Co-optees:- Mr. P. Howe, Mr. D. Trickett, Mrs. A. Lidster and Mrs. A. Wild

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL
Wednesday, 25th March, 2009

Present:- G. A. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, McNeely, P. A. Russell and Swift.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dodson and J. Hamilton and from Mr. D. Trickett.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH DECEMBER 2008

Agreed:- (1) That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel, held on 10th December, 2008, be approved as a correct record.

(2) That, with regard to Minute No. 11(2) – a Members' seminar be arranged on the Educational Achievements of Looked After Children.

(3) That, with regard to Minute No. 13(3) (Work Placement and Work Opportunities), it was noted that discussions are taking place with partners and progress will be reported to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Sub-Panel.

(4) That progress reports about the following items be submitted to the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel:-

(a) Minute No. 12(2) – Care Matters Update; progress of the cross-directorate task and finish group; and

(b) Minute No. 14 – Looked After Children's Council – update and minutes.

21. THE HEALTH NEEDS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report presented by Louise Bishop and Sue Gittins (NHS Rotherham) concerning the progress made in developing health systems to meet the health needs of looked after children and young people in Rotherham. The report provided outline information about:-

i) health services and outcomes for the period from October 2007 to October 2008;

- ii) statutory health assessments, dental checks and immunisations; and
- iii) teenage pregnancy in relation to looked after children.

The Scrutiny Sub-Panel's discussion about this issue included the following salient issues:-

- the expense of looked after children being placed out-of-authority;
- the difficulty of maintaining statistics of teenage pregnancies amongst looked after young people;
- the role of the locality teams and social workers in support of looked after children and young people;
- the audit of the quality of the statutory health assessments and access to basic services, such as GP and dental services; it has been recognised that a health team needs to be developed, similar to teams in other areas; this audit is intended to provide data for the development of this team.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That a progress report health about the health needs of looked after children and young people in Rotherham be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Sub-Panel, with particular reference to the completion of the audit and the development of the health team.

22. ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND ADOPTED CHILDREN THROUGH THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND ADOPTED CHILDREN SUPPORT TEAM

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Manager of the Looked After Children and Adoption Support Team concerning the access to mental health services for looked after children and young people, with assistance from the Support Team.

The report stated that national research had indicated that being a looked after child on a long term basis is an important predictor of social exclusion in adulthood. There is a higher than average rate of poor mental health, drug use, anti social behaviour and poor educational attainment reduces the prospects of employment, (Social Exclusion Unit 2003). 45% of Looked After Children aged 5 – 17 years old in England have mental health difficulties, which is four times the rate of other children and is higher amongst boys, older children and children in residential homes.

The Looked After Children and Adoption Support Team provided a short term service of support to looked after children, their carers, their workers, and adoptive families in Rotherham. The aim of this work is to enhance understanding of early life trauma, abuse and neglect upon children's

physical and emotional wellbeing, and to support and develop skills in assisting the parenting of children who have experienced such early life difficulties. The Support Team will continue to develop:-

- (i) their skills and knowledge to provide a quality service to support the physical and emotional needs of looked after children;
- (ii) tools to support workers, especially in respect of work around transitions and change, life story, understanding the association between feelings and behaviours, the impact of early life trauma upon children, and managing behaviour; and
- (iii) group work around providing therapeutic foster care provision; the eventual aim is to provide tools and resources that will be available for use by other professionals.

The Scrutiny Sub-Panel noted that, from April 2008, all local authorities in England were required to provide information about the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children and young people between the ages of 4 – 16 years old. The screening tool used to collate this information is the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire which should be completed by the child's main carer, typically a foster carer, or residential worker, if the child is in a residential placement.

Reference was made to:-

- the establishment of a key performance indicator for completion of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire for all Looked After Children aged between 4 and 16 years;
- the many events facilitated by the Looked After Children and Adoption Support Team, during 2009;
- the funding of the Support Team by means of a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services grant;
- the difficult transition from into adulthood for looked after young people, facing issues which sometimes leads to greater demand for mental health services;
- factors for triggering reassessment;
- whether all categories of children in care are completing the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire;
- provision of DDP training.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That a progress report about the function and work of the Looked After

Children and Adoption Support Team be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Sub-Panel.

23. PROGRESS AGAINST FOSTERING INSPECTION ACTION PLAN AND OUTCOME OF OFSTED MONITORING VISIT TO FOSTERING SERVICES - JANUARY 2009

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Targeted Services stating that Rotherham's fostering services were inspected in May 2008 and an inadequate rating was given overall. A detailed and substantive action plan, based upon the statutory requirements and the recommendations made by the Inspectors, has been in place since that time. This submitted report included up-to-date information on the progress against that action plan, with a particular focus on the issue of the previous inappropriate use of exemptions and the consequent placement of children out-of-category with some carers. Additionally, the Ofsted inspection team re-visited Rotherham in January, 2009 on a monitoring visit to give feed back and advice on progress made since the full inspection in May 2008. Details from the finding of that January monitoring visit were also included within the report.

Discussion took place on the requirement to ensure that any holiday accommodation occupied for a prolonged period of time was suitable.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel be informed of the outcome of the forthcoming Ofsted re-inspection, taking place during May 2009, of the Authority's fostering and inspection services.

24. RECRUITMENT OF NEW FOSTER CARERS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Targeted Services detailing the progress of the foster carer's recruitment campaign, previously considered by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services. The report included the up-to-date position in terms of new and potential foster carers and analysed the resource implications arising from initial success within the campaign. Panel members noted the length of time taken from the initial expression of interest in becoming a foster carer, through the training process and eventual approval of people as foster carers.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel be informed of the outcome of the forthcoming Ofsted inspection, taking place during May 2009, of fostering and inspection services, with particular regard to the campaign for the recruitment of potential foster carers.

25. CHILDREN'S HOMES - SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES AND EVENTS -

MARCH 2008 TO MARCH 2009

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Director of Targeted Services containing a summary of the main issues and events occurring in Rotherham's mainstream Children's Homes between March, 2008 and March, 2009:-

- : Goodwin Crescent Children's Home, Swinton
- : Young Person's Centre, Hollowgate, Rotherham town centre
- : St. Edmunds Avenue Children's Home Thurcroft
- : Silverwood (formerly Creswick Road) Children's Home, East Herringthorpe
- : Studmoor Road Children's Home, Kimberworth Park

The report had been prepared as a consequence of the visits and reports made under Regulation 33 of the Children's Home's Regulations 2001 including the outcomes for Looked After Children, feedback from visits by Elected Members and also the Ofsted Inspection Reports. The statutory requirements and guidance, particularly in relation to the registration of the local authority as a provider of residential accommodation, were clarified.

The following issues were highlighted in the report:-

- the statement of purpose and function for each children's home;
- capital investment in children's homes;
- serious incidents, as defined by the Children's Home's Regulations 2001 and reported to Ofsted;
- complaints received and dealt with, relating to the children's homes;
- the health and well-being of children and young people resident at the homes;
- children as missing persons from the homes;
- staffing and workforce development and the consultation about raising the qualifications of people working in children's homes;
- Ofsted inspections (both planned and unannounced) of the children's homes;
- finance and the budgets for the children's homes.

Agreed:- That the report be received and its contents noted.

26. PERCENTAGE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN LOOKED AFTER CONTINUOUSLY FOR TWELVE MONTHS AND WHO

HAVE MISSED 25 DAYS OR MORE OF SCHOOLING FOR ANY REASON

Further to Minute No. 10 of the meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel held on 10th December, 2008, consideration was given to a report presented by Martin Smith, Manager of the Get Real Team, detailing the role of the Get Real Team in raising the attainment, achievement and aspirations of young people in care in Rotherham, mainly via short term intervention work, in addition to monitoring and supporting attendance at school across all key stages.

The report stated that by 25th February, 2009, out of 216 young people of school age looked after by this Council, 8.79% have reached 25 days or more missing from school. (19 students in total) compared to 12.06% (24 students) at the same time in 2008. Details of the type of placement for these young people were also listed in the report.

Reference was made to the preparation of personal education plans for the looked after children and young people in Rotherham.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel detailing the progress being made in raising the attainment, achievement and aspirations of young people in care in Rotherham, with particular reference to the level of attendance at school.

(3) That the further report, referred to at (2) above, shall detail the progress in completing personal education plans for the looked after children and young people in Rotherham.

27. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROFILE

The Director of Targeted Services submitted a report providing the quarterly statistics and profile of the number of looked after children and young people in Rotherham. The report stated that, as at 28th February 2009, there were 391 looked after children, 28 of whom were supported by the children's disability team. This number was an increase from 353 children in June 2008 and 387 in December 2008.

Statistics were included in the report of the type of care received by looked after children and young people, their age range, type of care order and ethnic backgrounds.

Agreed:- That the report be received and its contents noted.

28. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY SUB-PANEL - WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

Discussion took place on the items to be included in the work programme of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel for the 2009/2010 Municipal Year. A number of items had already been identified as a consequence of matters discussed at both this and previous meetings. It was agreed that Scrutiny Sub-Panel members should submit other suggested items for the work programme, to the Senior Scrutiny Adviser, in readiness for further discussion at the next meeting.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel take place at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Thursday, 25th June, 2009, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub Panel
2.	Date:	Wednesday 8th July 2009
3.	Title:	Looked After Children Council
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report outlines for members the duties placed upon local authorities within the Care Matters agenda to put into place new processes to hear the voice of the looked after child and to ensure that their needs are listened to and responded to. The report also details progress made towards these requirements.

The LAC Council has now met with Elected Members on 3 occasions. Their work has included; work on the councils 'pledge' to Looked after Children; development of a magazine for Looked after Children and work towards a full 'fun' day for a larger group of LAC which will enable wider consultation

6. Recommendations

- **That the contents of the report are noted.**

7. Proposals and Details

Background

"Despite high ambitions and a shared commitment for change, outcomes for children and young people in care have not sufficiently improved. There remains a significant gap between the quality of their lives and those of all children", (Care Matters, time for Change). The Time for Change agenda sets out the steps that are necessary to improve service delivery and to improve the life changes for children in care.

One of the key requirements of the Time for Change agenda is that each local authority should put in place arrangements for a 'Children in Care Council'. The aims of these are to give children in care a forum to express their views and influence the services and support that they receive. LAC Council members are required to meet with Directors and Elected Members in order to ensure their involvement in shaping and developing all aspects of the service delivered to them.

The responsibility for this development has been delegated to Brian Sampson, the Looked After Children's Activities coordinator, who is based within the Looked After and Adopted Children's Support Team. There has also been some support from youth services, including a retreat at Hollowford, and Thrybergh Country Park. Team Manager, (LAAC ST Anne-Marie Banks) has attended retreats, and LAC Meetings, and Sue May, (Service Manager - Provider Services) has also been involved in the development of the LAC Council.

Progress Report

The LAC Council Membership

The LAC Council was established in September 2009. Brian Sampson identified a group of ten looked after children who were keen to bring the LAC Council forward. These are detailed below:

- TM (16 years)
- DM (14 years)
- VM (15 years)
- DM (13 years)
- LC (15 years)
- CC (14 years)
- CH (17 years)
- AD, (15 years)
- MS (13 years)
- AE (12 years)

AD and CH later withdrew from the council. Brian was later approached by a sibling group of four young people who expressed an interest in joining the group. These are:

- ZR
- LR
- KR
- AR

Meetings and events

A fund was identified to allow this group to work with the Lindley Educational Trust at the Hollowford centre in Castleton over a period of three years.

It was hoped that this programme would:

- Assist the Council to develop as a group,
- Achieve recognisable educational outcomes, and
- Be able to participate in a range of enjoyable and stretching activities.

On the 25th October 2008, a training/ developmental day took place at Hollowford, when the LAC council met together. Issues and outcomes of this meeting were:

- The role of the LAC Council
- The group identity
- Ground rules for the LAC Council
- The 'Pledge' (draft)
- Rights of LAC children

A further event was arranged to take place at Hollowford on 7th February 2009, but unfortunately due to weather conditions at the time, the event was cancelled.

A retreat was later held at Thrybergh Country Park on the 14th February 2009. Issues that arose at this were:

- Further group work
- Work on the Pledge
- The idea for the Magazina
- Discussion about widening the LAC Council to other children

A further retreat is aimed to take place in Autumn, which will be held at the Hollowford Centre

In addition, the LAC Council have met

- 3rd March 2009: The Magazina (International Centre)
- 25th March 2009: The Magazina (Unity Centre)
- 3rd April 2009: The Unity Centre (The Magazina & expanding the group)
- 24th April 2009: The Unity Centre (Cancelled due to young people unavailable)
- 5th May 2009: Council Chambers: (Met with Councillor Russell)
- 8th May 2009: The Unity Centre:
- 22nd May 2009: The Unity Centre

Next meeting 19th June 2009

The LAC Council have met with Directors and Elected members

- 31st October 2008
- 17th February 2009

Work completed to date:

The LAC Council have recently published the 'Magazina', which has been distributed to all children in care. The next issue will be ready for distribution in autumn 2009. In addition, all Looked After Children who are 12 years + have been sent a copy of the 'Who Cares' publication, which will be distributed by Brian Sampson on a quarterly basis from hereon. This magazine is published by the 'Who Cares' trust, and is specifically aimed at children in care. There is a similar magazine, which is published by the same organisation, which is aimed at a younger audience. Brian is currently in consultation with Martin Smith of the Get Real Team, to determine whether this can also be made available.

The LAC Council have compiled their 'Pledge'. This is currently in the process of being formatted into a wallet size version, and will be distributed to Children's Social Care workers to remind them of the views of children in care.

The LAC have met on a regular basis to:

- Develop as a group
- Produce and publish their Magazina
- Talk about roles and responsibilities of group members
- Produce the 'Pledge' (promise)
- Discuss how to attract a greater membership
- What they would like from meetings

- They are currently in the process of revisiting some of the previous agenda items which they want to address further, (promoting foster carers, and toiletries for children in residential units)
- Acquiring ID badges
- Enjoy food and refreshments together as part of the meeting. However the group are keen to keep the format formal

The way forward: Further development

The LAC council have been supported to develop their own agenda and make their own decisions about the operation of the group within a number of given outcomes. Work continues to develop the council. Brian Sampson is currently in the process of compiling a diary of events for the LAC Council. This will include LAC meetings, retreats and events of the LAC Council, and meetings with the Directors and Elected Members.

The LAC Council, supported by Brian Sampson and Anne-marie Banks, are in the process of arranging and facilitating an event for a wider group of children in care. The aim of this is to promote the LAC Council to a wider audience, consult with, and share information, encourage group membership and develop participation. It is also hoped to make this day a joyful experience to Looked After children, where young people can share their experiences in a fun and challenging way. There has been some discussion about using 'Local Authority Business Growth Incentives' scheme funding, (LABGI) to finance this event, and to draw on such organisations, as the SWAMP Circus to facilitate this event, and to make it a memorable event for the children who participate.

8. Finance

This work will be managed within existing identified financial provision. There is the scope for the Lindley Educational Trust to work with the LAC Council members to apply for additional funding to support further developments if identified within this work.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A worker from youth services will be identified to co-facilitate the LAC Council and to help shape its future. Without this support, it will be difficult to maintain the momentum and young people may drop out.

The youth service is also exploring suitable venues for the group to use as a meeting place.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This has been written with reference to the Care Matters Agenda, Action and Implementation plans.

Contact Name :

Anne-Marie Banks – LAAC Support Team Manager
Anne-marie.banks@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix: One

THE PROMISE

ROTHERHAM LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S CABINET

- People should be on time for meetings and appointments
- Carry actions through. Do what you say you are going to do.
- Be contactable at any time
- Respect others and us
- Listen to us
- Show us that you are interested in us
- Positive body language
- Children's appointments come first, be on time
- Be friendly and approachable
- Have enough money for the important things. Give us choices on how we spend out money
- Keep records our lives. Let us see them if we want to
- Praise our foster cares
- Upgrade 'promise packs' for older people
- Make sure people are happy in their placement
- Make sure our carers want to do it for us, not just for money. Make sure we are part of the family
- Make sure we know why we have been put into care
- Make sure we are happy
- Make sure our social workers visit us more
- Make sure we get the correct pocket money for our age
- Make sure we keep in touch with support services
- Make sure if we want to join in activities, WE CAN!

THE PROMISE

Everyone involved in our care:

- Respect others and us
- Listen to us
- Show us that you are interested in us
- Be friendly and approachable
- Positive body language
- Make sure we are happy
- People should be on time for meetings and appointments

Social workers:

- Children's appointments come first, be on time
- Carry actions through. Do what you say you are going to do.
- Make sure our social workers visit us more
- Be contactable at anytime

Foster carers:

- Praise our foster cares
- Make sure people are happy where their placement is
- Make sure our carers want to do it for us, not just for money. Make sure we are part of the family

Life story:

- Make sure we know why we have been put into care
 - Keep records our lives. Let us see them if we want to
 - Have enough money for the important things. Give us choices on how we spend out money
 - Upgrade promise packs for older people
 - Make sure we get the correct pocket money for our age
 - Make sure we keep in touch with the LAAC Support Team, The Activity Project, and The Get Real Team
 - Make sure if we want to join in activities, WE CAN!

Appendix: Two

**Rotherham M.B.C. LAC Council Meeting
31st October 2008**

Present:-

Councillor Shaun Wright	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
The Mayor of Rotherham (Councillor Ann Russell)	Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel (and of the LAC Scrutiny Sub-Group)
Joyce Thacker	Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services
Pam Allen	Director of Locality Services
Simon Perry	Director of Targeted Services
Sue May	LAC Service Manager
Brian Sampson	Activity coordinator
Lydia Catterall	Young Advisor

Nine members of the LAC Council

Apologies for absence : (none)

The meeting was chaired by a member of the LAC Council

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. The Role and Work of the LAC Council - Presentation

The LAC Council members undertook a brief presentation on their work to date, including initial work on their proposals to the directors and elected members on the contents of the Corporate Parenting promise to them as Looked after Children. (a copy of the presentation is attached).

3. Discussion about the Role and Work of the LAC Council

After the presentation, the meeting was opened up for discussion and the following key points were made:-

(a) The work undertaken on the promise was praised by Directors and Elected Members and the requests were considered to be reasonable;

(b) Looked after Children wanted to see their social workers more often than every six weeks and wanted to be taken out for activities by them, to have a real relationship with their worker. They wanted to cut down on the number of changes of allocated worker and to have a means of contacting their worker when they felt it necessary. Some workers routinely give out their mobile telephone number, but this practice is not consistent amongst all workers;

(c) Looked after Children wanted to be listened to and to feel that any complaint would be resolved as quickly as possible;

(d) Ease of communication was a vitally important issue to the LAC Council, options for communication were discussed; some form of Help line or contact point, perhaps using text messaging, was suggested;

(e) The LAC Council felt that it was embarrassing to require police checks on family and friends prior to an overnight stay; some form of assessment is required, but this can be reviewed;

(f) Pocket money was also an issue; specific issues about money for bus fares and for toiletries within the residential children's homes will be examined;

(g) Delays in decision making for funding for school holidays had meant some children reported missing deadlines.

(h) The LAC Council felt that Foster Carers should be praised and the meeting suggested options such as: (i) giving money to all fostered children to buy their carer a present for Christmas; (ii) giving foster carers some form of pamper session; or (iii) perhaps a meal out, without the children.

4. Action Points Agreed

The meeting agreed the following action points:-

(1) The LAC Council will meet with Elected Members and Service Directors at least four times per year;

(2) Agenda items for these meetings may be suggested by the LAC Council or by any other member;

(3) The LAC Council commits to developing a means to ensure they have consulted with all Looked after Children and will be supported to achieve this consultation;

(4) Further to (3) above, the LAC Council will commit to ensuring some means of election to the LAC Council;

(5) The LAC Council will be supported to develop their own control of the group and will be assisted to write their own reports when they are ready to do this;

(6) LAC Council members will be issued with a Borough Council ID card for attendance at meetings within Rotherham Town Hall;

(7) All comments and actions suggested above will be considered by Elected Members and Service Directors and a response made to the LAC Council.

Next LAC Council meeting with the elected members: 17th February 2009

Appendix: Three

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

ROTHERHAM LAC COUNCIL MEETING – WITH ELECTED MEMBERS

Date: 17TH February 2009

Present

The Looked After Children Council Members:

Young person (Chair person)

7 other Looked After Children

Elected Members and Directors and Children's Social Care Workers

The Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Ann Russell

Councillor Shaun Wright (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services)

Joyce Thacker (Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services)

Pam Allen (Director of Locality Services)

Sue May (Looked After Services Manager)

Anne-Marie Banks (Manager Looked After and Adopted Children's Support Team)

The Meeting was chaired by Dominic Mawbey of the Looked After Children's Council

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and reminded everyone that this was the second meeting with elected members. He explained that the LAC Council had met together on Saturday 14th February 2009 and worked together on the ways that the council would like to move forward to represent the views of all Looked After children in Rotherham

Presentation by X and Y (young people): The Magazina

X and Y handed out documents explaining about the LAC Magazina. They gave people the opportunity of reading their work and then asked for questions.

X and Y explained that they had been working on a plan to develop a newsletter/magazine which they would like to be made available for all Looked After Children in Rotherham. They explained that they wanted to name the magazine, 'Magazina'. They had been working on ways the magazina would represent both boys and girls views, and younger and older children. They wanted to include lots of interesting articles in the magazine, a problem page; quiz's, interviews, puzzles and word searches.

Simon Perry asked how frequently the magazine would be published, and there was some discussion within the LAC Council about how frequently they could realistically be able to publish the magazine, given the hard work and commitment this would involve. X and Y said that they would like to publish their magazine weekly, but it might be monthly or three monthly.

Joyce Thacker, and Councillor Shaun Wright indicated that there were services available within the council that the young people could access, such as rooms, computers and computer programmes. Services which might be able to offer advice and support could be the Communications Team, and the Young Journalist Project.

Councillor Ann Russell said that magazine prizes could include tea with the Mayor in the Mayors parlour, a tour of the Town Hall and photographs with the Mayor. Ann Russell suggested that competition winners could bring along a friend.

Councillor Shaun Wright enquired whether there was a national magazine aimed at Looked After Children. There was some discussion about one such magazine, 'Who Care's', but after some discussion it was felt that the magazine was aimed more at professionals and older care leavers.

Some of the LAC Council said that they would like to be able to have a copy of the 'Who Cares' magazine.

LAC Council members indicated that they would like a Rotherham magazine about Rotherham young Looked After Children. They said that they could later look at widening this out across South Yorkshire or Nationally.

X and Y also then handed out two questionnaires.

The first questionnaire was related to the Magazine. X and Y explained that they would distribute this to young people to be able to feed back their thoughts about the Magazine.

They also handed out a questionnaire that they wanted to use with 'interesting people' in the council.

The Mayor, Councillor Ann Russell, Councillor Shaun Wright, Joyce Thacker, Simon Perry, Pam Allen, and Sue May all agreed to be interviewed.

Simon Perry commented that the journalists of the Magazine should be able to interview any worker within Children's Social Care.

Presentation by Z: The Promise

Z explained that further work had been completed on the Promise. There was some discussion about how the promise could be published. The LAC Council wanted posters to be available in all council buildings, and wanted all social workers to know about it.

Pam Allen suggested holding a day event where the LAC Council could present the Promise, holding workshops around their wishes and feelings.

LABGI: Grant of £30,000

Z handed out work that had been undertaken by the LAC Council around the LABGI Grant of £30,000. He gave people the time to read this and then asked for questions

Next LAC Council meeting with the elected members: 29th May

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel
2.	Date:	Wednesday 8 July, 2009
3.	Title:	Draft work programme for 2009/10
4.	Directorate:	Chief Executive's All Wards

5. Summary

This report reminds the Panel of its terms of reference and suggests an outline work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year that includes the key matters for scrutiny known to date and incorporates those areas identified by the Sub-Panel at previous meetings.

6. Recommendations

That:

- a. The LAC Scrutiny Sub-Panel's Terms of Reference be noted;**
- b. The Panel discusses the draft work programme and its priorities for the coming year.**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 The work of the Sub-Panel includes scrutiny of:

- To review reports on Councillor visits to children and young people's residential establishments;
- In liaison with Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, to visit children and young people's residential establishments on a rotational basis and make arrangement to meet looked after children who are being fostered and their carers.
- To consider and monitor reports on the extent to which the Council is meeting its statutory responsibilities to looked after children and care leavers as laid out in the Children Act 2004 and with regard to five themes of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda:
- To consider progress on meeting targets in Fostering and Adoption;
- To receive regular progress reports on the preventative measures being taken to reduce the overall number of children in the care of the Council;
- To keep under review the Council's arrangements for ensuring that it fulfils its role as corporate parent (including the arrangements for designated school governors) and make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet on improvements;
- To consider an annual report on the Council's performance as a Corporate Parent;
- To monitor the effectiveness of the Council's Corporate Parenting Strategy.

7.2 Each scrutiny panel must plan its forward work programme on an annual basis. An outline programme (attached as Appendix A) has been formulated reflecting Member's comments and incorporating those issues previously requested at panel meetings.

In addition to the issues raised by Members, quarterly monitoring meetings will be held to examine performance and budgetary issues relevant to the service areas. Issues emerging from inspections and monitoring of related themes in the Local Area Agreement will also be scheduled into the work programme.

Members should note that the 'Rotherham Review of Children's Services' will be presented to scrutiny in July 2009. Issues emerging from this review will need to be taken into consideration when planning the Panel's programme.

7.3 The LAC Council and NCH Leaving Care Service have been contacted to ask if there are any issues they wish the Sub-Panel to examine in greater

depth. Should issues come forward, these will need to be built into the work programme.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, recommendations arising from the panel may have financial implications should they be implemented.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Panel needs to be realistic in terms of its capacity to properly examine issues that come before it. Issues may be referred to the Panel which are not known about at this stage and therefore, the work programme must be flexible enough to re-schedule items as required.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Scrutiny panels have a key role in scrutinising the effectiveness of services. The areas identified in the work programme and for future review should complement the priorities identified in the Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and Children's Single Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- The Chair, Cllr Ann Russell
- Simon Perry, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services
- Members of LAC ScrutinySub-Panel

Contact: *Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, direct line: (01709) 822765*
e-mail: caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk

Draft Work Programme 2009/10

Looked-After Children scrutiny sub-panel

Month	Theme	Quarterly reports
July 8th 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Offending • outcomes for children and young people placed on care orders with family members or at home • fostering fortnight/ recruitment update (incl BME recruitment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues emerging from Regulation 33 reports • LAC Profile • performance against key indicators • Liaison with LAC Council
September 23rd 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening Access to Higher Educations to young people who have been in Local Authority Care • Educational achievement LAC • Outcome from the fostering inspection • 'Care Matters' - update 	
December 2nd 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services for Care Leavers • Job/training opportunities for LAC/ Care Leavers • corporate parenting update • leisure opportunities for LAC 	
March 24th 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health services to LAC • Mental health services 	

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub Panel
2.	Date:	Wednesday 8 th July 2009
3.	Title:	Offending by Looked After Children
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services – Youth Offending Services (YOS)

5. Summary:

Reports on this subject were first requested in 2005 due to local and national concerns that 'Looked After' children and young people were at significantly greater risk of offending than the general population. There was a particular concern, which had been commented upon by local Magistrates, that those who were accommodated in the residential sector were most likely to become involved in the criminal justice system. Specifically the focus was on 'violent and disorder' offences within our children's homes and the data for the most recent year [08-09] is below.

The current report also looks at the more general picture of offending by young people who have been looked after for at least 12 months on 31st March 2009 and covers offences committed between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009. It is acknowledged that previous reports have covered other periods of the year, but there is nothing to suggest that this would have any significant impact on general trends or patterns. It should also be noted that the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years, so the numbers of LAC under consideration here are those who have met the time factor of being looked after as above, and who are between 10 and 17 years of age.

6. Recommendations:

That the contents of this report be noted and support given for the actions outlined to further reduce offending by L.A.C.

7. Proposals and Details:

Offending by Young People in Residential Units

Previous reports have highlighted an ongoing reduction in the **number of offences** committed by the LAC population and this report confirms that the trend is continuing. The introduction of a structured Behaviour Management Policy within the residential units and revised guidance to Crown Prosecution Service lawyers regarding the prosecution of offences committed within the residential units have contributed significantly to this.

	2005			2006			2007/2008			2008/2009		
	Internal (within unit)	External	Total	Internal (within unit)	External	Total	Internal (within unit)	External	Total	Internal (within unit)	External	Total
Violence against the person	11	18	29	7	13	20	7	6	13	2	7	9
Criminal damage	8	7	15	2	4	6	0	1	1	0	5	5
Public Order	2	7	9	0	4	4	1	5	6	0	0	0
	21	32	53	9	21	30	8	12	20	2	12	14

It was the degree of violent offending in 2005 that sparked the original Scrutiny request for information. By any measure a reduction 53 offences to 14 in the space of three years is a commendable achievement. There is certainly no evidence or case to be made that the nature of the young people's behaviour or level of risk is any less in that period. Indeed, in the context of our children's homes, the reduction in the same period from 21 offences within the Home to only 2 is testimony to the improvements made in the practice of our staff and the sense of responsibility by the young people, particularly given that the age and care backgrounds of young people in residential care is such that there is often risk of volatile behaviour.

Number of LAC who are Offenders

At the previous Scrutiny consideration of this subject, the question was raised whether the specific focus on residential offending meant a lesser oversight on the general LAC population. In all measures and performance monitoring, it is the number of young people who have offended that is seen as the key figure, rather than the number of offences they have committed. In the year April 07 to March 08 a total of 21 LAC were responsible for 49 offences and this has reduced during the most recent period (1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009) to 20 young people committing 37 offences. These 20 were dealt with by the criminal justice system by appearance at Court and conviction [14 LAC] or diversionary sanction [6 LAC], i.e. Reprimand or Final Warning. This total of 20 represents 11.3% of the pertinent LAC population of 176.

The reduction in both the number of offences committed and the number of individuals responsible for their commission evidenced by the most recent data, was further analysed to reveal significant differences between offending rates across placement types.

Offending by Placement Type: 08-09

Placement type	Total in placement type	No. of offenders	%
Residential Care	32	8	25%
Foster Care	118	3	2.5%
With Parents	20	9	45%
Living Independently	6	0	-
Total	176	20	11.3%

Of the 20 LAC who committed offences 18 were subject to Care Orders. These 18 individuals were responsible for all but 3 of the 37 offences recorded. In terms of Court outcomes there were no significant differences by placement type; a total of 4 LAC received custodial sentences (2 from the residential sector and 2 who were placed with parents).

The LAC population as a whole remains significantly more likely to be involved in the criminal justice system than the wider population of 10 – 17 year olds. By virtue of their legal status, and the factors which have contributed to this, the LAC population will demonstrate a greater concentration of the features which increase the likelihood of offending eg lack of stability in personal relationships and accommodation, physical and emotional health difficulties, lack of educational achievement etc. Inevitably therefore the likelihood that offending by LAC will ever be reduced to the level of the rest of the community is questionable, but our determination and resolve will remain.

Having considered the significant differences in offending rates according to placement type it appears that no specific action is required to address the situation for those in foster care. However for those in residential units and more specifically those who are placed at home with their parent's, further consideration and measures are needed.

Suggested Actions

- The Care Plans of all LAC due to be returned to their parents care will specifically identify the risk of offending and put in place measure to reduce and minimise such risks, including referral to the Early Intervention Team in the relevant locality.
- Locality based Early Intervention Teams to establish closer links with residential units to ensure LAC population have access to appropriate diversionary / preventative activities.
- That the scrutiny of offending by LAC shift from the focus on residential homes to a more general overview and data and analysis, couple with arising actions be reported twice yearly.

8. Finance:

The Local Authority is a statutory contributor – both staff and resources - to Youth Offending Services. There are no additional cost factors to this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

The relatively small number of LAC committing offences means that figures could easily be distorted either by an individual committing multiple offences or by a single incident involving a number of LAC. The trend over recent reporting periods suggests that this has not occurred.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Offending by LAC is part of the authority's performance reporting to DCSF.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

**Contact Name: Steve Mills, Operations Manager, 01709 516999,
stephen.mills@rotherham.gov.uk**

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. **Meeting:** **Looked After Children’s Scrutiny Panel**
2. **Date:** **Wednesday, 8th July, 2009**
3. **Title:** **Children and Young People Subject to Care Orders Placed at Home**
4. **Directorate:** **Children and Young People’s Services**

5. **Summary**

As at 31st March, 2009, we had 406 Looked After children.

33 of these 406 are children subject to Care Orders placed at home with their parents subject to the necessary regulations.

These 33 children and young people have access to the same supports and resources as other Looked After children who are in foster care or residential care.

The Performance Indicators relevant to Looked After children are equally as applicable to those in placements, in foster care and residential care and in family placements.

The challenge for the service is to support parents in maintaining school attendance, health assessments and diverting away from anti-social behaviour and crime.

Placement agreements are developed where a Looked After child returns home and parents are made aware of what is expected from them. Clearly, on occasions, this is difficult to achieve.

6. **Recommendations**

Looked After Children Scrutiny Panel to note the content of the report.

7. Proposals and Details

As at 31st March, 2009, there were 406 Looked After children. Of these, 288 had been Looked After for a continuous period of 12 months or more. Of the 288, 176 were aged 10 years or above.

At the time of writing, there are 33 children, who remain subject to a Care Order, placed with their parents subject to Placement with Parent Regulations. Of these, 25 have been Looked After for a period in excess of 12 months, 19 of whom are aged 10 years and above. 27 of the children and young people have been identified for potential discharge of Care Orders. 6 of these already have applications made to the Court. A Court Work Practitioner based within the Operational Safeguarding Unit has been identified to take the lead for discharge of cases.

Of the 19 aged 10 plus, 8 of these young people have been convicted of an offence within the last 12 months compared to 16 Looked After children not placed with parents who have received a criminal conviction in the same period. This is a high percentage and an area of concern. The discharge of Care Order will assist in this area.

Of the 33 young people placed at home, 8 have been identified as having been absent from school for a period in excess of 25 days; this compares to a cohort of 28 young people out of the school age LAC population of 212 who have been absent for the same period (25 days). The Get Real Team continues to work with these Looked After children but clearly the challenge is the engagement with the parents in exercising their parental responsibilities.

Of the 33 children currently placed at home with their parents, 24 have had a health assessment within the last 12 months with 11 having had a dental check within the same period. The Looked After Children's Nurse is still very pro-active with these young people and does make every effort to ensure health assessments are undertaken either at the Health Centre, School Nurses or by a home visit.

In comparison, of the 288 children Looked After for a period of 12 months or more and placed away from their parents, 232 have had a health assessment within the last 12 months with 231 having undergone a dental examination within the same period.

8. Finance

Any associated costs for children subject to Care Order placed at home are met from revenue budget.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

Any Looked After children placed with parents are consulted about the plan. Inevitably, children and young people do wish to return to parents' care and unless their health and well-being are significantly at risk then the social worker will continue to support the return home programme.

The consequence of this can be that the areas identified become a greater challenge to achieve success, ie education attendance, health assessments and offending behaviour.

The risk in applying to the Court for the successful discharge of the Orders when there are these issues is increased. The Local Authority do, however, share Parental Responsibility with birth parents but have difficulty exercising this when a child is returned home.

The Local Authority will continue to present the cases to Court for discharge where that is deemed appropriate.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As already identified, there are key Performance Indicators for Looked After children affected by children placed at home on Orders. In addition to those already identified, other associated are:-

- LAC Reviews on time.
- Participation in LAC Reviews.
- Employment, Education and Training for Care Leavers.

Our performance in these areas has been traditionally top band. EET has dipped in performance this year but the cohort is not the LAC at home on Orders.

11. Background and Consultation

- Social Care Database

Contact Name: Pam Allen, Director of Locality Services
01709 823905
pam.allen@rotherham.gov.uk

1.	Meeting:	Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub Panel
2.	Date:	Wednesday 8th July 2009
3.	Title:	Fostering Recruitment and Retention
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

The fostering recruitment and retention plan has been successful in increasing the numbers of prospective foster carers under assessment. This report details progress in the campaign.

6. Recommendations

- **That the contents of the report are noted.**

7. Proposals and Details

Recruitment Campaign

The enhanced recruitment campaign commenced in December 2008 with the launch of new publicity materials, commissioned by Rotherham MBC from an independent specialist advertising agency. A programme of publicity and events is planned for the full year, capitalising on annual events including Fostering Fortnight and the Rotherham Fair.

The Fostering Fortnight events included Media adverts, the annual balloon launch and a series of drop in events across the borough.

Specialist events have included meetings with representatives from the BME communities and attendance at Aiming Higher consultation events

Research has indicated that the majority of people under the age of 40 seeking information will use the internet as a primary resource and development of a good quality user friendly web site has reaped rewards. In May alone 818 people logged onto the site. To date 28 people have registered an interest in fostering on line.

Statistical information

The fostering assessment process is comprehensive and can be broken down into discrete stages as below. The British Association for Adoption and Fostering identifies an average conversion rate from initial enquiry to approval of 10%. A clear, targeted publicity campaign can make some improvements to this figure though a conversion rate much higher than this figure is unlikely due to the stringent requirements of the assessment process. The initial enquiry and assessment stages are rigorous and the drop out rate from the training and assessment stage is much lower. It would be expected that of the 31 prospective carers currently at this stage, 20 to 25 will progress to approval.

Stage	Current Numbers
Initial enquiry	32
Initial visit/Assessment	13
Preparation Training	14
Full Assessment	17

8. Finance

Funding for two additional posts has been authorised to ensure the Recruitment and Assessment team has the capacity to assess all people expressing a interest in Fostering. This will have a positive impact on the current spending on the Out of Authority budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Recruitment of Foster Carers is a highly competitive field and Rotherham MBC competes with neighbouring Local Authorities and the Independent sector. The current campaign has though been successful in attracting local people into fostering for the authority. Current carers indicate a high satisfaction rate with the support given by the local authority and assist us through word of mouth recommendation.

The service is on track to deliver against the target of 30 additional foster carers.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Successful recruitment is vital to achievement in the Ofsted inspection of Fostering Services.

Care Matters highlights the importance of Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

Performance in this area is monitored closely by Directors and Elected Members.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Fostering National Minimum Standards
Ofsted inspection of Fostering Services
Care Matters
Rotherham MBC Fostering Recruitment Development plan

Contact Name : Sue May
LAC Service Manager
sue.may@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting: Looked After Children's Scrutiny Panel
2. Date Wednesday 8th July 2009
3. Title: Rotherham Looked After Children Report
4. Programme Area: Children and Young Peoples

The Quarterly Report for Looked After Children's Scrutiny Panel, Profile of Numbers of Children, Looked After.

There are currently 409 Looked after Children, 29 of whom are open to the children's disability team. This is an increase from 353 in June 08 and 387 in December 08 and 391 in March 09.

Care Type

Type of Care	Sum	Percentage
Foster Care Inside Rotherham	198.00	48.41 %
Foster Care Outside Rotherham	94.00	22.98 %
Placed with Parents	35.00	8.56 %
Placed for adoption	25.00	6.11 %
Residential inside Rotherham	19.00	4.65 %
Residential outside Rotherham	10.00	2.44 %
Secure Unit outside Rotherham	5.00	1.22 %
Other Residential	1.00	0.24 %
Other Placement	1.00	0.24 %
Independent Living	11.00	2.69 %
Not Recorded	10.00	2.44 %
Sum:	409.00	
Percent:		100.00 %

Age By Care Type

31/05/2009

LAC as at 409

Total
Children

	0 - 5	06 - 10	11 - 15	16 +	Sum:
Foster Care Inside Rotherham	73	49	50	26	198
Foster Care Outside Rotherham	38	19	32	5	94
Placed with Parents	9	5	12	9	35
Placed for adoption	19	2	4		25
Residential inside Rotherham			8	11	19
Residential outside Rotherham			8	2	10
Secure Unit outside Rotherham			3	2	5
Other Residential	1				1
Other Placement				1	1
Independent Living				11	11
Not Recorded	1		4	5	10
Sum:	141	75	121	72	409

Care Order

	0 - 5	06 - 10	11 - 15	16 +	Sum:
C1 - Interim care order	58	18	8		84
C2 - Full care order	15	34	78	47	174
D1 - Freed for adopt. (freeing order granted)		6	6	1	13
E1 - Placement Order Granted	57	12	3		72
J1 - In LA on remand/committed for trial / sentence			4	1	5
V2 - Single Period of Accommodated under section 20	11	5	23	23	62
Sum:	141	75	122	72	410

LAC as at

Total Children 409

	White - British	White - Irish	White - Other	Asian - Other	Asian - Pakistani	Black - African	Other - Any	Dual Heritage - White And Black Caribbean	Dual Heritage - White And Asian	Dual Heritage - Other	Dual Heritage - White And Black African	Gypsy/Roma	Sum:
Foster Care Inside Rotherham	181	1	2	1		4	2		5	2			198
Foster Care Outside Rotherham	80				3		6	2	1		1	1	94
Placed with Parents	31		1				1		1	1			35
Placed for adoption	23		1				1						25
Residential inside Rotherham	19												19
Residential outside Rotherham	10												10
Secure Unit outside Rotherham	5												5
Other Residential									1				1
Other Placement	1												1
Independent Living	7			4									11
Not Recorded	8		1				1						10
Sum:	365	1	5	5	3	4	11	2	8	3	1	1	409

	White - British	White - Irish	White - Other	Asian - Other	Asian - Pakistani	Black - African	Other - Any	Dual Heritage - White And Black Caribbean	Dual Heritage - White And Asian	Dual Heritage - Other	Dual Heritage - White And Black African	Gypsy/Roma	Sum:
C1 - Interim care order	69				3	4	6		1	1			84
C2 - Full care order	167	1	1				1	2	1	1			174
D1 - Freed for adopt. (freeing order granted)	13												13
E1 - Placement Order Granted	61		4				2		5				72
J1 - In LA on remand/committed for trial / sentence	5												5
V2 - Single Period of Accommodated under section 20	51			5			2		1	1	1	1	62
Sum:	366	1	5	5	3	4	11	2	8	3	1	1	410

1	Meeting:	Looked After Children Scrutiny Sub-Panel
2	Date:	Wednesday 8 th July 2009
3	Title:	Percentage of Looked After Children who have been looked after continuously for 12 months who have missed 25 days or more of schooling for any reason 2008/2009
4	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5 Summary

Get Real Team

The Get Real Team (GRT) was set up to raise the attainment, achievement and aspirations of Young People in care in Rotherham, mainly via short term intervention work. It monitors and supports attendance at school across all key stages.

6 Recommendations

That the contents of the report are noted

7. Proposals and Details

22-05-2009 - 212 young people of school age looked after by Rotherham (this is a reduction of 4 since the March scrutiny report.)

28 out of 212 or 13.25% have reached 25 days or more missing from school.

Breaking this down by placement type:

8 young people are placed with parents,

3 are with relatives/friends,

7 are placed within a Rotherham Children's home,

4 placed in an out of authority Children's home,

1 is presently placed in a secure placement, having been in a Rotherham children's home.

4 are placed in an out of authority foster placements.

1 is placed out of authority for adoption.

6 of this group have a statement of special educational needs. 12 are on school action plus and 2 are on school action

In terms of schooling 8 are year 11, 6 are year 10, 8 are year 9, 4 are year 8, 1 in year 2 and 1 in reception.

Out of this cohort of 28 young people the Get Real Team are working with 18 individuals. Providing teaching, mentoring / monitoring support or a mixture of these

Because of the circumstances and needs of LAC the reasons for absence are complex. Examples include; bereavement within placement that has impacted on the young persons' security and therefore their school attendance. Support is being given to the young people concerned from the Get Real Team with positive results. Also two young people from this cohort have had periods of illness that have needed medical support.

Among the 8yr 11 Cohort support from the Get Real team has had an impact on numbers completing course work and taking exams.

The rolling programme of Multi agency training on PEPS provided to Social Workers, Designated Teachers, Carers and other relevant parties is continuing. This is proving to have an impact on the number and quality of in date PEPS.

Training for Designated Governors is being offered.

The fact that the Designated Teachers role is to be put on a statutory footing in School from September 2009 is anticipated to have an effect on LAC in the future.

8 Finance

The budget is secure

9 Risks and Uncertainties

The Get Real Team is unable to provide intervention for LAC placed out of authority. The completion of Personal Education Plans is the responsibility of the child's Social worker and is overseen by locality managers.

Refusal to attend school of persistent non attendees is an ongoing issue.

The effectiveness of schools in recording attendance varies.

Designated teachers lack the authority to implement effective interventions for LAC.

Timetables for LAC are not flexible enough to meet needs.

Young people on part-time timetables have insufficient provision.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This report has been compiled with reference to Every Child Matters and Section 52 of the Children's Act 2004

11 Background Papers and Consultation

Reports from Get Real Team members.

Get Real Team attendance database.

Contact Name: Martin Smith *

Telephone: 01709 334613

E-mail: martin.smith@rotherham.gov.uk

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. **Meeting** **Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel**
2. **Date** **Wednesday 8th July 2009**
3. **Title** **Summary of main issues and events Children’s Homes
March to June 2009**
4. **Programme Area** **Children and Young People’s Services**

5. **Summary**

This report provides a Summary of the main issues and events occurring in Children’s Homes March to June 2009. It updates the report presented to Scrutiny panel in February 2009.

The report covers the mainstream Children’s Homes which are:

Goodwin Crescent Children’s Home, Swinton,

St. Edmunds Avenue Children’s Home Thurcroft,

Silverwood Children’s Home, East Herringthorpe

Woodview Children’s Home, Kimberworth Park,

The report draws heavily on the visits and reports made under Regulation 33 of The Children’s Home’s Regulations 2001. This regulation states that:

(1) Where the registered provider is an individual, but is not in day to day charge of the children’s home, he shall visit the home in accordance with this regulation.

In Rotherham the Manager of Operations, Looked After Children Resources performs this function.

6. **Recommendations**

(a) That Members receive the report.

(b) That the Operations manager continues to undertake the visits and reports under Regulation 33 Children’s Homes Regulations 2001

7. Proposals and Details

Registration of homes and Regulatory body

Each home is registered with Ofsted. There are outstanding registration issues at all homes.

Goodwin Crescent: The Manager does not have the appropriate child care qualification. This is being addressed with the Manager having commenced the appropriate training course in April 2009.

Silverwood: In February the Local Authority made a formal request for the certification of registration to be varied. This is to reflect the demand for service provision and to allow the Manager and staff team to manage placements more effectively. Approval was received from Ofsted in June. The home is awaiting the delivery of the new certificate.

St. Edmunds Avenue: The Manager is to be registered as Manager of the home. Registration documents were completed in March and all that remains is for an officer from Ofsted to formally interview the Manager.

Wood View: A new certificate of registration is required to reflect the change in name of the home and the appointment of a new Manager. As with St. Edmunds Avenue the Manager will need to be formally interviewed.

On 23rd March 2009 Goodwin Crescent was inspected by officers from Ofsted. In their own words; *'this was an unannounced and random inspection. The purpose was to check the progress made by the home to meet the previous actions and good practice recommendations'*.

Inspectors commented that; *'the registered provider has made some progress to address the ten actions and five good practice recommendations made at the last inspection in January 2009'*.

Following this inspection Ofsted indicated that five of the requirements laid down at the previous Inspection had been met but five remain outstanding. An action plan was implemented to fully address the requirements and good practice recommendations (appendix 1).

Capital Investment

A report was submitted to C&YPS Cabinet Member and Advisers Cabinet on 3rd June 2009 regarding the plans for major refurbishment of Goodwin Crescent. Further reports will be submitted with the aim of securing capital investment required to bring the home up to a good standard for children and young people to live in. A copy of the client brief is attached as appendix 2.

Placements of young people March to June 2009

Name of home	No's in March 09	No's June 09	variation
Goodwin Crescent maximum occ. 5	5	5	1 young person moved out to semi-independence home 1 young person moved in June 09 following emergency placement at Silverwood
St.Edmunds Ave Maximum occ. 6	5	5	No change
Wood View Maximum occ. 6	5	6	1 young person moved in May 09 following emergency placement at Silverwood

Name of home	Placement information March 2009 – June 2009
Silverwood Maximum occ. 7	1 male has remained in placement throughout the period 1 female has remained in placement throughout the period The home has gone to the maximum occupancy level for a combined total of 13 days For the majority of the time it has operated between 70 to 80% occupancy

In summary the homes are providing the service that they set out to provide in respect of the placement of young people. Concerns regarding the uptake of respite at Silverwood have subsided. Over the past two months the team have supported many families thus preventing admissions to the care system.

Examples of the work of staff at the home are;

- Supporting a bereaved family, maintaining children in their home environment following the death of their mother in a car crash. There is no father and no male role model. Staff from the home maintain regular contact and respite care is being offered, although to date declined.
- Providing planned respite care for a group of four female siblings. The girls are in a local Authority Foster placement and have significant needs.

Without the support of Silverwood the pressures on the foster placement may become unbearable.

Keeping young people safe (significant incidents, missing person activity)

As was reported to Scrutiny Panel in June the number of Looked After Children who are reported missing has reduced significantly. With placements in children's homes remaining largely unchanged, the staff and other agencies involved are able to identify issues and be consistent in managing them. There is one young person at Wood View that habitually runs off. This case is under review.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board continues to hold regular meetings regarding concerns around risk of sexual exploitation of young females at St. Edmunds Avenue. Ofsted have been made aware.

Enjoying and achieving

There are examples in each of the homes of young people having fun and/or making progress.

At St. Edmunds Avenue one young female is 6 months into a Business and Administration apprenticeship with the Local Authority. Based at Bailey House she is performing her duties to a high standard.

At Silverwood one young male has completed a 10 week ski-ing course at Sheffield ski village. This was a beginners course and he will now look to take a more advanced course.

At Goodwin Crescent one young female has improved her education attendance from a figure of around 45% in February 2009 to 100% over the past three months.

At Wood View two young females achieved attendance figures of 99.6 and 100% respectively whilst another received recognition from the teaching staff at Oakwood school. On 19th May She was presented with a "rare and prestigious certificate" (Head Teachers award for significant achievement)

Staffing and workforce development

Each of the homes have benefited from a high level of consistency in terms of staffing, most importantly including the management team in each home (manager and Deputy). Retention of care staff has been excellent. The service is currently carrying three vacancies; interviews have been arranged for 25th June and 3rd July 2009

8. Finance

The managers are each responsible for the budget of their respective home. Indications at this early stage are that the staffing budget could be insufficient

at each home. A meeting was held with Senior HR manager and the C&YPS Business Manager on 11th June to develop a strategy to manage this. A report is to be produced from this meeting to be shared with the Director of Targeted Services.

9. Risk and Uncertainties

The admission of a young person to a Children's Home is a significant action and one that involves careful consideration and assessment of risk. Each young person is an individual with his/her own characteristic and personality, despite careful planning and minimisation of risk, the admission of a young person will, on occasion, lead to disruption to the daily activity of the Home.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The number and nature of placements of young people made regarding children's homes are monitored by the regulatory body, Ofsted. Inspectors from Ofsted check to ensure that placements of young people are within the specified and agreed criteria and covered by the certificate of registration. The placement of any young person falling outside of the agreement must be recorded and Ofsted notified.

On occasion officers from the Local Authority have found it necessary to place outside of criteria. The implications of this can be that Ofsted will judge this area to be inadequate when reporting on the overall performance of the home. An inadequate judgement on a children's home may lead Ofsted to make further inspections of the Council's Business. In the period March to June 2009, there have been no placements falling under this category.

11. Background and Consultation

- Care Standards Act, 2000 - The Care Standards Act, 2000, provides guidance on the standards that are to be assessed relating to the management and operation of Children's Homes.
- Children's Homes National Minimum Standards - All of the National Minimum Standards are assessed over the period of a year commencing April to March.
- Children's Homes Regulations, 2001.
- Inspection Reports of Silverwood, Goodwin Crescent, St. Edmund's Avenue and Wood View Children's Homes.

Contact Name: Morri McDermott, Operations Manager
Telephone: 01709 382121, Extension 3681
Morri.Mcdermott@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1.

Goodwin Crescent Long Term Unit:- Registration No SC033479

Notice of Requirement to Improve- Reply

Action Required	Action Taken	Target date for completion (date set by Ofsted)	Progress 24th June 09
<p>Ensure an accurate record of the menu served is kept to demonstrate provision of a suitable and varied diet (regulation 29 schedule 4)</p>	<p>A weekly menu record of all young people is kept on individual files. This is completed daily and reflects what a young person is offered and or eats throughout the day.</p>	<p>30th January 09</p>	<p>Monitoring of the sheets is completed as part of schedule 6 checks. Completion of menu sheets has improved since the last inspection and acknowledged by inspector on follow up visit March 09.</p>
<p>Ensure significant events relating to the safety and welfare of young people are notified to Ofsted without delay (regulation 30)</p>	<p><i>Staff e-mail incident report to Op's manager asap and within 24hours. This is backed up by a telephone call to ensure op's manager is dealing with the notification. If Op's manager is unavailable, repeat process with Service manager and if still unavailable with Director Targeted Services</i></p>	<p>30th January 09</p>	<p>Deputy manager to ensure this is addressed at staff meeting and recorded in the minutes.</p>

Goodwin Crescent Long Term Unit:- Registration No SC033479

Notice of Requirement to Improve- Reply

Action Required	Action Taken	Target date for completion (date set by Ofsted)	Progress 24th June 09
Ensure that sanctions records are maintained in a bound volume as set out in regulations (regulation 17)	<p><i>The Operations Manager for Children's Residential Services has instructed Children's Services communication team to improve the quality of the sanctions records to meet the requirements of the regulations.</i></p> <p><i>In the interim deputy manager to purchase a hardback bound book and set out according to regulation 17 and standard 22 (9) and 22 (10)</i></p>	26th June 09	Hardback (A5) book now in operation with relevant info/detail
Monitor the effectiveness of behaviour management strategies and address any shortfalls. (regulation 34)	<p><i>Deputy manager to ensure the risk assessment and residential care plan identify behaviour management strategies inc. incentives and sanctions</i></p> <p><i>Monthly summary to maintain a record of effectiveness</i></p>	30th January 09	Record of sanctions now included in the young person's monthly summary of care plan. Comments re. effectiveness also recorded

Goodwin Crescent Long Term Unit:- Registration No SC033479

Notice of Requirement to Improve- Reply

Action Required	Action Taken	Target date for completion (date set by Ofsted)	Progress 24th June 09
<p>Ensure that all young people's risk assessments are implemented, monitored and reviewed (regulation 11 and 34)</p>	<p><i>Deputy manager to ensure that a comprehensive risk assessment is in place for each young person. That the assessment is signed and dated.</i> <i>That it is updated following every incident/change of circumstances.</i> <i>That it is reviewed every month when the monthly summary is recorded.</i></p>	<p>30th January 09</p>	<p>Risk assessments on file for each Y.P All last reviewed in April & May 09. No major incidents in following months to warrant changes. Review included in monthly summaries.</p>
<p>Ensure young people know the content of their placement plan, according to their level of understanding (regulation 12)</p>	<p><i>Deputy manager to ensure that all young people are aware of their LAC care plan and Residential Care plan.</i> <i>Keyworker to record comments made by young person in their monthly summary each month.</i> <i>Young people to be encouraged to sign the care plans and monthly summaries.</i></p>	<p>20th February 09</p>	<p>Y.P's are being asked to comment on monthly summaries and this is recorded. Key workers to obtain signatures for care plans from all Y.P's</p>

Goodwin Crescent Long Term Unit:- Registration No SC033479

Notice of Requirement to Improve- Reply

Action Required	Action Taken	Target date for completion (date set by Ofsted)	Progress 24th June 09
Ensure the home is decorated, furnished and maintained to a good standard throughout (regulation 31)	<p><i>Plans drawn up for major refurbishment Presented to cabinet members for approval on 3rd June 09</i></p> <p><i>Small programme of works agreed to commence immediately</i></p>	31st March 09	<p>Further report re progress with major refurbishment programme due July 15th.</p> <p>Interim upgrade commenced with downstairs bedroom refurbished.</p>
Ensure that the registered manager is qualified to NVQ level 4 in child care equivalent (regulation 8)	<i>The manager is enrolled on the NVQ level 4 Health and Social Care; Children and Young People at Wakefield College. Length of Course is 1 year.</i>	26th June 09	Manager enrolled on appropriate course

Goodwin Crescent Long Term Unit:- Registration No SC033479

Notice of Requirement to Improve- Reply

Action Required	Action Taken	Target date for completion (date set by Ofsted)	Progress 24th June 09
Ensure robust monitoring of care practices within the home (regulation 34)	<i>Deputy manager to ensure that all matters covered by schedule 6 Children's Homes regulations are monitored each month and a report sent to Operations manager each month</i>	30th January 09	Recent action plan returned to ops manager with current progress report.
Ensure that the home is visited at least once a month and a report is made available to the home (regulation 33)	<i>The Operations Manager to visit at least twice each month. Once to meet with the manager for planned supervision and the other specifically around inspection and regulation 33. The home have a file containing copies of regulation 33 reports. The reports are currently e-mailed within 10 days of end of previous month. Ops. Manager to ensure by verbal check with staff on duty that the reports have been received, printed off and placed on file as soon as e-mailed.</i>	30th April 09	Reports of Reg 33 visits at home with last report May 09. Reg 33 visit undertaken for June report 23rd June. New action plan format designed to ensure better monitoring implemented April 09.

Goodwin Crescent Long Term Unit:- Registration No SC033479

Additional action required from Ofsted report under recommendations

Action Required	Action Taken	Target date for completion (date set by Ofsted)	Progress 24th June 09
Consider recording the views of young people on the use of sanctions (NMS 22)	<i>Comments to be recorded in monthly summary of care plan. To be implemented June 09.</i>	n/a	To be implemented June 09.
Conduct a night-time fire drill (NMS 26.8)		n/a	Night time fire drill undertaken 9.30pm 6/5/09. Recorded in Fire log
Consider providing more lounge space for young people (NMS 23)	<i>Meeting with premises manager and H&S on 28th April. Action plan to follow in mid May.</i>	n/a	Client brief drafted re. this recommendation and forwarded to Premises manager

Signed: M.McDermott
Job Title: Operations Manager

Print Name: Morri McDermott
Date: 24th June 2009

Client Brief : Rebuild of Goodwin Crescent

introduction

Goodwin Crescent is a registered children's home located in Swinton. It has capacity for 5 young people to live there. Inspections by the regulatory body, currently Ofsted, formerly CSCI, have consistently criticised the condition of the home. The criticisms are accepted and the home is regarded by the programme area as being barely 'fit for purpose'.

proposal :

To demolish part or all of the current building and to rebuild on the same site a children's home that is 'fit for purpose'.

Premises requirements

Upstairs accommodation: 5 bedrooms for children and 1 for staff member (fitted wardrobes, vanity unit, 2 double electric sockets, t.v. ariel point,)

Toilet and hand-basin, bathroom with bath and overhead shower, (toilet and bathroom in white finish with modern chrome fittings)

Storage cupboard (for bedding, towels)

Downstairs accommodation: 1 bedroom for young person and 1 for staff member (rooms as upstairs)

2 Toilets with hand-basins, bathroom with bath and overhead shower, (toilet and bathroom in white finish with modern chrome fittings)

Laundry room (washing machine and storage for bedding, towels)

Dining room of sufficient size to seat 8 people (kitchen/diner would be considered)

Lounge room of sufficient size to seat 8 people (possibly use conservatory as means of extending this area)

Additional lounge area preferably seating 8 people

Kitchen (fully fitted with free standing fridge/freezer, integrated dishwasher, and double oven)

Office with appropriate connections for I.T. systems, secure storage, working space.

Entrance and front door: similar to Studmoor

Lighting throughout to be modern, energy efficient, concealed (but easy maintenance)

Fire security alarm and detectors (vandal proof)

Central heating with dedicated controls and at each radiator.

Premises requirements	
<p>Windows to appropriate regulations</p> <p>Flooring: all rooms floorboard and either laminate or carpet covering except Toilet/bathrooms, laundry and storage rooms which should be floor tiles</p> <p>All walls be smooth plastered ready for paint or wallpaper except Toilet/bathrooms, which should be tiled or other sealed and waterproof material</p> <p>Exterior accommodation: enclosed garden area to front and rear of property, off road parking for as many cars as will allow, patio area for outdoor eating, secure bin compound, outdoor storage (cycles, other)</p>	
Source of funding:	Cost centre
Capital bid	U10802

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
--

1.	Meeting:	Looked After Children Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	Wednesday 8 th July 2009
3.	Title:	<p>Performance Indicators Looked After Children Services - Performance Indicator Outturn Report</p> <p>Appendix A – Assessment of Performance for Looked After Children Services</p> <p>Appendix B – ‘Looked After Children Performance Monitoring Table – Outturn 2008/09’</p> <p>[Wards affected – All]</p>
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

This report and accompanying appendices outline performance at the end of 2008/09 against targets for national indicators relating to services for Looked After Children. It includes analysis of direction of travel against previous year’s performance and where possible comparisons with statistical neighbour and national data.

The format of the report reflects the recent improvements to the overall CYPS Performance Outturn report which has been developed to provide more analysis and assessment of comparison and direction of travel, which will be valuable to managers, Directors and Members under the Comprehensive Area Assessment regime.

6. Recommendations

- **That the Performance Report and accompanying Assessment (Appendix A) be received and performance noted**
- **That the performance clinics (within Appendix A) be noted and that representation from the LAC Scrutiny panel be agreed**

7. Proposals and Details

This is also the first performance report specific for Looked After Children (LAC) which has been produced by the central CYPS performance team and is based solely on measures within the National Indicator (NI) framework which was introduced in April 2009. These NI now form the basis on which central government will performance manage local government and strategic partnerships, replacing all other existing sets of indicators. As this is their initial baseline year some indicators have no targets and no comparative data to make a full assessment. This will be addressed in 2009/10 to ensure performance management is more effective.

The format of this performance report is based on the new style overall CYPS Performance Outturn Report which has been developed to support the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) arrangements. Future quarterly reports will continue to develop alongside the publication and contents of the Ofsted quarterly Performance Profile.

Member's attention is drawn to 'Appendix A - Performance Assessment by Every Child Matters Outcome' which provides full details of performance including;

- Performance against targets (Comparing outturn performance against set targets)
- Direction of travel analysis (Comparing 2008/09 performance to 2007/08)
- Year to Date Performance (Judged by corporate monitoring system Performance Plus)
- Areas of Success
- Areas of Under-performance

For both the areas of success and under-performance the style of text has been improved to be more self evaluative and provide assessment against any statistical or national benchmarking data. It is hoped that this will enable members, directors and managers to be more challenging of performance and support them in the identification of areas for improvement or achievement.

In addition full details of performance, with manager commentary, is provided in the table within Appendix B which is referenced throughout the Performance Assessment (Appendix A).

8. Finance

There are no financial implications to this report. The relevant Service Leader and Budget Holder will address financial implications of the Action Plans. Members will be consulted where appropriate.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

A category of risk is applied to each quarterly reported Performance Indicator using the PI managers' projection of year-end performance and takes into account any known internal or external influences with comparison against targets.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As detailed within the report the National Indicator Set will form one of the blocks of evidence (Block C) for the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). Ofsted will use it to support its process for arriving at the annual rating for Children and Young People's Services (CYPS). They will also use the available NI data to ensure the rating takes account of councils' broad responsibility for children's well-being, including those aspects not inspected directly by Ofsted. (Some NIS indicators may not be available in time for the 2009 rating.)

Poor performance compared to statistical neighbours and national can have a significant impact on the overall rating of CYPS. Ofsted will form a provisional view/rating of CYPS by reviewing "Block A: inspected and regulated services and settings" and "Block B: inspections of safeguarding and services for looked after children; annual unannounced inspections; findings from any triggered inspection; and serious case review evaluation findings". "Block C: National Indicator Set" will then be used to support this rating however the provisional view rating is likely to be confirmed as 'performs poorly' if performance against a large majority of indicators in the NIS, including those for staying safe and enjoying and achieving, is lower than in similar areas.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Comprehensive Area Assessment: Annual rating of Children's services – arrangements and guidance
- Children and Young People's Services 2008/09 Performance Indicator Outturn Report
- 2008/09 Children and Young People's Service Performance Indicator Consolidated monitoring forms and previous quarterly reports

Contact Name :

Deborah Johnson Performance Manager
Tel: [82]2666 deborah.johnson@rotherham.gov.uk

Julie Westwood Director Commissioning, Policy and Performance
Tel: [82]2548 julie.westwood@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham Children and Young People's Services

Assessment of Performance Looked After Children

2008/09 Outturn Report

This report outlines performance at the end of 2008/09 against targets, with comparisons against previous performance and where possible statistical neighbour and national data.

It should be read in conjunction with the 'Looked After Children Performance Table – Outturn 2008/09' as it includes references throughout the text to the numbering structure within the table.

Please note the following data health warnings;

- Comparative data relates to the latest available data and therefore date periods for some indicators may vary. It has been sourced via the DCSF Local Area Interactive Tool (downloaded 15th May 2009).
- The majority of Social Care data is still subject to validation
- Education outcomes relate to the academic year 2007/08
- This is the first outturn report since the introduction of the new national indicator framework focusing on National Indicators (NI). As such arrangements and systems are still being developed at a National level and with partners for a number of the national indicators meaning some are still awaiting data. Any missing data will be reported in a future performance report.

[Data date: 27th May 2009]

Performance Summary – All themes

Number of Indicators: 12
Number of components deferred: 0

Number of Components: 12

Performance against Targets

(Comparing this quarter's performance against set targets)

On Target	Interpretation	Being Healthy		Staying Safe		Enjoying & Achieving		Making a Positive Contribution		Achieving Economic Wellbeing		All Themes	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
✓	Has met target	0	0%	1	20%	3	75%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
✗	Has not met target	0	0%	4	80%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
- / n/a	No targets set (ie new and/or baseline yr)	1	100%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	2	17%
Total Number of Components		1		5		4		0		2		12	

Direction of Travel (DOT)

(Comparing this quarter performance to previous)

Outturn DOT	Interpretation	Being Healthy		Staying Safe		Enjoying & Achieving		Making a Positive Contribution		Achieving Economic Wellbeing		All Themes	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
↑	Top performance or improvement	0	0%	3	60%	4	100%	0	0%	1	50%	8	67%
↓	Performance has declined	0	0%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	3	25%
→	Performance has maintained	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
- / n/a	Comparison can not be made (ie new)	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	8%
Total Number of Components		1		5		4		0		2		12	

Year to Date Performance

(Judged by corporate monitoring system Performance Plus)

Outturn Perf.	Interpretation	Being Healthy		Staying Safe		Enjoying & Achieving		Making a Positive Contribution		Achieving Economic Wellbeing		All Themes	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
★	2% above target or Top Performance	0	0%	1	20%	3	75%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
●	On Target	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
▲	Below Target	0	0%	4	80%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	5	42%
- / n/a	No targets set (ie new and/or baseline year)	1	100%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	2	17%
Total Number of Components		1		5		4		0		2		12	

Notes on overall performance

This is also the first performance report specific for Looked After Children (LAC) and is based solely on measures within the National Indicator framework which was introduced in April 2009. As this is the initial baseline year for the National Indicators some have no targets and no comparative data to make an assessment of direction of travel. This will be addressed in 2009/10 to ensure performance management is more effective.

It should be noted that this is a relatively small basket of indicators therefore small numbers can effect any percentage assessment.

Where assessment can be made the direction of travel on last year's outturn is positive with 67% of all indicators showing improvement or achieving top performance. Particular success has been achieved in Enjoying and Achieving where all LAC outcomes have improved on the previous academic year.

However our performance against targets continues to be an area of concern with only 42% being on or above target, reducing to 20% for Staying Safe. This issue is a recurring theme within all CYPS performance reports and therefore all future targets are to be reviewed with managers, alongside statistical neighbour and national data, to ensure they are appropriate and realistic whilst still driving improvement.

As detailed in the Performance Table accompanying this report our comparative position against statistical neighbours and national averages for LAC outcomes is good with most indicators having better performance than the latest data, (this could be subject to change once new benchmarking data is released).

▪ Areas of Success

Placement stability of looked after children (No 4 – NI 62), although being off target, is consistent with last year's performance with 11.8% being subject to three or more moves. This is inline with the latest comparative data for both statistical neighbours and national (11.53% and 11.4%) and maintains our position in the top PAF performance banding. In addition the percentage of looked after children with placements of 2 years or more, (No. 4 – NI 63) has improved by 8.2% to 73% improving our comparative position from below statistical neighbour and national averages to well above (66.87% and 65.7%).

Targeted strategies have ensured that the education outcomes for looked after children continue to improve and where targets are in place these have been surpassed. At key stage two (Nos 7 & 8 – NI 99 & 100) - we have achieved 41.7% (12.7% increase) in English Level 4+ and 50% (16.7% increase) for Maths. This places the authority above national averages in both subjects (46% English, 44% Maths) and below statistical neighbours for English (50.6%) but above for Maths (46.67%). At GCSE 79% of our young people leaving care achieved at least 1 A*-G, (No. 10 – BV50). This is a 14% improvement on last year and is significantly above the national and statistical neighbour averages (66.1% and 65.6%) placing the authority 12th in the country. The new harder measure of 5 or more A*-C including English and Maths (No.9 – NI 101) has also improved from 5% to 6.1% however no national data is currently available to give a comparative position.

At year end 94.7% of our care leavers were in suitable accommodation, (No 11 – NI 147), significantly above the target of 88% and a 12.6% improvement on the previous year. This

improves our position from below to above the latest statistical neighbour and national averages of 87.88% and 88.40% respectively. Individual pathway plans are in place to address the needs of the 2 not in suitable accommodation. The integrated post 16 accommodation service commenced on 1st April 09 and the new build semi independent living accommodation will be available from February 2010.

▪ **Areas of Under-performance**

LAC cases reviewed within timescales (No 5 – NI 66) has had a slight drop in performance from 89.1% to 88.4% and has significantly failed to meet its target of 97%. This has been impacted by increase LAC numbers therefore limiting Independent Reviewing Officers capacity. However when compared to the latest statistical neighbours and national data it shows we are still above average. Therefore targets need to be reviewed to be more realistic but retaining an element of continuous improvement.

Adoptions have also been subject to a performance clinic and is a key area for future improvement with the percentage of adoptions of LAC (No.6 – BV163) falling from 8.1% to 3.4% against a target of 9.5%. This drop moves our performance from the top PAF performance band (8<25%) to almost the bottom band (0<3%). The other adoptions indicator relating to timeliness of placements (No. 2 – NI 61) does show an improvement but it is worth noting that this good performance of 80% in real terms only relates to eight out of ten placements. The main factors impacting include harder to place children, (older and/or more complex needs), and delays in court practice. To help address the issue a second matching panel has been established and the service are now increasing 'inhouse' adopters (local people not via agency of other authorities) which will mean better control and ownership of the process. Adoptions are now monitored on a monthly basis via Cabinet Member performance briefings.

Care leavers in employment, education and training (No 12 – NI148) has seen a significant drop in performance from 64.3% to 55.3%, missing the target by 10%. The small number of care leavers in the cohort leads to a high degree of variability within this indicator a number of care leavers aged 19 have been hard to engage though continued attempts have been made. The average percentage of all care leavers in EET is 67%. A background of rising unemployment will inevitably continue to pose a challenge for this figure. When compared to the most recent national data we have maintained our performance position of better than statistical neighbour (53.7%) and below national average (64.9%).

Performance Clinics

At every quarter all indicators which are both 'off target' and have a 'downward Direction of Travel' are considered for clinics. Performance Management Officers review the data, comments and any discussions with PI managers to make informed recommendations. These are then approved or otherwise by CYPs Cabinet Member & Advisers. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services can also call clinics on particular issues of interest which are not monitored by National Indicators ie Foster Carers. Adhoc Performance Clinics and Turning the Curve workshops have also been held on JLT request.

▪ Previous Clinics

During 2008/09 recommendations for clinics have been relatively lenient compared to previous years as systems and processes for calculating new NIs are embedding and definitions are clarified. However if sufficient improvement is not evidenced from one quarter to the next then the clinic will be recommended.

A clinic was held on 31st March 09 to review three areas of performance these were;

- (a) Initial Assessments within timescales [NI 59]
- (b) Adoptions of Looked After Children [BVPI 163]
- (c) Recruitment of Foster Carers [APA recommendation]

Subsequent actions for improvement are agreed and performance for these indicators will be closely monitored with a formal update six months after the clinic.

▪ Future Clinics

All LAC indicators with a downward direction are also underperforming against targets. The following table summarises these and gives performance officer recommendations for future clinics with rationale. These recommendations have now been approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services.

No.	Ref.	Indicator	Clinic Recommended	Rationale
5	NI 66	LAC cases reviewed in timescales	No	A significant improvement was achieved during quarter 4 and the team is now fully staffed, although the continued increase in the number of LAC presents challenge. Performance in quarter 1 will be closely monitored.
6	BV163	% Adoptions of LAC	No	Clinic held recently (March 2009). Formal update on progress due after 6 months. Issue to be reviewed at this time to ensure progress. This is a best value indicator therefore will be deleted from the reporting basket but monthly monitoring arrangements for numbers of adoptions has been established through Cabinet Member briefing.
83	NI 148	Care Leavers – EET	Yes	Although there will be some impact from economic downturn, the activity related to this measure and cohort should be reviewed. All NI's feed the CAA, but particular attention will be given to those related to vulnerable groups.

Future Performance Reports

The format of this report is based on the new style overall CYPS Performance Outturn Report which has been developed to support the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) arrangements and it is proposed that future quarterly reports will continue to develop alongside the publication and contents of the Ofsted's CAA Quarterly Performance Profile.

Best Value and any remaining Local Performance Indicators will be removed (unless still supporting outstanding LAA stretch targets).

Additional contextual indicators which support the NIs, identified in the CAA Arrangements, will be added in 2009/10. For Looked After Children these will be:

ECM	Indicator	NI Links
Being Healthy	Percentage of looked after children aged 0–4 whose child health surveillance or child health promotion checks were up-to-date.	NI 62, 66
	Percentage of looked after children who had their annual health assessment during the year.	NI 62, 66
Staying Safe	Social workers and managers working specifically for children's social care per 10,000 population under 18.	NI 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68
	Operational staff working specifically for children's services per 10,000 population under 18.	NI 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68
	Children looked after per 10,000 population aged under 18.	NI 62, 66
	Ratio of looked after children from minority ethnic groups to children in the local population from minority ethnic groups.	NI 62, 66
	Percentage of looked after children (10–15) in foster placements or placed for adoption.	NI 61, 62, 63, 66
	Percentage of children newly looked after in the year and still looked after at 31 March, placed more than 20 miles from their home.	NI 62, 66, 71
Enjoying & Achieving	Percentage of looked after children with a statement of special educational need.	NI 54, 58, 99, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105
	Percentage of looked after children permanently excluded from school.	NI 62, 66, 99, 100, 101
	Percentage of looked after children who missed at least 25 days of schooling for any reason.	NI 62, 66, 99, 100, 101
	Percentage of looked after children who were pupils in Year 11 who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations who sat at least one GCSE or equivalent examination.	NI 101
Making a Positive Contribution	Percentage of looked after children aged 10+ convicted or subject to a final warning/reprimand during the year.	NI 62, 66
Achieving Economic Wellbeing	Percentage of looked after children formerly in Year 11, now in education, employment or training.	NI 101

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERFORMANCE TABLE OUTTURN 2008/09

Detailed below is explanation regarding the different items within the following outturn performance table

No	Number on indicator as shown in this table. Added to aid discussion and referencing.	
Definition	The name of the indicator.	
Ref	the official reference number. 'NI' = National Indicator, 'BV' = Best Value performance indicator, LAA and LPI = Local stretch indicators within the 2006-09 Local Area Agreement	
Good Perf	The direction the performance needs to travel to improve	
Lead	The partner who holds responsibility for the indicator.	
07/08 Actual	Previous year's performance	
08/09 Target	Level of achievement the service wished to reach within the reporting year	
08/09 Actual	This year's rate of performance	
Outturn On Target	Has the target been achieved? ✓ = Yes, ✗ = No, n/a/ - = no targets set so unable to assess	
Outturn DOT	Direction of travel of performance compared to previous year. ↑ = better than last year or top performance, ↓ = worse than last year, → = same as last year, - / n/a = comparison can't be made	
Outturn Perf	Year To Date. Performance assessment by corporate monitoring system Performance Plus as at December 2008 ★ Green Star - Above Target or top performance, ● Amber Circle -On Target, ▲ Red triangle - Below target	
Comparative Data	Stat. Neigh.	The latest average for our Statistical Neighbour group. Used by Ofsted to assess performance to be a good authority we need to have the majority inline or better than this average
	National	The latest National average. Used by Ofsted to assess performance to be a good authority we need to have the majority inline or better than this average
	Data Date	Not all data is released at outturn or relates to the same year. This tells you the date of the comparative data for Statistical Neighbour and National.
Comments	If necessary further explanation of performance is summarised here. Examples include details of external influences, seasonal trends or impact of action. This is supplied by indicator managers and approved by directors, additional notes from Performance and Data team may be added to the comments column to aid explanation.	
09/10 Target	The current 2 year targets set by indicator managers.	
10/11 Target		

Glossary of terms			
NI	National Indicator	LPI	Local Performance Indicator
PI	Performance Indicator	LAC	Looked after Children
BV	Best Value Performance Indicator	SEN	Special Educational Needs
LAA	Local Area Agreement	PAF	Performance Assessment Framework

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - PERFORMANCE TABLE OUTTURN 2008/09

No	Definition	Ref	Good Perf	Lead	07/08 Actual	08/09 Target	08/09 Actual	Outturn On Target	Outturn DOT	Outturn Perf	Comparative Data (Our position against data)			Comments	09/10 Target	10/11 Target
											Stat. Neigh.	National	Data Date			
BEING HEALTHY																
1	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	NI 58	LOW	RMBC	-	-	14.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June] The 14.5 relates to the mean of the 'total difficulties' score for Looked After Children between the age of 4 – 16 years old whose Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires were returned. Within the general population, a score of 0-13 is average, 14-16 is borderline, 17 – 19 is high, 20 – 40 is very high in terms of a child's emotional difficulties. A lower score indicates healthier emotional wellbeing.	-	-
STAYING SAFE																
2	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	NI 61	HIGH	RMBC	70.0%	83.0%	80.0%	✘	↑	▲	77.88 (better)	76.3 (better)	2008	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June]	80%	83%
3	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	NI 62 BV 49	LOW	RMBC	11.85%	9.5%	11.8%	✘	↑	▲	11.53 (better)	11.4 (better)	2008	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June] Performance against this indicator has remained stable, the target set is stretching and has not been achieved but placement moves are monitored closely and closer scrutiny on placement disruptions has commenced to assist in improvements in performance	11%	11%
4	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	NI 63	HIGH	RMBC	64.8%	70.0%	73.0%	✓	↑	★	66.87 (better)	65.7 (better)	2008	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June] Performance has improved against this target, long term stability is promoted by robust care planning and review and quality of foster care placement. Actions are in place to ensure care planning and review is robust and that the quality of placements offered is improved through, recruitment, assessment and training.	72%	75%
5	Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	NI 66	HIGH	RMBC	89.1%	97.0%	88.4%	✘	↓	▲	87.33 (better)	85.3 (better)	2007	[Provisional - data taken from statutory return which will be validated mid-June] Ongoing issue of increased numbers in looked after children currently 405. During Feb-March 2009 37 children changed placements as part of their plan generating the need to schedule 37 additional 28 day reviews with limited IRO capacity.	98%	99%

											Comparative Data (Our position against data)							
No	Definition	Ref	Good Perf	Lead	07/08 Actual	08/09 Target	08/09 Actual	Outturn On Target	Outturn DOT	Outturn Perf	Stat. Neigh.	National	Data Date	Comments	09/10 Target	10/11 Target		
6	% Adoptions of children looked after	BV163	HIGH	RMBC	8.1%	9.5%	3.4%	x	↓	▲	-	-	-	A performance clinic has been held to review this indicator. The children who are to be placed for adoption are older and have more complex needs, they are therefore harder to place and consequently less are adopted. In addition to this the number of looked after children is increasing which increases the denominator having a negative impact on this indicator. Delays in Court practice have also had an impact. A second matching panel has been established and the service intend to increase 'inhouse' adopters (local people not via agency of other authorities) which will mean better control and ownership of the process. Adoptions are now monitored on a monthly basis via Cabinet Member performance briefings.	-	-		
ENJOYING AND ACHIEVING																		
7	Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	NI 99	HIGH	RMBC	29%	38.50%	41.70%	✓	↑	★	50.6 (worse)	46 (worse)	2008	Strategies in place have led to targets being met.	33.30%			
8	Looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	NI 100	HIGH	RMBC	33.30%	38.50%	50%	✓	↑	★	46.67 (better)	44 (better)	2008	Strategies in place have led to targets being met.	33.30%			
9	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	NI 101	HIGH	RMBC	5%	-	6.10%	n/a	↑	n/a	(n/a)	(n/a)		Strategies in place have led to improvements in performance.	3.40%			
10	The percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least one GCSE at grade A*-G or equivalent GNVQ	BV 50	HIGH	RMBC	68.0%	65%	79%	✓	↑	★	66.1 (better)	65.6 (better)	2008	Performance continues to improve and we are within the top performing authorities in the country. But due to small numbers within the cohort group there can be a high variance on the outturn each year dependent on individual abilities of pupils.	-	-		
MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION																		
NO NATIONAL INDICATORS SPECIFIC TO LAC																		
ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELLBEING																		
11	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	NI 147	HIGH	RMBC	82.1%	88.0%	94.7%	✓	↑	★	87.88 (worse)	88.4 (worse)	2008	<i>Provisional Outturn</i> Numbers in suitable accommodation at 19 remain high, individual pathway plans in place to address the needs of the 2 not in suitable accommodation. The integrated post 16 accommodation service commenced on 1-04-09 and new build semi independent living accommodation available from Feb 2010	90%	92%		

											Comparative Data (Our position against data)						
No	Definition	Ref	Good Perf	Lead	07/08 Actual	08/09 Target	08/09 Actual	Outturn On Target	Outturn DOT	Outturn Perf	Stat. Neigh.	National	Data Date	Comments	09/10 Target	10/11 Target	
12	Care leavers in employment, education or training	NI 148	HIGH	RMBC	64.3%	65.0%	55.3%	✘	↓	▲	53.7 (better)	64.9 (worse)	2008	<i>Provisional Outturn</i> The small number of care leavers in the cohort leads to a high degree of variability within this indicator a number of care leavers aged 19 have been hard to engage though numerous attempts have been made. The average percentage of all care leavers in EET is 67%. A background of rising unemployment will inevitably continue to pose a challenge for this figure	67%	70%	