

**Summary Sheet**

**Council Report:**

Corporate Parenting Panel

**Title:**

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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

No

**Director Approving Submission of the Report:**

Nicole Chavaudra, Joint Assistant Director – Commissioning, Performance and Quality

**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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This report should be considered alongside the data report attached.

The data presented within the attached report is a subset of the Safeguarding Children and Families Monthly Performance Report November 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:**

Monthly Performance Report November 2015

**Background Papers: None**

**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 November 2015. It 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 data and performance management arrangements for Safeguarding Children and Families services since the Ofsted Inspection of 2014, including this new suite of monthly data and performance information.

**3.Key Issues**

3.1 Key information:

**At the end of November 2015 there were 418 looked after children which equates to 74.1 per 10k population. Although this is in line with our statistical neighbours it is higher than the national average and best performing LAs.**

At the end of the month we had 418 Looked After Children (LAC), which equates to 74.1 per 10k population. Following a small drop in October we are now back in line with numbers seen earlier in the year placing us higher than our statistical neighbours and national averages.

Attention continues to be focussed on discharges from the care system. The LAC service manager along with the Interim Head of LAC has undertaken a review of cases to determine those children in care who secure a permanent placement 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. Furthermore, some measures, for example foster care recruitment, have long lead in times. Our new foster carer recruitment campaign is now completed and has been launched. In addition an Adoption recruitment campaign is to follow as we have a shortage of adopters for all age ranges including babies. A permanent Head of LAC has now been appointed (start date February 2016) and this work will be one of his priorities.

**3.2 At the end of November 2015 there were 97.9% of looked after children who had an up to date plan and 94.9% of those children preparing to leave care with a pathway plan.**

**3.3 At the end of November 2015 75.1% of looked after children have had a stable placement for more than 2 years, with 10.5% of looked after children who had 3 or more moves.**

Our LAC placement stability continues to be very strong when compared to national averages with 75.1% of long term LAC in the same placement for at least 2 years, compared to 67% nationally. Performance in this area in terms of the data may drop as practice improves to find foster placements or return children to family members. This is one of those indicators that can look good but may mask drift in proactive child centred care planning.

There has been an increase in LAC having 3 or more placements in the last 12 months to 10.5% following a month on month trend of circa 9% but this still compares well to the national average of 11.0%.

**3.4 At the end of November 2015 88.1% of looked after children had a review in timescale and 95.4% had been visited by their social worker in line with national minimum standards (with 83.6% within our local standards).**

**3.5 During the 8 months to the end of November 2015 there had been 26 children adopted, with 20 of this within 12 months of their “should be placed for adoption” decision (SHOBPA) – 76.9%.**

Performance each month can vary significantly given the size of the cohort there are no adoptions currently recorded for November.

Given these factors is it most useful to look at a rolling 12 months than a month snapshot and overall performance in this area over the last 3 years has shown an improving trend. The available number of in house adopters is lower than we need and this is likely to result in the need to purchase placements from other adoption providers. The adoption recruitment campaign is being redesigned and shared arrangements with other South Yorkshire authorities are being progressed.

**3.6 Performance around PEP’s has had an increase in November to 91.7% of eligible looked after children have an up to date PEP.**

The completion of the PEP moved to an E-PEP system in September (start of Autumn term). It was anticipated that performance data would take some time to show improvement, and performance reported last month was of significant concern. Urgent activity was undertaken to examine the issues and as a result a revised system for signing off of PEPs was put in place by the Assistant Director for Education and Skills. This has resulted in much better performance of 91.7% of LAC with an up-to-date PEP. Addressing this backlog has also retrospectively improved the performance now showing for October to 80.5%.

#### **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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