

Council Report

Corporate Parenting Performance

Title

Corporate Parenting Performance Report – January 2017

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

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Report Author(s)

Deborah Johnson (Performance Assurance Manager – Social Care)
Ian Walker (Head of Service Children in Care)

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of performance for key performance indicators across Looked After Children services. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report at Appendix A which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages where possible.

Recommendations

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to receive the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) and consider issues arising.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A – Corporate Parenting Performance Report (January 2017)

Background Papers

Ofsted Improvement Letter
Children's Social Care Monthly Performance Reports

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required No

Exempt from the Press and Public No

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to receive the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) and consider issues arising.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report provides evidence to the council's commitment to improvement and providing performance information to enable scrutiny of the improvements and the impact on the outcomes for children and young people in care. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data report which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 2.2 Targets, including associated 'RAG' (red, amber, green rating) tolerances, are included. These have been set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, recent performance levels and, importantly, Rotherham's improvement journey.
- 2.3 The narrative supplied within the report has been written by the Deputy Director for Children's Services

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 This is the first performance report for Corporate Parenting Panel since the implementation of the new Liquid Logic case management system at the end of October 2016.
- 3.2 As with any major change in system this changeover created a number of challenges in terms of data quality and reporting. Significant progress has been made however teams are still adjusting to new recording requirements and addressing data migration gaps. Therefore caution needs to be applied when comparing performance to that achieved earlier in the year.
- 3.3 Overall Rotherham has an increasing Looked After Children (LAC) profile. At the end of January there were 482 children in care which equates to a rate of 85.5 per 10,000 population this is high when compared to the 2015/16 year-end position of 76.6 and statistical neighbour average of 75.8.

3.4 Plans

- 3.4.1 Due to technical reasons 'plans' data could not be migrated into Liquid Logic. Therefore workers are required to manually input the information for each child. This no longer relates just to the date of the plan but includes the full details. Performance demonstrates progress has been made with the proportion with a plan increasing

from 55.6% in December to 79.4% in January however we are significantly behind previous performance levels of 95-99%.

3.5 Reviews

- 3.5.1 Timeliness of LAC reviews remains high and monthly performance is relatively stable at above 98%. Slightly lower performance in the summer however is impacting on the year to date figure which is slightly lower but still good at 96.7%.

3.6 Visits

- 3.6.1 Visit data was successfully migrated into the new system. However since the November performance has been declining. This is, in part, connected to the high turnover of staff across the LAC service, this should improve following the latest round of recruitment and once a stable permanent team management is secured. Performance against National Minimum standards at the end of the month was 78.7% and against local standards 65.8%. This is well below targets and previous performance levels.

3.7 Placements

- 3.7.1 Although some placement moves are in the best interests of the child the provision of a good stable home is known to be essential for children to achieve good outcomes. Placement performance statistics demonstrate that we need to improve our preventative work to reduce placement disruption.
- 3.7.2 In January the proportion of children who have had three or more placements (two moves) has seen a small improvement from 12.8% to 11.7%. Whilst it has reduced it continues to be higher than all other benchmarks. Our target of reducing to less than 10% remains and is still achievable.
- 3.7.3 The proportion of our long term children in care who experience a stable placement for over two years is at 66.2% which is a declining picture and places Rotherham below statistical neighbours and the national average.

3.8 Looked After Children Health and Dental

- 3.8.1 Please note there are known delays in the data input for both Health and Dental information therefore it is likely that performance may change when statistics are rerun in future reports.

3.8.2 Current statistics demonstrate that the timeliness of dental checks is declining at 66.1% compared to previous performance of above 71% and a target of 95%.

3.8.3 Health Assessment reviews in the previous three months has been good at over 95% in time and it is expected that the fall in January to 92.7% will be linked to data inputting issues. This will need to be monitored in future months.

3.8.4 Initial Health Assessments (IHA) however remain an area of concern. Every child should have their first (initial) health assessment within the first 20 working days of entering care. However the number of IHAs completed each month is not reflecting the increase in LAC admissions. It is worth noting that January's improvement to 50% relates to only one IHA out of two.

3.9 Personal Education Plan (PEP)

3.9.1 PEPs are now produced termly and are led by the Virtual School Team. 90.1% of eligible children have a PEP recorded on their social care record only 63.7% of children have a PEP which is up-to-date (produced within the last term).

3.10 Care Leavers

3.10.1 The number of Care Leavers is stable at 224. Unfortunately at this time we are unable to report direct on accommodation or Education, Employment and Training (EET) status as the data was not migrated during Liquid Logic implementation and requires manual input on all young people's files. The performance team is working closely with the service and systems support to ensure this gap is addressed.

3.10.2 Whilst the systems developments are being addressed the Leaving Care Team are still ensuring that they can track each young person with an internal tracker.

3.10.3 This tracker showed on 1st February 10 of the young people were not in suitable accommodation, 4 of which were in custody. Of the remaining 6 the service were in touch and supporting all but one of the young people (one in overcrowded family based accommodation, one in hotel/B&B, three 'sofa surfing' at friends) The remaining young person has abandoned his tenancy and is wanted by the police.

3.10.4 The Leaving Care tracker also demonstrated that 71.3% of care leavers were in EET. For those aged over 18 this drops to 64.7%. Although this still compares well against the benchmarking averages of 50.4% for statistical neighbour and 48% for national average, it is still not where we want to be for our young people.

The service continues to work with young people to return them back into suitable training or employment. To support this Early Help services have allocated a part time worker (0.5FTE) to focus on education pathway planning alongside leaving care personal advisers.

3.11 Adoptions

3.11.1 There were nine adoptions in January which is the highest figure for a single month in over 12 months. Although timeliness measures have not been achieved this represents a good outcome for these children. It is hoped that there will be another six adoptions completed before the end of the reporting year taking the total to 35 which is a drop on last year's achievement of 43.

3.12 Caseloads

3.12.1 The impact of rising LAC has been a rise in the number of average number of cases per LAC team social worker to 12.9 however the maximum is now at 18. A management review of all children with a section 20 legal status has identified the potential to return home for up to 15 children. If this is achieved, combined with new edge of care interventions, this will result in a significant decrease in workload.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1 The full corporate parenting performance report attached at Appendix A represents a summary of performance across a range of key national and local indicators with detailed commentary provided by the service director. Commissioners are therefore recommended to consider and review this information.

5. Consultation

5.1 Not applicable

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 Not applicable

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Budget Holder will identify any implications arising from associated improvement actions and Members and Commissioners will be consulted where appropriate.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications to this report.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct human resource implications to this report. The relevant Service Director and Managers will identify any implications arising from associated improvement actions and Members and Commissioners will be consulted where appropriate.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The performance report relates to services and outcomes for children in care.

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct implications within this report.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1 Partners and other directorates are engaged in improving the performance and quality of services to children, young people and their families via the Rotherham Local Children's Safeguarding Board (RLSCB). The RLSCB Performance and Quality Assurance Sub Group receive this performance report within the wider social care performance report on a regular basis.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Inability and lack of engagement in performance management arrangements by managers and staff could lead to poor and deteriorating services for children and young people. Strong management oversight by Directorship Leadership Team and the ongoing weekly performance meetings mitigate this risk by holding managers and workers to account for any dips in performance both at a team and at an individual child level.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Mel Meggs, Deputy Strategic Director (CYPS)
Mel.meggs@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Named Officer -

Director of Legal Services:- Named officer

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- N/A

Name and Job Title.

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>