

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Corporate Parenting Panel
2.	Date:	21st October, 2014
3.	Title:	2014/15 Quarter 1 Report
4.	Directorate:	Safeguarding, Children and Families

5. Summary

This report provides an update on the status of looked after children as at the end of June 2014. The report should be considered alongside the data tables provided. Please note that this is the first quarter for this year and that the previous period on the data table was the year end for 2013/14, therefore, the numbers will some times be considerably different because they will be for the whole year, not just one quarter.

6. Recommendations

- That the panel note the performance information.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Key Performance Information

7.1.1 Looked After Children

From April to June 2014, we had 37 children and young people admitted to care. This was the same as the average for each quarter last year. 41 children were discharged, which was slightly above the average number per quarter last year.

67.9% of the long term looked after children were in stable places, which was the same as the previous year. We had only 1% with three or more placements.

All of our LAC were allocated to a key team with a qualified key worker and 94% of LAC had a care plan recorded on Swift. 97.1% were reviewed within the required timecales. 91.9% of LAC that were over 4 years old had participated in their LAC review.

As at 30th June, 56.5% of LAC had received LAC visits within the previous 6 weeks.

The Independent Reviewing Officer service had 79 dispute resolutions that were informal concerns, 21 that were taken to stage 1 and 5 were taken to stage 2. None were taken to stage 3. This is a new section to our Corporate Parenting report so we will track the direction of travel next quarter.

7.1.2 Placements and Mainstream LAC

Of our LAC, we had 44.9% in Rotherham fostering placements and 25.4% in out of authority fostering placements. The number in Rotherham placements had increased in this quarter by 4.4%.

We had 3.6% of LAC placed within Rotherham childrens homes; 4.9% in out of authority childrens homes and 3.8% in other residential accommodation. There was an increase in out of authority placements.

We had 4.1% placed with parents and 2.6% in independent living. We had 8.2% placed for adoption.

7.1.3 Commissioned Placements

We had 100 children in commissioned fostering placements in the period of April to June 2014. 12 were new fostering placements commissioned this financial year. 20 placements had ceased in this quarter.

The projected cost of commissioned fostering placements so far this financial year is lower than the previous period at £4,633,337.

For residential placements, we had 29 children in a commissioned placement. There were 8 new placements for this financial year, and 9 that had ceased. The projected commissioned total cost has increased from the last period of £3,600,475 to £4,64,847.

7.1.4 Health

We had 85.2% of LAC with an up to date health assessment and 60.1% with an up to date dental assessment. The dental assessments had increased by 15% since the last period.

7.1.5 Fostering

We recruited 8 foster carers in the first quarter, which is on average the same as last year (35 for the whole year). We had 5 deregistered, which was a little higher than the average for last year (15 for the whole year).

We had a total of 176 foster carers and 1 of those had placements over the regulatory numbers due to a sibling group.

7.1.6 Adoptions

In the first quarter, we placed 80% of LAC for adoption within 1 year of their agency decision, which is an increase of 25% from the previous period.

We had 47 children with a SHOBPA decision and we were actively family finding for 26 of those. 32 children were placed for adoption at the end of June.

12 children were placed whose SHOBPA decision was over 12 months old. We were family finding for 5 children of those children. Of those 5 children, 3 children had links identified and were waiting to go to panel for matching. The foster carers of the other 2 children had come forward to adopt them, therefore, adoption assessments were being started for the foster carers. This means that all 5 children had placements identified at the end of the quarter.

7.1.7 Education

90.4% of LAC have an up to date personal education plan. This is an increase of 1.5% on the last period.

The GCSE results have not changed as the results will be released in the next quarter. We have 6 out of 25 LAC achieving 5 A-C GCSC or equivalent at key stage 4.

7.1.8 OFSTED Ratings for Children's Residential Establishments

The Ofsted full inspections are due at most homes in the next quarter. We have had an excellent change in rating for St Edmunds after their inspection this quarter. They have been rated as Good. This is excellent progress as the home had previously been rated as making inadequate progress. The team have worked hard to overcome the issues and bring the quality of the home and rating up to a higher standard.

Children's Homes	Rating
Cherry Tree	Adequate
Liberty House	Adequate
Silverwood	Good
St. Edmund's	Good
Wood View	Good

7.1.9 Care Leavers

170 (96%) of care leavers were in suitable accommodation and 111 (63%) were in employment, education or training.

Of those not in EET, 20% were seeking work. 17 were on sickenss benefit, 10 were parents and 3 were pregnant.

7.1.10 Children Missing from Care

We had 158 instances of 59 LAC missing from care and 156 instances of 93 children missing from home.

7.1.11 Youth Offending

We have had 7 children looked after over one year, between the age of 10-17 who have been involved with Youth Offending Services.

7.1.12 Voice of the Child

Review meetings for looked after children and young people provide a systematic approach to ensuring the thoughts and feelings around placements; health; school; work or college; and their relationship with their social worker are captured. Each review meeting is dealt with on an individual basis and addressed appropriately. However during May 2014,

analysis of the consultation that took place at the March reviews was carried out to look for any overarching or recurring themes.

The analysis of the reviews has been shared with the Corporate Parenting Board previously, showing that the contact arrangements was the main area of concern and that the age group of 14-18 year olds were harder to engage with. It has been agreed that the Performance and Quality team will undertake a second analysis exercise during September 2014.

It has been agreed that Rotherham are due to take part in the annual Children's Commissioners National Survey, which will be an electronic survey open to young people to take part in from November 2014. Discussions are taking place with relevant teams to maximise engagement in completing the survey.

The results from the survey will be published in March 2015 and will enable us gain views specifically for Rotherham looked after children and young people but will be anonymised.