

Summary Sheet

Council Report:

Corporate Parenting Panel

Title:

Corporate Parenting Performance Report

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

No

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Jane Parfremment, Director of Safeguarding

Report Author(s):

Sue Wilson, Head of Service, Performance & Planning

Ward(s) Affected:

All

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the performance of services for looked after children as at the 30th August 2015. This report should be considered alongside the data reports attached.

The data presented within the attached report is a subset of the Safeguarding Children and Families Monthly Performance Report August 2015 and the weekly scorecard for Looked After Children and Care Leavers dated 13th October 2015.

Recommendations:

That the Panel consider the detail provided in the performance reports in relation to the services for looked after children and care leavers

List of Appendices Included:

Background Papers:

Corporate Parenting Performance Report 22nd September 2015

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel:

No

Council Approval Required:

No

Exempt from the Press and Public:

No

Title:**Corporate Parenting Performance Report****1.Recommendations**

1.1 That the Panel consider the detail provided in the performance reports in relation to the services for looked after children and care leavers

2.Background

2.1 This report provides an updated summary of performance under key themes as at the end of August 2015 and also includes the weekly dashboard (13th October) that is presented to the CYPS Performance Meeting which specifically covers data and information in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers

A number of improvements have been made to the performance management arrangements for Safeguarding Children and Families services since the Ofsted Inspection of 2014 including this new suite of monthly performance information. This wider report has now been in place for 6 months and now this has become embedded work and we better understand our data work has begun to identify appropriate targets which will be included in future reports.

3.Key Issues

Good & improved performance (in Month) in relation to LAC	Areas of Concern this month
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Health and Dental assessments – 90.6% & 94.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ LAC with up-to-date Personal Education Plans – 68.1%

3.1 Key information:

At the end of August 2015 there were 416 looked after children (compared with 423 in July 2015) which equates to 73.8 per 10k population. Although this is in line with our statistical neighbours it is higher than the national average and best performing LAs.

The previous 3 months saw a rise in the number of admissions to care however this has levelled off and the number of children in care has decreased in August. Attention is being focussed on discharges from the care system the LAC service manager along with the Interim LAC improvement advisor is undertaking a review of cases to determine those children in care who could be secured permanence outside the care system for example through Special Guardianship Orders, Child Arrangement Orders and/or reunification with family members. The number of

children placed out of the Borough in independent placements is high and the strategy to reduce usage is multi-faceted and some measures for example foster care recruitment have long lead in times. Our new foster carer recruitment campaign is now completed and will be launched in coming weeks.

3.2 At the end of August 2015 there were 98.3% of looked after children who had an upto date plan and 98.5% of those children preparing to leave care with a pathway plan.

3.3 At the end of August 2015 74.8 % of looked after children have had a stable placement for more than 2 years, with 9.1% of looked after children who had 3 or more moves.

Our LAC placement stability is good when compared to national averages with 74.8% of long term LAC in the same placement for at least 2 years, compared to 67% nationally and only 9.1% of LAC having 3 or more placements in the last 12 months compared to 11.0%.

However performance will be examined closely as part of our strategy to reduce the number of children in out of authority placements. We need to ensure that stability does not mask case drift and result in children remaining looked after longer than necessary. Our sufficiency strategy identifies that we have too many children placed in residential care and we will need to shift that balance to have more children placed in a family setting. Every child in residential care will be reviewed by a senior manager over the coming months to ensure their care plans take account of their needs and consider whether it is possible and appropriate to plan for a move into a more appropriate family based setting. A new process for Team Around the Placement (TAP) meetings has been introduced to ensure that every support is put in to prevent placements disrupting

3.4 At the end of August 2015 86.1% of looked after children had a review in timescale and 98.6% had been visited by their social worker in line with national minimum standards (with 90% within our local standards).

3.5 During the 5 months to the end of August 2015 there had been 18 children adopted with 13 of this within 12 months of their “should be placed for adoption” decision (SHOBPA) – 72.2%.

Adoptions performance each month can vary significantly given the small numbers adopted every month. Therefore delays on single cases can make an impact on performance. But it is crucial that every child is matched to an adopter who can meet their needs, this family finding can be impacted by the complexities of these needs.

3. 6 Performance in PEP’s has declined since April 2015 and is currently at 68.1% against the old local target of 6 monthly updates. This is of concern, but linked to the changes and adjustment to new systems. This will be addressed in performance meetings with the management team and work has commenced to chase reports where PEP meetings have occurred. The completion of the PEP

moved to an E-PEP system in September (start of Autumn term) this should lead to an improvement as PEPs' will be created directly on the system rather than relying on workers placing the PEP onto the ESCR system as a word document. Work is being undertaken to ensure that all PEP's are scheduled in to be completed or reviewed during the Autumn term with an aim to reach over 90% up to date PEP's during the term and thereafter. The new local standard in the new year will be termly updated PEP

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

There are no options to consider in relation to this report

5. Consultation

There are no areas required for consultation in relation to this report

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 There are no timescales in relation to any decision making in relation to this report and its contents

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications in regard to the performance report itself, however supporting looked after child is a key priority and a current and recurring budget pressure, particularly in relation to the cost of those children and young people who are placed out of authority.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no immediate legal implications associated with the proposals.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 There are no Human Resources implications associated with the proposals.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 This report is to provide information to the Corporate Parenting Panel to ensure they have as much information as possible in relation to the numbers of and performance of services supporting looked after children and care leavers in Rotherham who are potentially one of the most vulnerable groups. As corporate parents of these children and young people it is important that the panel understand the information presented to help shape and improve services to them

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 Data is recorded routinely around ethnicity of children and young people who are in the care of the local authority and is used in relation to their current and future placements and permanency.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 Corporate Parenting responsibility is more than just for elected members and staff and managers in Children & Young People's Services it is also important that key partners and other Directorates play a part in championing our young people and helping to improve their lives.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Resources have been strengthened in relation to developing improved services for children and young people who are looked after in Rotherham.

13.2 A quality assurance framework has been developed to ensure that the quality of services for children and young people is regularly audited and assured.

14. Accountable Officer(s):

Sue Wilson (*Head of Service, Performance & Planning*)

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services: Not applicable

Director of Legal Services: Not applicable

Head of Procurement (if appropriate): Not applicable

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