

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 11 June 2019

Report Title

Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) 2018/2019 Year End Performance

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides a summary of performance under key themes for Children's and Young Peoples Service at the end of the 2018/19 reporting year. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data reports (Appendices 1 & 2) which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.

Recommendations

1. That the report and accompanying datasets (Appendices 1 & 2) be received and consideration be given to the issues arising.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Performance Data Report for Early Help & Family Engagement (March 2019)
- Appendix 2 Performance Data Report for Safeguarding Children & Families (March 2019)

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) 2018/2019 Year End Performance

1. Background

- 1.1 This report evidences the council's commitment to improvement by providing performance information to enable the scrutiny of service achievement levels and the associated impact on the outcomes for children and young people. It should be read in conjunction with the appended performance data reports which provide trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 1.2 It provides a summary of performance under key themes across Children & Young Peoples Services (CYPS) at the end of the 2018/19 reporting year and also represents the monthly report for March 2019. Due to the comprehensive nature of this report summaries of 'What's working well' (Section 2.1) and 'What are we worried about' (Section 2.2) are provided for members at the beginning of the report before a more detailed report for each service area, (Early Help - Section 2.3, Children's Social Care – Section 2.4 and Education and Skills Section 2.5, Inclusion 2.6).
- 1.3 Performance has been considered against local targets, including associated 'RAG' (red, amber, green rating) tolerances. These are reviewed annually and are set in consideration of available national and statistical neighbour benchmarking data, recent performance levels and, importantly, Rotherham's improvement journey and service knowledge. It ensures continued retention of the right focus on the effectiveness of services and achieving good outcomes for children and young people in relation to local priority areas for improvement.
- 1.4 In addition to this annual report members are advised that strong operational performance management arrangements are in place across the service with a programme of team level performance meetings well embedded across social care, early help and are currently being developed in inclusion services. These hold team managers to account with a comprehensive escalation process in place when concerns for individual children are identified. On a monthly basis governance is provided by the CYPS Performance Board attended by the Lead Member, Chief Executive, Independent Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Board and Directorate Leadership Team. Additional scrutiny is provided through the Corporate Parenting Panel and Rotherham Local Safeguarding Board. A Performance and Quality Sub Group of Improving Lives is in place which meets quarterly. Performance management arrangements within CYPS were noted within the letter from Ofsted following the recent focused visit around child permanence 'senior leaders have successfully made use of the council's existing strengths, such as performance reporting'.
- 1.5 The CYPS Quality Assurance Framework also ensures that the service does not over rely on compliance data to evidence the experience and outcomes for children, young people and families. The team manager led audit programme is well embedded across services and Practice Learning Days (PLD) are in place across Social Care and Early Help with plans in place to widen these further across the directorate. Learning days are followed up (no earlier than three months) with a visit by the DCS and Lead Member which provides assurance that any learning has been embedded and any agreed actions completed.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Summary of what was working well during 2018/19

2.2.1 Early Help and Family Engagement

- Satisfaction rates for Early Help are consistently high. 100% of Families completing exit surveys in March rated the Early Help intervention they received as 'Good or Excellent', with the service achieving a total annual performance of 97.2% overall. This is an improvement on the 2017/18 annual performance of 96%.
- As significant elements of the Early Help Service are not mandatory; families have a choice in whether they wish to accept support and engage with Early Help process. Annual performance information shows that Rotherham's local total engagement rate is high at 95.2% which is an improvement on the 2017/18 total engagement figure of 92.2%. Of those engaged 72.6% were contacted and engaged within three working days. This is a significant improvement on 2017/18 when the annual figure was 59.7%.
- The timeliness of Early Help Assessment completion (EHA's) in 2018/19 shows considerable improvement with 62.9% of assessments being completed within the target timeframe, compared to the 2017/18 figure of 47.0%.
- During the year partners completed 24.9% of the total Early Help Assessments (EHA) which represents a significant improvement on last year when only 15.9% of EHA's were completed by Partners. In terms of numbers this is an increase from a total of 225 partner EHAs in 2017/18 to 397 in 2018/19.
- The Troubled Families' target of engaging with 2,674 families during 2018/2019 has been achieved with the total number of families identified by the end of March reaching 2679. This brings the total engagement of families to the project to 5,000 (100% of target)
- Children centre registration and engagement within Rotherham's most deprived areas is good and above target. During the year; 95% of children living in the 30% most deprived super output areas (SOA) were registered with a Children's Centre and 67% of these children were actively engaged (targets of 95% and 65% respectively).
- The year-to-date attendance rate for the current academic year is good and in-line with the latest national averages. Primary is currently 95.7% compared 95.4% last year and 95.8% nationally. Secondary is currently 94.7% compared to 94.3% last year and 94.5% nationally.
- The latest Youth Justice Board (YJB) statistics show that Rotherham has made a positive decrease of 12.3% in the number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System from the same period last year.
- The annual out-turn for the combined Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and Not Known figure has now been validated at 5.8% against the local target of 5.8%. This is broken down into a NEET return of 3.3% (against a target of 3.3% and a Not Known return of 2.5% (against a target of 2.5%). This is in line with the 2017/18 return of 5.8%.

2.2.2 Children's Social Care

- In total; 16,694 contacts were received during the year which is a 6.5% increase when compared with last year (15,671). Alongside this increase there has been a slight increase in the number of contacts having a decision made within one day, 81% compared to 79.5% in 2017/18. The number of referrals going onto an assessment has also improved by 1% (98.2%) when compared with 2017/18. These figures reflect the quality in the operational process of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), suggesting the majority of screening activity takes place earlier and ensuring progression to social care referral only takes place when appropriate.
- Over the last 12 months the re-referral rate has continued to follow a downward trend reaching 21.3% at the end of March 2019 which is a 1.8% decrease on 2017/18 and below the latest National Average figure of 21.9%.
- The overall Children in Need (CiN) population has reduced by 295 children since March 2018 (1678) and now stands at 1383 at the end of 2018/19. Overall the number of children in need per 10k of population (DfE definition) has dropped to 331.7 bringing Rotherham below the national average per 10k of population. Of these children, those with an up to date CiN plan have increased to 90.5% when at the same time last year performance was 82.8%.
- An Ofsted Focussed Visit took place in March 2019 to review permanence planning from which extremely positive feedback was received. Year-end performance in respect of permanence was also positive with 31.3% of LAC being discharged from care to permanence, a 4.2% increase on the previous year (12.6% of these ceasing to be Looked After Children (LAC) by virtue of an SGO).
- At the end of 2018/19 we saw the number of LAC with an up to date care plan improve to 98.3%. This is a significant achievement compared to the same time last year when only 89.5% of care plans were up to date. Similarly LAC Statutory visits within timescales have remained consistently high ending the year at 95.5% and reaching a high of over 98% in some months.
- The % of LAC in a fostering placement remains consistent with 66.4% of children being in a fostering placement at the end of March 2019 (66% 2017/18). However, proportionally the numbers are higher which is positive.
- A total of 32 children were adopted during 2018/19 which is an increase of 5 on the previous year. In addition there are also 36 children currently placed in their adoptive placement and 22 adopters were approved over the course of the year.

2.2.3 Education

- Performance in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) for a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) has continued to rise and is, again, above the national average (by 1.6% in 2018). This is an established trend. 2018 EYFSP GLD outcomes are ranked 1st compared with our statistical neighbours (11 LAs) and 3rd compared with other LAs in the Yorkshire and Humber region (15 LAs).
- In Phonics, the percentage of pupils passing the phonics screening check in year 1 has increased by 2% to 81% in 2018. National averages increased by 1% to 82% in 2018. The gap to the national average is reduced to 1%. 2018 end of year 1 outcomes in Rotherham are ranked 6th compared with our statistical neighbours and ranked 7th compared with other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

- At KS1, the greater depth standard (GDS) for R,W&M combined in Rotherham has improved by 0.5% to 12.7% in 2018; this is 1.0% above the national average at 11.7%. In 2018, the KS1 R,W&M combined indicator is ranked 4th at the expected standard (EXS+) and 1st at GDS compared with other LAs in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- At KS2, the percentage of pupils working at the EXS+ in the writing assessment is 80.0% in 2018, an increase of 2.7% from 2017; this is 2.0% above the national average and the highest performing subject for Rotherham in 2018.
- The average KS1-KS2 progress score for Rotherham LA in writing is +0.7 in 2018 and identified as significantly above the national average. Writing progress is ranked 4th compared with other LAs in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- At KS5, Rotherham LA overall A* to E pass rate has increased by 0.2% to 99.1% in 2018. Provisional national averages published on the BBC news website shows that the overall A* to E pass rate has marginally fallen to 97.6%. Rotherham LA average is 1.5% above the national average

2.2.4 Inclusion

- Performance Management and governance arrangements are being implemented during 2019/20; these will include a monthly performance scorecard with performance measures across all areas of the service and which will be governed by the CYPS Performance Board and overseen by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).
- A SEND Insight Dashboard is also being developed which will offer the same performance management information as in other areas of CYPS.

2.2 Summary of what we are worried about during 2018/2019

2.2.1 Early Help and Family Engagement

- The annual out-turn for the number of Early Help Contacts that were triaged within five working days is 85.8%. This is below the target of 100%, but is still a small improvement on last year's outturn of 85.3%.
- The total number of Payment by Results (PbR) claims submitted for the Families for Change programme, (known nationally as Troubled Families), during this financial year was 871 taking the total for the programme to date to 1,168. However, this is still 1% ahead of the 45% recovery plan target for claiming outcomes by March 2019.

2.2.2 Children's Social Care

- Trend data in relation to Section 47 investigations continues to suggest high volumes. Following audit activity and the outcomes of investigations it is suggested that the majority of these are appropriate. Overall 93.3% of S47 concerns were either 'substantiated with continuing risk', or 'substantiated with no continuing risk'. This indicates continued improvement over the last three consecutive years. This activity continues to be subject to management scrutiny.
- The number of children placed in a commissioned placement increased by 1.8% at the end of 2018/19 when compared to 2017/18. However it is anticipated that this will reduce following the full implementation of the 'House Project' in which 10 young people have step down plans in place.
- The overall number of Initial Health assessments completed within the 20 day timescale for 2018/19 declined with the overall performance for the year being

52% compared to 55.7% in 2017/18. There has also been a gradual decline in the number of Review Health Assessments taking place and this is an area of focussed activity within the LAC service.

2.2.3 Education

- At the end of December 2018 the proportion of Rotherham schools judged as good or better was 82% which is only slightly below the national average of 85%. The proportion of pupils attending a good or better Rotherham school was 79% at the end of December 2018 which falls 5% below the national average of 84% (August 2018).
- There are a number of multi-academy trusts within Rotherham who work in partnership with the Rotherham School Improvement Service (RoSIS) while some have made the decision to work with schools within their own trust and don't engage with the local authority. RoSIS continues to encourage all schools to work with the service and engage in best practice and is committed to retaining positive links and communication with all of Rotherham's educational providers whatever their status.
- Improvements in KS1 and KS2 for Reading at both the expected and higher standard needs to improve to close the gap to the national average.
- During 2018 KS1 outcomes for Reading at the expected standard were lower than the national average with 72.7% compared with the national average of 75.5%.
- 71% of KS2 pupils during the same period achieved the expected standard in Reading which was a 2% improvement on the previous year but 4% lower than the national average with 23% meeting greater depth/higher standards which was 5% lower than the national average although 3.8% higher than 2017.
- The ROSIS traded service offer to schools contains a range of CPD activities linked to the areas for improvement / borough wide priorities. Attainment in reading shows the widest gap to the national average, this is a key priority and a focus of many of the CPD and school improvement activities available to schools through the traded service offer. The service will ensure that libraries (through Culture, Sport and Tourism) link into education to help improve reading across the authority
- The percentage of pupils achieving expected standards in mathematics decreased in 2018 with 74% of pupils achieving the expected standards which was 1.9% lower than the previous year and 2% lower than the national average. Those achieving a greater depth/higher standard of mathematics decreased very slightly by 0.6% to 19% and were 5% lower than the national average.
- Targeted Support Workshops with a focus on KS2 reading and mathematics have been held during the Autumn Term 2018 (starting October). Consistently high performing schools or those that have improved significantly are invited to deliver short "best practice" workshops to other schools. Invited schools are encouraged before they leave the session that day to draw up an action plan of what they will change in their school following their attendance at the workshop.
- The KS4 Attainment 8 score per pupil has decreased by 1.7 points and is 3.2 points below the national average (state-funded schools) and 1.0 points below the national average (all schools) in 2018.
- The progress 8 score is below the national level for the first time in 2018.
- The Education Assistant Director has proposed a funding commitment from secondary schools to support the appointment of three lead practitioners for

English, Maths and Science. They would take a lead role in raising standards across Rotherham at KS4.

- There are regular termly meetings with the Regional Schools Commissioners office (RSC) where performance and other issues are discussed.

2.2.4 Inclusion

- Cumulative performance for 2017/18 was below the Council Plan Target of 70% at 57.1% for new EHCP's, which remains in line with performance last year.

2.3 Early Help and Family Engagement

2.3.1 Early Help Contacts. The annual out-turn for the number of Early Help Contacts that were triaged within five working days was 85.8% which, although below the target of 100%, does demonstrate an improvement in performance against last year which was 85.3%.

2.3.2 Annual performance shows that 72.6% of families were contacted and engaged within the three working day timescale with a further 22.6% being engaged with outside of timescales bringing the total annual out-turn to a high 95.2%. This shows really positive performance and evidences that workers are engaging early with families once allocations are made to localities.

2.3.3 Early Help Assessments. Of the 125 Early Help Assessments (EHA's) in scope for completion in March 2019, 67.2% were completed within the target timeframe. This was in comparison with March 2018 when 45.6% of assessments were completed within timescales. A further 12.0% of the EHA's required in March 2019 were completed outside of the 45 day time frame which results in a 79.2% rate of completion overall. This is positive and is evidence of the effectiveness of the Early Help Performance meetings and the local Insight Performance Portal and Dashboard. Overall, during the year, 62.9% of EHA's were completed in timescales, with a further 22.1% being completed outside of timescales. This shows the annual completion rate for assessments at a pleasing 85%.

2.3.4 Progress and support for partners to complete Early Help Assessments is ongoing and by the end of March 2019 24.9% of EHA's in 2018/2019 had been completed by partners which is a significant improvement on last year of 15.9%. The number of EHA Recommendations submitted to partners from the Triage Team also continues to rise which in turn will have an impact (decreasing) on the high volume reaching the Early Help Locality Teams and will allow more time to focus on intervention with families and an increased focus on performance.

2.3.5 The Multi-Agency Practice Development Group reports to the Early Help Steering Group and continues to meet on a regular basis and is driving improved performance across the partnership. Partners are also supported by the five Early Help Integrated Working Leads which are based across Early Help localities. Partner engagement with the EHA is being effectively tracked to highlight progress being made across agencies.

- 2.3.6 During 2018/19, Primary and Secondary schools completed 79.6% of Partner EHA's with the remaining Partners (including Health) completing the remaining 30.4%. Work is ongoing with health colleagues to focus on increasing the low numbers of EHAs completed.
- 2.3.7 **Children's Centres.** Children's Centres performance in the 30% most deprived Super Output Area (SOA) neighbourhoods remains strong with 95% of children registered (meeting the target).
- 2.3.8 Engagement rates saw a similar trend with the 30% most deprived SOA's achieving overall performance of 67% against a 66% target. This is a slight decrease when compared with 2017/2018 when performance reached 68%.
- 2.3.9 **Step Down from Social Care** The step down process continues to be managed in localities rather than the previous central panel approach and now includes the Duty team. Team Managers from Children's Social Care and Early Help Locality Managers agree a planned step down through dialogue that enhances integrated working and shared operational practice. Step Down in localities supports better integrated working across front line staff and managers and also enables 'Step Up' dialogue to take place. During 2018/19 559 families with 1309 children were stepped down to an Early Help Locality team. This is an increase when compared with 2017/18 with figures of 489 families with 873 children.
- 2.3.10 **Families for Change.** The number of families identified as meeting the Troubled Families' criteria increased during March 2019 (217 when compared with 168 in December) in the Families for Change programme. The target of engaging with 2,674 families during 2018/19 has been exceeded with the total number of families identified by the end of March 2019 reaching 2,679.
- 2.3.11 By the 31st March 2019 5005 families (100% of 5,000) had been engaged with the programme. Any further engagement in 2019/20 will be for discreet cohorts where potential for payments by results outcomes is likely.
- 2.3.12 A further Payment by Results (PbR) claim was submitted at the end of March 2019. This brings the total claim to 871 in this financial year, and 1,168 in total. Of the payments claimed in this financial year, 122 (14%) were based on an adult in the family entering employment and sustaining this for 3-6 months (depending on the benefit claimed) and 749 (86%) claims were based on 'significant and sustained progress' based on a range of issues identified through the Early Help Assessment.
- 2.3.13 There has been a significant improvement in the rate of claims at this stage with actual claims exceeding the recovery plan target of 45% by 1%.
- 2.3.14 **Persistent Absence** (based on Half term 1-3 data). The Primary School LA average for Persistent Absence (PA) (not including schools who have shared data 8/95) is 10.7%, which is a decrease of 1.1% compared to the same period in 2017/18. Currently 33 Primary Schools (34.7%) have lower levels of persistent absence than the national average.

2.3.15 The Secondary school LA average for Persistent Absence (PA) (not including schools who have shared data 2/16) is 13.6%, which is a decrease of 1.3% compared to the same period in 2017/18. Currently 8 secondary schools (50.0%) have lower levels of persistent absence than the national average. Early Help Team Managers are currently liaising with schools across the borough to ensure that appropriate support is being offered to those pupils who need it to improve their attendance. This may be through family support work and/or group work in schools.

2.3.16 **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).** The annual outturn for the combined Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and Not Known measure achieved a 5.8% return in 2018/19 which meets the target of 5.8%.

2.3.17 **Youth Offending.** Based on the latest released Youth Justice Board (YJB) data, which covers period January to December 2018, Rotherham's First Time Entrants (FTE) into the youth justice system continues to decrease and stands at 194 which is 12.3% lower than the same period last year. The actual decrease in numbers for Rotherham relates to 7 young people. This continues the downward trend from the previous quarter and is lower than National and Regional trends. The decrease is attributable to work undertaken with South Yorkshire Police for the YOT to assess and intervene with young people prior to charge. This does however have a perverse impact on reoffending rates in relation to a smaller cohort with a greater propensity to offend.

2.3.18 **Customer Feedback.** In Early Help and Family Engagement during Quarter 4, 58 voluntary exit surveys were completed; bringing the total at year end to 232 exit surveys returned citing the top reason for requiring support as parenting support for behaviour. Over the year, through these surveys 97.2% of families rated the Early Help intervention they received as 'good or excellent'.

2.3.19 Case Studies are now embedded across Children's Centres enabling further qualitative feedback to be captured for group based delivery and 1:1 support. A performance framework has been developed which captures KPI's and evidences how the Early help offer contributes to the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) with Impact Calls completed bi-monthly looking initially at the impact of Breast pump hire.

2.4 Children's Social Care

2.4.1 **Contacts and Referrals.** There was an increase of 187 contacts in March when compared to the previous month, but this is more in line with January 2019. Data suggests that this is due to an increase in referrals from education which have increased from 199 in February to 310 in March. The reason for this increase is not clear, and 60.3% of these contacts did not progress to a referral, suggesting only 39.7% of them met the threshold.

2.4.2 In total 16,694 contacts were received during the year which is a 6.5% increase when compared with last year (15671).

- 2.4.3 The % of contacts where a decision was made within one working day decreased slightly during March 2019 at 76% although proportionately there were more contacts. Managers ensure that urgent work is prioritised and dealt with in a timely manner. However, when comparing annually; performance has increased slightly with 81% of contact decisions made within one day with 79.5% in 2017/18.
- 2.4.4 March 2019 saw an increase in referrals which is in line with the increase of contacts. 98.3% of referrals went on to assessment following the operations process where the majority of screening activity taking place when the contact arrives into the MASH. Performance has improved by 1% when compared with 2017/18.
- 2.4.5 **Child Assessments.** Throughout the year 4797 new assessments (excluding assessment updates) were started which shows a decrease of 398 (8.2%) when compared with 2017/18.
- 2.4.6 Timeliness of assessments (% completed within 45 days) improved in March 2019 with performance at 88.8% which is a 6.9% increase on the previous month and annual performance 81.1%, an increase of 2.1% on the previous year.
- 2.4.7 Assessment outcomes have increased slightly throughout 2018/19 with 67.9% either receiving Early Help or on-going Social Care support when compared with 65.2% in 2017/18. This supports MASH decision making and threshold application.
- 2.4.8 **Section 47 Investigations.** There has been a slight increase in the number of S47's investigations in March. Following audit activity and the outcomes of investigations it is suggested that in the majority these are appropriate.
- 2.4.9 In the month of March 96.5% of S47's concerns were either substantiated with continuing risk identified, or substantiated but with no continuing risk with 93.3% overall during 2018/19. This indicates continued improvement over the last three consecutive years.
- 2.4.10 **Children in Need (CIN).** Over the last 12 months the overall CiN population reduced by 295 children and was 1383 at the end of March 2019. In the first quarter of the year the average number of CiN was 1774, this reduced significantly from quarter 2 onwards. The average for the rest of the year reduced to 1434. The number of children with an up to date plan has risen to 90.5% compared to 82.8% at the end of 2017/18.
- 2.4.11 Overall the number of children in need per 10K has dropped to 331.7 which now brings Rotherham below the national average per 10k of population. Of these Children, those with an up to date plan have increased to 90.5% when at the same time last year performance was 82.8%.

- 2.4.12 **Child subject to Child Protection Plans (CP).** The trend for the number of children per 10K population with a Child Protection Plan (CPP) remains significantly higher (88.9) than that of statistical neighbours (54.5) and the national average (45.3). However, the numbers of children becoming subject to a plan each month has steadily reduced since June 2018 as expected.
- 2.4.13 The timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) in March 2019 declined from a high of 91% to 77.4% (41 children out of 53 children had an ICPC in timescale). In response the Child Protection Service Manager has worked closely with fieldwork managers to ensure that the systems in place to prevent late notification are understood and used effectively. Out-turn for the year was 86.8% which was 2.8% higher than the previous year.
- 2.4.14 Performance in the timeliness of Review Case Conferencing has seen a positive improvement in March 2019 to 99.3% being carried out in timescale despite a high level of conferences. 151 out of 152 children had their plan reviewed in timescale, which equates to one conference out of time. This is an improvement on last year where 93.8% of CP cases were reviewed within timescale.
- 2.4.15 In the last 12 months the proportion of children subject to repeat plans within 24 months has started to see an improving trend which may be an indication that our continuing work with families is making a sustainable impact in keeping children safe. The repeat plans 'ever' measure has also seen an improvement but at a slower rate which is reflective of longer term poor practice. These two measures when considered with the reducing re-referral rates at front door, give us a level of assurance that we are making the right decisions about plans.
- 2.4.16 The data suggests that the services ability to reach a timely resolution for children at risk continues to be good. This is likely to relate in large part to increasing numbers of children in care and subject of a legal proceeding. There is increased evidence of better use of family group conferencing and edge of care support in addition to the pre-proceedings PLO process.
- 2.4.17 There has been an overall positive reduction in the number of children on a plan for more than 2 years but with a peak in recent months. The situation for these children was expected and is well understood with planning deemed appropriate by senior managers. Regular reviews and management oversight of these cases ensure that we have the right children, subject to the right plan, at the right time.
- 2.4.18 There has been a decrease in the proportion of CPP children with an up-to-date visit since last month, however there is still an overall increase over the year with 95.6% of due visits completed as opposed to 93.6% during 2017/18.
- 2.4.19 **Looked after Children (LAC).** During March 2019 the LAC numbers stabilised at 643 following a net increase of 16. Dependant on Court outcomes, there is potential for between 26 and 31 children to be discharged from care during April 2019. LAC numbers at the same time last year were 627.

- 2.4.20 In March there was an Ofsted Focussed Visit which reviewed the permanence planning within Rotherham - a previously identified area for development. Feedback was extremely positive and this has been endorsed by the year end performance in respect of permanence with 31.3% of LAC being discharged from care to permanence, up from 27% in the previous year, and 12.6% ceasing LAC by virtue of an SGO (previous years - 9.8% and 8.2%). This is higher than our statistical neighbours and the national average although not in the top quartile range.
- 2.4.21 The number of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves reduced in March by 8 (13.9% in February to 12.7% in March). However, Rotherham remains below the statistical neighbour average in both measures, although the on-going drive for permanence is likely to continue to impact on long-term placement stability figures.
- 2.4.22 The number of children placed in a commissioned placement has increased by 5 from February (51.3% to 52.3%) but it is anticipated that this will reduce with the full implementation of the House Project in which 10 young people have step down plans in place.
- 2.4.23 March saw the highest performance of the year with 98.3% of children having an up to date care plan. This is a significant achievement especially when comparing the same time last year when 89.5% of care plans were up to date.
- 2.4.24 Statutory visits within timescales have also remained consistently high ending the year at 95.5% and reaching a high of over 98% during some months. There has been a slight decrease in review performance with 88.3% of these completed in time during the year (90.6% in 2017/18).
- 2.4.25 The number of Initial Health assessments completed within the 20 day timescale declined slightly in March with 56.3% whilst in February performance reached 100% which was extremely positive. Overall performance for the year is 52% which is a slight decline on the previous year (55.7%).
- 2.4.26 **Personal Education Plans.** At the end of the autumn term 98% of eligible LAC had a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and 97.5% had a PEP for less than one term. This performance is high and an improvement on the summer term.
- 2.4.27 11 PEPs were not reviewed over the course of the term, due in the main to admissions to care coming through too late in the term to arrange the PEP meeting.
- 2.4.28 **Care Leavers.** At the end of March there were 301 care leavers, the highest number to date. The number of care leavers with an up to date pathway plan has increased this year with 79.1% when compared with the same time last year when 70.3% of plans were up to date. However, there has been a decline in the % of care leavers with a pathway plan in place, with performance reaching 84.5% at the end of March (93.9% March 2018). Performance in respect of care leavers who are in employment, education or training (EET) and in suitable accommodation has also dipped very slightly but both measures are still well above the national averages, 51% and 84% respectively.

2.4.29 **Fostering.** At the end of March 2019 there were 149 Foster Carers (households) in Rotherham, which is slightly less than the same time last year (154). During the year 11 Foster Carers were recruited and a further 21 de-registered.

2.4.30 The % of LAC in a fostering placement remains consistent with last year at 66.4%.

2.4.31 **Adoption.** A total of 32 children were adopted during 2018/19 which is an increase of 5 on the previous year. Only 11 of the 32 adoptions was completed within 12 months of the SHOBPA decision but this is primarily because RMBC does not implement time limited searches but will continue to seek adoptive placements to secure the best form of permanence for our children and 72% (23 children) of the children adopted in 2018/19 were in the 'hard to place' categories.

2.4.32 In addition; there are currently 36 children placed in their adoptive placement and 22 adopters were approved throughout the year which is 8 more than the previous year.

2.5 Education

2.5.1 **Ofsted School Judgements.** At the end of December 2018 the proportion of Rotherham schools judged as good or better was 82% which is only slightly below the national average of 85%. The proportion of pupils attending a good or better Rotherham school was 79% at the end of December 2018 which falls 5% below the national average of 84% (August 2018).

2.5.2 OFSTED have introduced changes to the statistical reporting of inspection outcomes from June 2018. They now include the grades from the predecessor schools for new academies that have not yet been inspected in their current form. This has resulted in our proportion of good or better schools decreasing by 2% which is in line with the national average decrease.

2.5.3 **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP).** Performance in the EYFSP for a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) has continued to rise and is, again, above the national average (by 1.6% in 2018). This is an established trend. 2018 GLD outcomes are ranked 1st compared with our statistical neighbours (11 Local Authorities) and 3rd compared with other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region (15 Local Authorities).

2.5.4 **Phonics.** The percentage of pupils passing the phonics screening check in year 1 has increased by 2% to 81% in 2018. National averages increased by 1% to 82% in 2018. The gap to the national average reduced to 1%. 2018 end of year 1 outcomes in Rotherham are ranked 6th compared with our statistical neighbours and ranked 7th compared with other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

- 2.5.5 Key Stage 1.** 65% of pupils met the expected standard (EXS+) in reading, writing and mathematics combined in 2018, compared to 64% in 2017. Rotherham has improved by 1% and is in line with the national average at 65.4%. In the greater depth standard (GDS) for reading, writing and mathematics combined at KS1, Rotherham has improved by 0.5% to 12.7%; this is 1% above the national average at 11.7%. In 2018, the KS1 reading, writing and mathematics combined indicator is ranked 4th at the EXS+ and 1st at GDS compared with other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- 2.5.6 Key Stage 2.** 62.0% of pupils met the EXS+ in reading, writing and mathematics combined in 2018, compared to 60.8% in 2017. Rotherham has improved by 1.2% and is 2.0% below the national average. In the higher standard (HS) for reading, writing and mathematics combined at KS2, Rotherham improved by 1.2% to 8.3%; this is 1.7% below the national average at 10.0%. In 2018, the KS2 reading, writing and mathematics combined indicator is ranked 7th at the EXS+ and 8th at the HS compared with other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- 2.5.7** In 2018, the average KS1- KS2 progress score for Rotherham LA in reading is -0.6 (sig-), in writing is +0.7 (sig+) and in maths is + 0.0. The progress measure in reading is identified as significantly below the national average; the progress in writing is identified as significantly above the national average. Reading progress is ranked 11th, writing progress is ranked 4th and mathematics progress is ranked 8th compared with other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- 2.5.8 Attainment 8.** Average Attainment 8 score per pupil has decreased by 1.4 points to 43.6 in 2018. The national average increased by 0.2 points to 46.6 (state-funded i.e. LA maintained schools, academies and free schools) and decreased by 0.1 points to 44.5 (all schools including the independent sector). The LA average is 3.0 points below the national average (state-funded schools) and 0.9 point below the national average (all schools).
- 2.5.9 Progress 8.** In 2018, the KS2 - KS4 Progress 8 score is -0.09; this is -0.07 below the national average (state-funded) score of -0.02. This is the first year the progress 8 score has been below the national level. The Progress 8 measure is ranked 12th compared against other Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region and 3rd compared against our statistical neighbours.
- 2.5.10 Key Stage 4.** The percentage of pupils achieving grade 5 or above in English and mathematics is 37.4%; 6.1% below the national average (state-funded schools) and 2.8% below the national average (all schools).
- 2.5.11 Key Stage 5,** Rotherham LA overall A* to E pass rate has increased by 0.2% to 99.1% in 2018. Provisional national averages published on the BBC news website shows that the overall A* to E pass rate has marginally fallen to 97.6%. Rotherham LA average is 1.5% above the national average. Please note this information was collected directly from secondary schools on results day 2018.

2.5.12 The Average Points Score (APS) per entry in 2018 for A level students has increased by 0.54 to 29.63. National averages have increased by 0.87 points to 32.12 (state-funded) and 1.21 points to 33.33 (all schools). The LA average is 2.49 points below the national average (state-funded schools) and 3.70 points below the national average (all schools) in 2018.

2.6 Inclusion Services

2.6.1 **Exclusions.** The Council continues to set challenging but realistic targets to address the rising number of exclusions in Rotherham, particularly those that are permanent. These rising figures are following a national trend and being addressed through a recent Department for Education 'Call For Evidence' that will contribute to a review of school exclusions. This was due to be reported on by the end of December 2018, but at the time of writing, has yet to be released.

2.6.2 The last academic year (2017/18) initially had 71 permanent exclusions but 26 (3 Primary and 23 Secondary) were overturned or rescinded, with the actual recorded number of permanent exclusions being 45 (4 Primary, 41 Secondary). This represented a slight rise overall.

2.6.3 From September 2018 to 12th April 2019 the current number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools is 34 (plus 9 withdrawn); and 11 primary permanent exclusions (plus 2 withdrawn); so a current total of 45 permanent exclusions to date, this indicates an increase (with eleven weeks remaining before final numbers will be known). Whilst a number of factors may be contributing to this increase, it is evident that the culture, leadership and ethos of schools/multi-academy trusts contribute to their approach to exclusion and as a consequence of this the threshold for reaching permanent exclusion is not consistent across schools.

2.6.4 Measures are being taken across the partnership model advocated by the local authority, including training and development of the local authority Pupil Referral Units' offer for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs. Alongside this, the Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership (RESP) are addressing exclusions; the Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) strategy is now written and out for consultation and Rotherham were successful in their bid to be a CAMHS Trailblazer, entailing setting up Mental Health Support Teams. These preventative approaches should all help in reducing exclusion.

2.6.5 **Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).** In relation to the Conversions – the Team completed 98% all Conversations by the target date of April 2018 and the remaining 2% were delayed due to the complexity of the individual cases however were completed before the end of the Summer Term 2018. This showed a significant achievement for the team and demonstrates accelerated progress made in the conversions being all completed last year.

2.6.6 The percentage of completed new EHCP's within 20 weeks fluctuated last year due to the necessary prioritising of the conversions and seasonal fluctuations in demand (ie school holiday periods). Cumulative performance for 2017/18 was at 57.1% for new EHCP's.

2.6.7 There were new incremental quarterly targets set and monitored for 2018/19 with the aim of the service achieving performance levels of 90% in the following reporting year (2019/20). Performance for the proportion of Education and Health Care Plans completed within the statutory timescales of 20 weeks is below.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Performance was 48% (Target was 45%)	Performance was 65% (Target was 65%)	Performance was 51% (Target was 75%)	Performance was 64% (Target is 90%)

2.6.8 The Education, Health and Care Assessment Team underwent a restructure in October 2018. There are 4 vacant posts which are impacting on performance; these vacant posts are to be filled by the end of April. There is also a new EHCP Manager starting in post from May 2019.

2.6.9 Latest monthly performance shows that in January 2019- 42% were completed within the 20 weeks', February shows 83% completed and March shows 88% completed in the timescale.

2.6.10 A further set of incremental quarterly targets (see table below) have just been agreed and set for 2019/20 taking into account that the new EHCP manager starts in May 2019. These targets are realistic but challenging and will be continuously monitored.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Target 55%	Target 70%	Target 85%	Target 90%

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The full service performance reports attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 represents a summary of performance across a range of key national and local indicators with detailed commentary provided by the service. Elected members are therefore recommended to consider and review this information.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 N/A

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 N/A

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no specific financial implications linked to the performance report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications to this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resource implications to this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The performance report relates to safeguarding services for children and young people.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no direct implications within this report.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 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 CYPS Performance Board, the Corporate Parenting Panel, the Early Help Steering Group and the SEND Strategic Partnership Board. All the Boards receive performance reports on a regular basis.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 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 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.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Ailsa Barr, Acting Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
David McWilliams, Assistant Director, Early Help
Pepe Diiasio, Assistant Director, Education & Skills
Jenny Lingrell, Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality (CYPS)

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