

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Corporate Parenting Panel
2.	Date:	20 th January 2015
3.	Title:	2014/15 Quarter 2 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 September 2014. The report should be considered alongside the data tables provided.

6. Recommendations

That the panel note the performance information.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Key Performance Information

7.1.1 Looked After Children

At the end of September 2014, we had 400 looked after children. 70% were long term LAC in stable placements with 1 child having 3 or more placements. Since 1st April, 83 children were admitted to care and 79 children were discharged.

98.5% of LAC were reviewed within required timescales. All of them were allocated to a qualified team and worker and 95% had a care plan recorded on Swift. These are all slight increases on the last quarter.

91% had participated in their LAC reviews with 59% receiving visits within the last weeks.

7.1.2 Placements and Mainstream LAC

43.5% of our LAC were placed in Rotherham fostering placements with 27% in out of authority fostering placements. 7.5% were placed for adoption.

3.5% of LAC were placed in our own children's homes whilst 3.3% were out of authority and 6% in other residential accommodation.

5.3% of LAC were placed with parents and 2.3% were in independent living.

7.1.3 Commissioned Placements

We had 109 children in commissioned fostering placements. 40 of these were new fostering placements commissioned in this financial year, whilst 33 placements had ceased. The projected cost of commissioned fostering placements so far this financial year increased from £4,064,847 in quarter 1 to £4,878,538 in quarter 2.

There were 32 children commissioned to a residential placement, 21 of these were new this financial year, whilst 20 placements ceased. The projected cost of commissioned residential placements so far this financial year increased from £4,064,847 in quarter 1 to £4,389,443 in quarter 2.

7.1.4 Health

We had an increase of LAC with an up to date health assessments from 85% last quarter to 89% this quarter. However, we a drop in up to date dental assessments from 60% last quarter down to 45% this quarter. Note that this is on a rolling year.

7.1.5 Fostering

At the end of September we had 152 active foster carers out of 176.

We have had 13 new recruits during this financial year and 14 deregistered. We have 1 carer with placements over regulatory numbers due to caring for a sibling group. This is the same carer as on previous quarterly reports.

7.1.6 Adoptions

We had 63 children with a SHOBPA decision during this quarter with 19 who's SHOBPA decision was over 12 months old.

We were family finding for 33 children, 4 of those children had a SHOBPA decision over 12 months old.

We had 30 children placed for adoption and 17 LAC were placed for adoption within 1 year of their agency decision.

7.1.7 Education

86.7% of all LAC had an up to date personal education plan.

GCSC results were released during this period. 3 out of 26 young people achieved 5 A*-C GCSE's or equivalent at Key Stage 4, including English and Maths. This is a decline compared to last years 6 out of 25.

7.1.8 OFSTED Ratings for Children's Residential Establishments

Inspections were undertaken at all homes this quarter in conjunction with the Ofsted Single Inspection for CYPS.

Liberty House showed an improvement and were graded from adequate to Good. St Edmunds had declined in effectiveness when they were visited in September, however, a revisit in November had the compliance notice lifted and they were graded to be Good again.

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

7.1.9 Care Leavers

97% of care leavers were in suitable accommodation. This was a slight increase on the previous quarter. 3 of our care leavers were in custody and 1 was 'sofa surfing'.

The percentage of care leavers in employment, education or training increased to 67%. 17 cases were on sickness benefit and unable to work; 9 were young parents and 3 were in custody. 30 care leavers were claiming JSA.

7.1.10 Children Missing from Care

35 children were reported as missing from care and 107 children reported as missing from home. 8 of those that were reported as missing from home, were also reported as missing from care at a different time during the quarter. Therefore, the total number of missing children was 134 for Rotherham (not 142).

The number of children reported as missing from care had reduced by 24 from last quarters number but there was an increase of 14 children missing from home.

7.1.11 Youth Offending

3% of children looked after for over a year aged between 10 years and 17 years old, were involved with Youth Offending Services.

7.1.12 Voice of the Child

Rotherham's looked after children are being given the opportunity to take part in an annual national online survey, run by Children's Commissioners, called MyCare. This commenced in November 2014 and looks at: coming into care, being in care, choices, being heard, their carers, health, their future, safety and education and training.

To address issues found from the May 2014 analysis of looked after children consultation booklets, around participation of 14-18 year olds and contact arrangements, the Operational Safeguarding Manager called a LAC Strategy Sub group meeting on November 10th. This meeting was to consider how the voice of the child is promoted in RMBC. It will provide an

opportunity for key professionals, whose role it is to gather and listen to this voice of the child, to come together to share and coordinate pieces of work, look at the gaps and how we can address these. To help increase the number of returns, an online version of the consultation booklet is being considered as an option for children and young people to complete.

In addition to this meeting the Performance and Quality Team are looking at a broader participation strategy for Rotherham that pulls together how all children, young people and families participate and feedback their experiences of working with various Council services. This will include looked after children and all children at risk.

Further analysis of looked after children feedback from July/August/September 2014 reviews with Independent Reviewing Officers is currently being analysed by the Performance and Quality Team and the results will be shared at the next meeting.

8. Finance:

The projected cost of commissioned fostering placements so far this financial year increased from £4,064,847 in quarter 1 to £4,878,538 in quarter 2. More placements have been commissioned than have ceased.

The projected cost of commissioned residential placements so far this financial year increased from £4,064,847 in quarter 1 to £4,389,443 in quarter 2.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

Following the OFSTED inspection in September 2014 a more robust performance management framework is under development of which looked after children and care leavers are a key component.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

OFSTED inspections of children's services place a real focus on the role of corporate parenting and how this impacts on the improvements of services for looked after children and that their outcomes are the same as their peers.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Corporate Parenting Report Q2 2014-2015

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