

Summary Sheet

Council Report:
Corporate Parenting Panel

Title:
Corporate Parenting Performance Report – 22nd March 2016

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

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Nicole Chavaudra, Director of Safeguarding

Report Author(s):
Sue Wilson, Head of Service, Performance & Planning
Gary Pickles, Head of Service, Children in Care

Ward(s) Affected:
All

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the performance of services for looked after children as at the 31st January 2016. 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 January 2016.

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 January 2016

Background Papers:

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 January 2016 which is presented to the CYPS Performance Meeting which specifically covers data and information in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers
- 2.2 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 performance information.

3. Key information:

- 3.1 At the end of January 2016 there were 417 looked after children which equates to 73.9 per 10k population. Although this is in line with our statistical neighbours it is higher than the national average and best performing LAs.
- 3.2 At the end of the month there were 417 Looked After Children (LAC), which equates to 73.9 per 10k population. Although this is broadly in line with our statistical neighbours they are higher than the national average and best performing LA's. 'Edge of care' arrangements need to be strengthened over time to prevent the need for children to come into care this is part of the departmental strategy. This is particularly the case in respect of adolescents entering the care system for the first time. Outcomes are rarely improved for young people coming into care in adolescence and work will commence over the next few months to develop a service specifically to work with this group.
- 3.3 At the end of January 2016 there were 98.6% of looked after children who had an up to date plan and 93.9% of those children preparing to leave care with a pathway plan.
- 3.4 At the end of January 2016 74.5% of looked after children have had a stable placement for more than 2 years, with 11.2% of looked after children who had 3 or more moves.

3.5 As reported previously performance in relation to long term LAC stability is very strong at 74.5% however it 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 or remaining in placements that are not meeting their long term needs. The performance in relation to children who have had 3 or more placement moves in a year is of some concern in that although the percentages compare well 47 children is just too many. The Deputy Director and newly appointed LAC managers will be looking at this group of children over the next period in order to better understand the issues.

3.6 Our sufficiency strategy and performance meetings identify that we have too many children placed in residential care, this balance has started to change for our internal provision but remains an issue in relation to the number of children placed in out of authority residential care and we will need to shift that balance to have more children placed in a family setting. This work is now underway and a more robust approach to reviewing these placements is firmly in place.

3.7 At the end of January 2016 91.4% of looked after children had a review in timescale and 97% had been visited by their social worker in line with national minimum standards (with 80.2% within our local standards).

3.8 During the 10 months to the end of January 2016 there had been 32 children adopted with 26 of this within 12 months of their “should be placed for adoption” decision (SHOBPA) – 81.3%

3.9 Performance each month can vary significantly given the size of the cohort which is always very small. There have been 2 adoptions in January taking the total for the reporting year so far to 32.

3.10 Given these factors it is 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.

3.11 Performance around PEP’s in January was 90.7% of eligible looked after children have an upto date PEP.

3.12 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 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 Education and Skills this resulted in a jump in performance. We will endeavour to maintain this with a renewed focus on the quality of plans ensuring that they address individual needs and termly goals. Incremental improvements had been made each month until December, this has reduced further with the percentage of LAC with up-to-date plans at 90.7%.

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)
Gary Pickles (Head of Service, Children in Care)

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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