

## Summary Sheet

### Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Committee – Date: 25 July 2017

### Report Title

Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) 2016/2017 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

Ian Thomas, Children and Young People's Services

### Report Author(s)

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### Ward(s) Affected

All

### Summary

- 1.1 This report is an annual report being presented to Improving Lives Select Committee. It provides a summary of performance under key themes for Children's and Young Peoples Service at the end of the 2016/17 reporting year. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data reports (Appendix A) which provides trend data, graphical analysis and benchmarking data against national and statistical neighbour averages.

### Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to receive the report and accompanying dataset (Appendix A) and consider issues arising.

### List of Appendices Included

### Background Papers

Early Help Monthly Performance Report – March 2017

Safeguarding Children & Families Monthly Performance Report – March 2017

### 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 That members receive the report and accompanying dataset and consider issues arising.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 This report evidences 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. It provides a summary of performance under key themes for Children & Young Peoples Services at the end of the 2016/17 reporting year and also represents the monthly report for March 2017. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying performance data reports 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, were introduced in September 2015 against appropriate measures for Social Care and in January 2016 for Early Help and Family Engagement. 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 Targets are reviewed revised annually along with any associated tolerances and that appropriate adjustments or additions are made for 2017/18. This will ensure 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.

## **3 Key Issues**

### **3.1 Good and improved performance in the last 12 months**

- Overall, during 2016/2017 there were 3914 contacts into the Early Help service indicating effective arrangements are in place to ensure that families get the right support at the right time.
- Timeliness performance for Initial Contacts in Early Help has continued to increase during the year reaching 53.7% engagement within three working days compared with 18.4% in April 2016.
- During the period (May 16-March 17) 222 voluntary exit surveys were completed with 98% of people who completed the survey rating their overall experience of the help and support they received from the worker(s) within the Early Help Team as good or excellent service.

- Performance against the annual target for young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET's) was 3.1% against a target of 3.2%.
- The final absence statistics for Persistent Absence in academic year 2015/2016 were published during March 2017 with pleasing results for Rotherham. Both primary and secondary schools made an improvement on 2014/2015 with primary schools performing at 10.4% (nat ave 8.2%) compared to 11.2% in 14/15 and secondary schools at 15.8% (nat ave 13.1%) compared with 16.4% the previous year.
- The percentage of social care referrals progressing to an assessment has increased considerably to 90.0% compared to 77.6% in 2015/16. There were 5660 assessments completed in 2016/17 compared to 4064 in 2015/16 (39% increase).
- Following this increase in demand the year the Duty and Assessment service was reconfigured to create a fifth team to create more flexibility and resilience in the system. The impact of this new team is evident with the percentage of assessments completed within 45 days further improving in March 2017 to 92.9% from 85.9% in February 2017.
- The proportion of Children in Need (CIN) with an up-to-date plan has improved further from 92.7% in February to 93.8% in March 2017 which is now above the target of 90%.
- The percentage of initial child protection conferences (ICPC) which were completed within 15 days of the S47 is above national and statistical neighbour averages, and within top quartile. Overall performance for 2016/17 is 91.0% compared to 88.3% in 2015/16.
- Performance in relation to Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales continues to be good (98.6% 2016/17), and maintaining 100% for eight months.
- At the end of March 2017 there remains only one child with a long term Child Protection Plan (CPP) (over two years). This equates to 0.3% compared to 0.8% at the end of March 2016.
- During 2016/7 there were 17 convictions for Child Sexual Exploitation and 327 referrals to the Post Abuse Support Services.
- The percentage of LAC visits within the local standard has improved in 2016/17 by 6.2% to 86.4% compared to 80.2% in 2015/16.
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) - Rotherham's performance for a Good Level of Development (GLD) has increased by 3.0% to 70.4% in 2016. This is 1.1% above the national average at 69.3%.
- For Key Stage 2 (KS2) in 2016, the percentage of pupils working at the EXS+ in Reading, writing and mathematics combined was 54%, this was 1% above the national average and ranked 1st against other LA's in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- At Key Stage 4 'Progress 8' aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school. The progress 8 score for Rotherham in 2016 was +0.04, this is above the national average progress score of -0.03 and above the Yorkshire and Humber aggregated regional average of -0.03. Rotherham is one of only 3

local authorities in our statistical neighbour comparative group that has a score above 0.

### **3.2 Areas for further improvement**

- Overall performance for the number of partners completing an Early Help assessment during 2016/2017 was lower than hoped at 6.5%, which equates to 75 out of 1150 of completed Early Help Assessments.
- The year concluded with 39.4% of Early Help Assessments being completed (March 2017) in 35 working days.
- In the Families for Change programme the total figure of payment by result outcome claims for this financial year was 80 or 29% of the total targeted range of 280-350.
- Year-end data shows that 52% of children aged 0-5 across Rotherham had engaged with activities in a children's centre, which is below the target of 66%.
- The Section 47 rate per 10,000 population has improved from 262.1 in 2015/16 to 251.8. However it remains significantly higher than the statistical neighbour average of 149.2
- Although the rate of children becoming subject to a CPP has decreased, the proportion of these who are subject to their second or subsequent plan has been increasing month on month from 4.7% in 2015/16 to 8.4% in 2016/17.
- The percentage of children on a CPP who have up-to-date visits has seen month on month decreases. At the end of March 2017 this was 88.4% compared to 99% at the end of March 2016.
- The percentage of LAC who have ceased to be looked after across the year due to permanence, (special guardianship orders, adoption, residence order), in 2016/17 was 28.3% compared to the 2015/16 outturn of 40.1%
- Performance for LAC with up-to-date dental assessments is well below target and monthly data remains fairly static. Outturn performance is at 62.7% 2016/17 which compares negatively against last year's position of 95.0% 2015/16.
- 97% of LAC have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) however, the proportion with a PEP which is up-to-date at year-end was 68.2%
- Percentage of children adopted currently stands at 14.4% for 2016/17 compared with a target of 22.7% and an outturn of 22.9% in 2015/16. This equates to 31 adoptions in the current year compared to 43 in 2015/16.
- The number of looked after children (LAC) who have had three or more placements in the year has improved on the previous outturn of 13% to 11.3 in 2016/17. However this remains higher than all other benchmarks and our local target of 9.6%.
- The proportion of current long-term LAC who have experienced a stable placement for over two years has fallen this year from 72.7% to 67.6% which now places Rotherham below statistical neighbours and the national average.

### **3.3 Early Help & Family Engagement**

3.3.1 Weekly operational performance meetings were introduced in Early Help during February 2017 to support the further embedding of a performance culture across all levels of the service and to address issues identified through the implementation of a new system (Liquid Logic EHM). These meetings ensure timely access to live data in order to address performance issues swiftly and as they arrive, rather than waiting until the reporting period is over. This forum is proving successful and is having a marked impact on performance and issues related to recording that have affected performance. The forums have enabled operational managers to look at live data and communicate back with staff on recording issues and/or drift. As a result there is enhanced operational grip on performance (see below) which is a positive achievement.

### **3.4 Initial Contacts**

3.4.1 There was positive performance in relation to Initial Contacts at year end, despite the sharp increase in cases that require an Early Help Assessment. Of the 136 cases received, 88.3% were successfully engaged during the month, indicating a 5% increase on engagement for last month, with 53.7% of these engaged within three days and a further 34.6% engaged after three days.

### **3.5 Early Help Assessments**

3.5.1 Of the 127 Early Help Assessments (EHA's) in scope for completion in March 2017, 39.4% were completed within the target timeframe of 35 days which highlights a 4.6% increase in performance from the previous month and therefore continuing the trend during the final quarter of the year. A further 19.7% of the EHA's required in March 2017 were completed outside of the 35 day time frame which results in a 59.1% rate of completion overall which is an overall 4.3% increase on the previous month. Work continues at the weekly performance meetings to ensure that the data is analysed and learning taken to enable further improvement in the future.

3.5.2 The undertaking of Early Help Assessments by partners remained consistently low in Rotherham at the end of March 2017 and this was reinforced by a recent Ofsted monitoring visit as a key area for development. Overall performance for 2016/2017 was 6.5% which equates to 75 out of 1150 of completed Early Help Assessments.

3.5.3 There was agreement by Health and School colleagues at a recent Improvement Board that support in this area will be forthcoming and that there is commitment to increase engagement in the Early Help Assessment.

### **3.6 Children's Centres**

3.6.1 Children's Centres year-end data (Qtr4) around registration rates is now available and shows that all Centres have been focussing on targeted work which is evidenced in the 30% Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) and have met the 95% target overall, with South and North areas performing above target, and Central area improving from 92% last quarter to 93% this quarter, demonstrating that those families living in the areas with the highest needs have been a priority and a key focus which is positive. The funding allocated for 2017/2018 has been distributed using a revised formula to focus on need which will benefit those areas with higher numbers of children residing in 30% LSOA's.

3.6.2 Year-end data also shows that 52% of children aged 0-5 had engaged with activities in a children's centre, which is below the target of 66%. However, of those living in the 30% LSOA's, 62% had engaged which is much nearer the target, with North and Central localities only just missing the target at 64%.

### **3.7 Step Downs**

3.7.1 Since April 16 (this financial year) cases stepped down total 391 families and 909 children (up to 31 March 2017) to Early Help Locality Teams, along with making recommendations for 54 families and 100 children to be worked with by partners.

3.7.2 The step down process is now changing focus and will be managed in localities rather than in a central panel approach (NB: the last panel took place on 9 May 2017). Team Managers from Childrens Social Care and Early Help Locality Managers are now agreeing a planned step down through dialogue in localities that enhances integrated working and shared operational practice. Step Down in localities is an important development for the service as it supports better integrated working across front line staff and managers. Locality step downs will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it becomes seamless and also enables 'step up' dialogue to take place.

### **3.8 Families for Change**

3.8.1 In 2016/17 Rotherham committed to identifying and engaging 882 families in the Troubled Families Programme (known locally as Families for Change). The target engagement figure for this financial year was achieved in March 2017 when 97 new families were attached to the programme. The increased rate of identification was maintained in March because the flow of information from Liquid Logic continued to provide sufficient new families. The improved identification process is embedded.

3.8.2 Within the Families for Change programme, the 2016/17 target number of families for whom Rotherham claims a payment by results outcome was set in the range of 280-350. The total figure for this financial year was 80 or 29% of the total. It is unclear whether funding for unclaimed outcomes will be available to draw down in future years. On 4th April a series of reports were published, including national and local datasets. This shows the number of claims by all local authorities. Rotherham is one of the lowest performers. Our figure of 3.4% against the 5 year target lags behind Doncaster (5.4%) that also entered the expanded programme in Wave 3.

3.8.3 In order to develop a solution focused action plan which will address performance in this area a deep dive is being planned by the Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) and is taking place on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017..

### **3.9 Persistent Absence**

3.9.1 The final absence statistics for PA in academic year 2015/2016 were published during March with pleasing results for Rotherham. Both primary and secondary schools made an improvement on 2014/2015 with primary schools performing at 10.4% (nat ave 8.2%) compared to 11.2% in 14/15 and secondary schools at 15.8% (nat ave 13.1%) compared with 16.4% the previous year.

### **3.10 NEET's**

3.10.1 The position at the end of March 2017 showed a NEET figure of 3.5% (against a local target of 3.7%) and a Not Known figure of 2.8% (against a local target of 3.0%). Data sharing exercises and follow up will continue, as will work to re-engage the NEET cohort, both centrally and across all localities to ensure we continue to meet our local targets.

3.10.2 Latest comparison data available for February 2017 return show that in respect of NEET figures Rotherham are better than both statistical neighbours and region, whilst being in line with the national return.

3.10.3 The annual performance measure for NEET's is an average taken across November 2016, December 2016 and January 2017. This year the target was 3.2% and our performance was 3.1% therefore exceeding the target.

### **3.11 Youth Offending**

3.11.1 Based on the latest released YJB data (Dec 2016) which covers period October 2015 to September 2016, First Time Entrants into the youth Justice System in Rotherham have decreased to 414 which is 11.2% lower than the same period last year. The actual decrease in numbers for Rotherham relates to 14 young people. This continues the downward trend from the previous

quarter but remains above National and Regional trends (334 equating to a 12% decrease). The decrease is attributable to work undertaken with the police for the YOT to assess and intervene with young people prior to charge, should this trend continue it is likely to have a perverse impact on reoffending rates.

### **3.12 Customer feedback**

3.12.1 In Early Help and Family Engagement during Quarter 4, 51 voluntary exit surveys were completed, bringing the total at year end (31 March 17) to 222 since implementation in May 2016.

### **3.13 Children's Social Care - Contact and Referral**

3.13.1 In 2016/17 there was a 23% increase in the volume of contacts to children's social care, 14,959 compared to 12,165 in 2015/16. This increase in volume has had an impact upon the timeliness of decision making which was 86.5% compared to 96.5% in the previous year. However monthly data towards the end of the year shows performance is now back above 90%.

3.13.2 Month on month social care referral numbers have been consistent with an average of 420 per month, representing a 26.6% progression rate from contact. In total there have been 5066 referrals in 2016/17, a 3% increase on the 4915 in 2015/16.

3.13.3 The rate of re-referrals within 12 months of last referral has seen incremental month on month improvements from the 2015/16 position of 30.7% to 27.6% for 2016/17. However this remains high when compared to the national average of 24% and the corporate plan priority target of 23% has not been met. This indicates that children's needs may not be being met in a sustained way and reinforces the findings of the audit programme which is trying to help the service move beyond compliance. Re-referrals is usually a reflection of the quality of the practice and as this improves the indicator should reduce. As improvement strategies are implemented and embed, a further continued downward trend is expected

3.13.4 The percentage of referrals moving on to an assessment has increased considerably to 90.0% compared to 77.6% 15/16. This indicator is now placed above the statistical and national averages and above the latest national top quartile threshold. This could be reflective of the impact of the improved screening work which is now undertaken at 'contact' stage rather than referral. The assessment resulting in 'no further action' (NFA) rate and audit outcomes will be monitored alongside this figure.

### **3.14 Assessments**

- 3.14.1 The increase in referrals moving onto an assessment has resulted in a 54.5% increase in the number of assessments started in 2016/17 (2015/16 (3996), 2016/17 (6182). Assessment outcomes are being monitored to ensure assessments are not being undertaken unnecessarily which for the year has been 33.7%.
- 3.14.2 Following this increase in demand the year on the Duty and Assessment service (35% over the year) and the subsequent impact on completion times, the service was reconfigured to create a fifth team to create more system flexibility and greater resilience in resources. The impact of this new team is evident with the percentage of assessments completed within 45 days further improving in March 2017 to 92.9% from 85.9% in February 2017. However the capacity issues is reflected in the overall year's performance which fell from 92.8% in 2015/16 to 85.4% in 2016/17. Compliance continues to be monitored at fortnightly performance meetings where team managers address any remedial action for those out of time and supporting data by worker and child is available on a daily basis .
- 3.14.3 The overall trend of the proportion of assessments resulting in 'No Further Action' is downwards, which is a positive reflection of the improvement in quality of decision making and application of thresholds. The downward trend of repeat referrals supports this view. Whilst it has been positive to see an increase in step down decisions as opposed to closure of cases it is better for families to be directed straight into early help wherever possible rather than be routed through social care in the first instance.
- 3.14.4 Although the above performance information is important, an emphasis on quality in Children and Young People's Services remains a priority and this will continue to be monitored and tested to ensure that the drive to improve timeliness is not at the cost of achieving best practice.

### **3.15 Plans**

- 3.15.1 The implementation of the new Social Care System, Liquid Logic, allows for the child's plan to be input in full direct into the system. This is a far more intensive piece of work than on the previous system as it now contains the full content of the plan and not just the date. Performance was impacted by this change as social workers were required to enter their entire caseload of plans rather than just 'new' plans. However, once the first plan is created any subsequent plans are much easier to update.
- 3.15.2 At the end of 2015/16 98.6% of eligible Children in Need (CIN) had an up-to-date plan, at the end of 2016/17 this has now declined to 93.9%. Similarly the percentage of LAC with an up-to-date plan has also declined to 79.1% from

98.4% in 2015/16 ( the definition for this is currently being reviewed to be more in line with national standards)

3.15.3 Pathway plans for care leavers have seen a further 2% improvement to 99.3% when compared to last year's outturn of 97.5%.

3.15.4 It is well understood that the quality of plans is crucial in terms of securing good outcomes for children and this will continue to be the focus of the 'Beyond Auditing' work that is underway across the localities.

### **3.16 Visits**

3.16.1 At the end of March 2017, 88.4% of children subject to a CPP had been seen within timescale, compared to 99% at the end of March 2016. Visits are monitored using current data and by reviewing exceptions at the weekly performance meetings. The regular performance meetings will continue to review progress in this area and where visits are late then the reasons are fully understood and that there are clear measures in place to ensure that each child is seen in an appropriate timescale and that they are safe.

3.16.2 In relation to children in care, performance in LAC visits within the national minimum standards has decreased to 94.7% from last year's outturn of 98.1%. But over the year there has been a steady rate of improvement achieved against a more stretching from 80.2% to 86.4%. This improvement needs to continue as this is still not considered good enough so it will remain an area of focus with sustained management attention.

### **3.17 Section 47**

3.17.1 As reported throughout the year, Section 47 investigation numbers are very high. A total of 1428 S47's were started in the year compared to 954 in 2015/16. This equates to a rate of 251.8 per 10,000 population which is significantly higher than the statistical neighbour average of 149.2.

3.17.2 Trend data in relation to the outcome of Section 47 investigations, shows 55.8% of overall outcomes in 2016/17 were substantiated with a continuing risk of significant harm. This suggests that the original decision to initiate the strategy discussion/section 47 investigation was right for the majority of children/families even though, for some, there is no continuing risk of harm.

3.17.3 In 2016/17, 91.4% of the total Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) were carried out within 15 days which is an improvement on last year's position of 88.3% and better than the latest statistical neighbour and national averages (85.7% and 74.7% respectively). Monthly data demonstrates that current performance is now regularly higher than 90%. Where conferences are not meeting timescales the reasons are reported to senior managers and recorded on each case.

### **3.18 Children in Need**

- 3.18.1 There is no good or bad performance in relation to the number of Children in Need (CIN), although it is important to monitor against statistical neighbour and national averages as numbers considerably higher or lower than average can be an indicator of other performance issues. At the end of March 2017 there were 1656 CIN, when combined with those subject to child protection plans (CPP) this equates to a rate of 360.1 per 10k population; sustaining our position below the statistical neighbour average (372.4), but above the national average (337.3).
- 3.18.2 A gradual reduction in numbers is due to Duty and Assessment managers rigorously applying the threshold to step down when appropriate to Early Help rather than ongoing social care involvement and clear locality processes for regularly reviewing CIN to ensure timely progression and avoid drift. One of the measures of success of our Early Help offer will be, over time, a reduction in the numbers of CIN as families are offered support at an earlier point before concerns escalate. As the service starts to embed it may in the short term increase demand as it uncovers unmet need.

### **3.19 Children on Child Protection Plans**

- 3.19.1 At the end of March 2017 there were 375 children subject to a CPP, which is a slight increase on March 2016 when there were 369. However, the rate per 10,000 population of 65.6 demonstrates that this is still high when compared to statistical neighbours and the national average of 46.1 and 42.9 respectively.
- 3.19.2 The number of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) in the last 12 months has decreased from 528 in 2015/16 to 452 in 2016/17. However the proportion of these children who are subject to their second or subsequent plan within 24 months has been increasing month on month from 4.7% in 2015/16 to 8.4% in 2016/17 and remains higher than the target of 4%. This may indicate that children are ceasing their plan before all significant risks have been addressed. The figures behind the percentages show that the lower overall CPP cohort is producing a higher percentage increase; there has been an actual increase of 19 children (22 in April 2016 to 41 in March 2017). This however still requires improvement and work continues in the service to assess the quality of plans and to ensure that plans are only ceased when children and young people are no longer at risk or are supported appropriately at a lower level of intervention. It is clear that some of the reasons for repeat child protection planning relates to 'legacy' issues in relation to previous social work planning and intervention.

3.19.3 Of the children subject to a CPP plan at the end of the year, 98.6% of their reviews over the entire year were completed in time which is an increase on the previous year which was 94.2%. In month performance for August 2016 to March 2017 was consistently 100% each month.

### **3.20 Looked After Children (LAC) (also known as children in care)**

3.20.1 At the end of March 2017 there were 487 children in care which is an increase of 55 on March 2016 and equates to 86.4 per 10,000 population. This places Rotherham above statistical neighbours (75.8) and national average (60.0) and there is an upward trajectory as admissions to care continues to increase as predicted.

3.20.2 It is not unusual for numbers of children in care in an authority in intervention to rise as action is taken to address cases which have been drifting previously. The rise in the numbers of care proceedings in Rotherham is testimony to this happening locally. There is no feedback from the courts to suggest that any children are being brought before them unnecessarily.

3.20.3 94.7% of completed LAC reviews over the entire year were completed in time which is an improvement on the previous year which was 83.3%. The reasons for any late reviews are fed back to managers and action taken to address any practice issues.

### **3.21 Looked After Children - Placements**

3.21.1 The Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2017-20 was approved by the Corporate Parenting Panel in February 2017 which sets out the plan to increase in-house and family based care and actions have already been taken;

- Work has been undertaken to reduce the number of 'dormant' in-house placements which stood at 47 in January 2017 and by April 2017 this is now down to 22.
- Recruitment continues to be strong with 23 new carers approved over 2016/17, against a target of 15 and this target has been reset at 25 for each of the 3 years of the Strategy.
- A marketing post has been approved and is in the midst of recruitment in order to improve the foster care recruitment via social media.
- Reports have been presented to DLT in respect of a 'Refer a Friend', Virtual Assessment Team and Council Tax Discounts for Foster Carers to further support recruitment.
- The Fostering Service are progressing the implementation of the Mockingbird Project which aims to significantly increase the support available to carers.
- There will be a concerted media strategy with the Communications team ensuring 'good news' stories appear in the local media including achievements of LAC, long service awards for carers, Fostering Fortnight events held 8<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

- 3.21.2 Both within Rotherham and on a national level the numbers of children in care continues to rise. This places significant pressure on the availability of foster placements, both in-house and within the private/independent fostering sector (IFAs). As a result these agencies can afford to 'pick and choose' their placements, therefore several young people who may have been in foster care previously have had to be placed in residential care. Competition for foster carers remains strong from the IFAs, as a result RMBC needs to maintain a visible profile, and remain competitive in respect of finances, support and training.
- 3.21.3 At the end of 2016/17 98 of the 145 long-term LAC (67.6%) had been in the same placement for at least two years. This is only slightly below that of our statistical neighbours (68.2%) and the national average (68%) but is below the 2015/16 position of 72.7%.
- 3.21.4 Following highs of 14.7 in August, the proportion of all LAC who had three or more placements in 12 months improved and at the end of 2016/17 it stood at 11.3%. Whilst this is an improvement the 11.9% for 2016/17 it continues to be higher than all other benchmarks. Our target of reducing to less than 10% remains and is still achievable in the next financial year.
- 3.21.5 These two placement measures suggest that we need to improve our preventative work to reduce initial placement disruption. If a child experiences a disruption they are more likely to disrupt again. It will also be important to consider the impact of our return home programme our wish to return children to live in Rotherham which will increase the number of children experiencing placement moves.

## **3.22 Looked After Children – Health & Dental**

- 3.22.1 Performance in relation to health and dental assessments was very poor in previous years and has been the focus of concerted joint effort and has continued to show improvement however performance in 2016/17 has fallen from 92.8% (2015/16) to 87.1% (2016/17) for Health Assessments and from 95% (2015/16) to 62.7% (2016/17) for Dental Assessments. The overall number of health assessments completed remains at a good level and the number of initial health assessments has risen. This is due to the access health services have to the new case management system that has improved the administration of the process. Performance will continue to be very closely monitored.
- 3.22.2 From our reviews we know that in the main, those not having health or dental checks are the older young people who are recorded as 'refusers'. This is no longer going to be accepted on face value and we will be actively exploring with health colleagues how we can promote the reviews as something useful and 'young person friendly'. This will focus on the things that interest most young people such as weight, hair and skin as well as other aspects of health.

We will also make sure that we are creative in thinking about how we can actively engage young people and 'reach out' to them rather than expecting them to attend a standard clinic appointment.

3.22.3 Of the LAC initial health assessments completed in 2016/17 17.7% were within 20 working days of entering care. This is low performance but its an improvement on the previous year's 8.4%. In-month performance shows a recent improvement of 37.5% in February 2017 and to 42.9% in March 2017 but this is still not good enough. Health colleagues have identified that early contact in a non-clinical setting may prove to be the best way to sustain young people engagement in the process. As a result they will be running a pilot whereby they visit newly admitted young people in their placement to support them to attend their health assessment. Joint intervention between Health and LAC Head of Service to support locality teams to better performance in respect of Initial Health Assessments.

### **3.23 Looked After Children – Personal Education Plans (PEP)**

3.23.1 Although there is an increasing profile in the number of LAC performance regarding PEPs has been consistent throughout the year with 97.0% of children now having a PEP in place, although there is more to do to ensure that every child and young person has a plan in place.

3.23.2 In 2016/17 the virtual school introduced a new standard for timeliness. Rather than annual PEPs with 6 monthly reviews it is now expected that every child will have a updated PEP every term. Therefore caution should be taken when comparing performance against previous years. At outturn the proportion of children with an up-to-date PEP was 87.9% 2016/17. This is lower than expected, a solution has now been put in place to rectify this and performance should begin to increase in 2017/18.

3.23.3 The focus is now shifting to quality to address the numbers of children and young people who are not in full time education and those whose school place is known to be fragile. The virtual school governing body will take responsibility for driving this improvement area. Exception reporting has been provided for the children who are without an up to date PEP.

### **3.24 Care Leavers**

3.24.1 The number of care leavers has increased in the last 12 months from 197 ar March 2016 to 223 young people at the end of March 2017.

3.24.2 A total of 96.9% of these young people are in suitable accommodation, a slight increase on the previous year of 96.5%, and is still above the statistical neighbour and national averages. This equates to seven young people not in suitable accommodation, of these six are in custody, and one (aged over 18) has made himself intentionally homeless.

3.24.3 A total of 63.2% of young people are in education employment or training, above the national average (48%) but a drop on the previous year of 68.0% and disappointing in terms of the aspirations for Rotherham young people. This equates to 60 care leavers not being in education, employment or training (NEET).

### **3.25 Adoptions**

3.25.1 In 2016/17 there were 31 children adopted which is a decrease on the previous year's 43. 38.7% of these were made within 12 months of the decision that the child 'Should Be Placed for Adoption' (SHOPBA) which is low when compared to previous years at 53.5%.

3.25.2 In respect of 'Average number of days between child becoming LAC and having an adoption placement (A1)' Rotherham is performing well with a reduction from an average of 661 days in 2013/14 to 404 in 2016/17. Similarly for 'Average number of days between placement order and being matched with adoptive family (A2)' it has reduced from an average of 315 days in 2013/14 to 232.9 in 2016/17; however this is an increase on 2015/16 (136 days).

### **3.26 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

3.26.1 In early 2017 the operating guidance for the Evolve Team, (the Rotherham CSE specialist team), was further developed and amended. These amendments mean that team no longer 'key work' cases but co-work cases alongside the child's main key worker providing specific support and guidance in reducing risk to CSE and engaging and supporting the child through any prosecution processes where appropriate.

3.26.2 The number of new referrals where CSE is the presenting issue has seen an increase from 200 in 2015/16 to 231 in 2016/17. However this increase may not be indicative of an increasing risk profile but instead reflective of improved identification and awareness in agencies and greater confidence in local services in tackling CSE in the public and the young people.

3.26.3 There has significant work has been done to move the quality of social work and multi-agency practice in the Evolve Team as shown in audit outcomes. A multi-agency Governance Group is now in place and is establishing the means to collectively oversee the quality, nature and impact of the work of the team. A work plan is emerging which will drive forward future further developments.

3.26.4 All elements of work relating to CSE is also routinely scrutinised by the RLSCB under the auspices of the CSE Strategic Sub Group.

3.26.5 The one year independent Evaluation Report (Feb 2017) concluded that during its first six months, ReachOut established itself with remarkable speed, not only undertaking plenty of outward-facing activity, but also ensuring the essential building blocks of a healthy organisation were in place to underpin that activity. At the end of year one, ReachOut has sustained that momentum. The project has maintained a stable staff team which has retained its enthusiasm and developed a strong, supportive culture. The direct work seems to have reached the 'right' children and young people i.e. those at risk of CSE at the 'right' level i.e. targeted prevention. Evidence so far suggests that positive outcomes are being achieved, both in terms of reducing immediate risk and in positively impacting on resilience factors in young people's lives.

### **3.27 Caseloads**

3.27.1 Although, as demonstrated throughout this report, there has been an increase demand across the service the average number of cases across the key safeguarding teams has been consistent throughout the year and has been below the target of 22 (ranging from 13.3 to 18.3 across the teams). Average number of cases held by LAC social workers was 11.6. Ensuring that social workers have manageable caseloads was a key priority for Rotherham and the current performance is testimony to what has been achieved in this regard.

3.27.2 The average caseload of key safeguarding teams continues to be monitored for every social worker in detail. All those over 22 are examined and the reasons explained. For example, some senior social workers have students allocated to them and the student caseload shows under the supervisor's name.

### **3.28 Education – Early Years**

3.28.1 The number of two-year-olds taking up an early education place in Rotherham continues to remain high, with 83% of Rotherham's eligible two-year-olds taking up a place in spring 2017 which is currently above expectations.

3.28.2 95.6% of all Rotherham's Ofsted-registered Early Years and Childcare providers are judged to be good or outstanding, which is above the national average.

### **3.29 Education – Schools**

3.29.1 The proportion of children and young people attending a good or better school in Rotherham increased by 20% to 86.2% as at 31 August 2016. However, the Rotherham average has decreased. The latest comparison to the national

average is 87% as at 31 December 2016. The proportion of LAC attending a Good or Outstanding school is 84%.

3.29.2 The Department for Education (DfE) academy conversion programme has affected the aggregated Ofsted profile for schools. The first inspection for all new schools, including academies, will usually take place within three years of opening.

3.29.3 A framework for supporting and challenging the leadership of schools of concern is in place to ensure that schools have the capacity to secure and sustain high standards in pupil outcomes.

### **3.30 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)**

3.30.1 From 2013 to 2016 Rotherham has achieved better than nationally for a 'good level of development' (GLD), with an upward trajectory each year. Rotherham's performance for a GLD has increased by 3.0% to 70.4% in 2016. This is 1.1% above the national average at 69.3%. 2016 outcomes are ranked joint 3<sup>rd</sup> against other LA's in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Average Total Points (ATPS) has remained at 34.4 and in line with the national average.

### **3.31 Phonics Screening Checks**

3.31.1 78.8% of pupils in year 1 achieved the standard mark in the national phonics screening check in 2016; this is an increase of 4.4%. This compares to the national figure of 80.6%, an increase of 3.7%. The gap to the national average is reduced to 1.8% and shows that results in Rotherham have improved at a faster rate than national.

### **3.32 Key Stage 1 Assessments**

3.32.1 There were significant changes in KS1 TA for 2016. The levels have gone and have been replaced by a range of performance categories for each subject, namely reading, writing, maths and science. These are described as "*interim*" performance categories for 2016 while the government decides the future of assessment for this Key Stage. KS1 assessments in 2016 can therefore only be compared with previous years through the gap against the national average.

3.32.2 2016 assessments are reported as working at the expected standard (EXS+), working at greater depth (GDS), and working lower than the expected standard.

3.32.3 In Rotherham, the gap the between LA and National averages has reduced every year in all subjects, with the exception of GDS writing (2016).

- 3.32.4 Attainment in reading is 3.1% below the national average at the EXS+ and 1.9% below at GDS. Reading is the widest gap to the national average.
- 3.32.5 The attainment in writing is in line with the national average at the EXS+ and 1% below in at GDS.
- 3.32.6 Attainment in maths is 1.3% below with the national average at the EXS+ and 0.6% below in at GDS.
- 3.32.7 Attainment in reading, writing and maths combined is in line with the national average at both the EXS+ and GDS.

### **3.33 Key Stage 2**

- 3.33.1 In 2016, teacher assessments and tests were revised to reflect the new and more challenging curriculum. New accountability measures were introduced for the statutory assessments at the end of KS2. KS2 TA and tests prior to 2016 can therefore only be compared with previous years through the gap against the national average.
- 3.33.2 Rotherham's 2016 results at the end of KS2 represent the strongest outcomes so far in terms of exceeding, meeting and reducing the gap between Local and National Averages.
- 3.33.3 In 2016, the percentage of pupils working at the EXS+ in reading, writing and mathematics combined was 54%, this was 1% above the national average and ranked 1<sup>st</sup> against other LA's in the Yorkshire and Humber region. This is the first time this indicator has been above the national average. The percentage of pupils reaching a higher standard was 4.4%; this was 1% below the national average.
- 3.33.4 The percentage of pupils working at the EXS+ in reading was 64% in 2016; this was 2% below the national average. The percentage of pupils reaching a higher standard was 15%; this was 4% below the national average.
- 3.33.5 The percentage of pupils working at the EXS+ in the writing teacher assessment was 78% in 2016; this was 4% above the national average and highest performing subject in 2016. The percentage of pupils working at GDS in the writing teacher assessment was 14%; this was 1% below the national average.
- 3.33.6 The percentage of pupils working at the EXS+ in mathematics was 72%; this was 2% above the national average. The percentage of pupils reaching a higher standard was 15%; this was 2% below the national average.
- 3.33.7 KS2 Floor Standards - In 2016 schools will be above the Department for Education (DfE) floor standard measure if pupils make sufficient progress across all of the reading, writing and mathematics measures or if more than 65% of pupils achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and

mathematics combined. The level of sufficient progress in 2016 is -5.0 in reading and mathematics and -7.0 in mathematics. Schools will be above the floor standard if they meet either the progress or the attainment threshold.

3.33.8 There were three schools below the KS2 floor standard in 2016.

### **3.34 Key Stage 4**

3.34.1 At Key Stage 4 'Progress 8' aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school. The progress 8 score for Rotherham in 2016 was +0.04, this is above the national average progress score of -0.03 and above the Yorkshire and Humber aggregated regional average of -0.03. Rotherham is one of only 3 local authorities in our statistical neighbour comparative group that has a score above 0.

3.34.2 3.24.2 The percentage of pupils achieving A\*- C in English and maths is 61.8%. This is 2.5% above the national average (all schools) and 1.5% below the national average (state-funded schools).

3.34.3 There are no secondary schools below the DfE floor standard or the DfE 'coasting definition'.

3.34.4 The percentage of pupils who achieved Ebacc performance measure has increased by 2.5% to 19.8%. This is 3.3% below the national average (all schools) and 5.0% below the national average (state-funded schools).

### **3.35 Exclusions**

3.35.1 The Council set challenging but realistic targets to address the rising number of exclusions, both fixed-term and permanent. This last academic year (2015/16) had initially 53 permanent exclusions but 6 were overturned or rescinded, with the actual recorded number 47. This is a slight fall overall but, more significantly; it shows a halt in the trajectory of previously rising exclusions. From September 2016 to April 2017 the current number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools is 24 which indicate a promising fall (with one term to go before final numbers). It is significant that one secondary school is responsible for over a third of this number and measures are being taken to work with this school to address their response prior to exclusion. They are now beginning to engage with the new partnership model advocated by the local authority.

### **3.36 Education Health and Care Plan – EHCP**

3.36.1 All Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) completions and conversions are measured nationally on an annual basis as a cumulative target for how many have been completed within timescale from the beginning of the SEND reform in September 2014.

3.36.2 The monitoring of these two targets has improved dramatically recently with the fortnightly involvement of the Performance and Quality team, which has both challenged and supported the development of greater accuracy and scrutiny of data. The cumulative % for timeliness of completion for new EHCPs remains static overall at 52% but within the quarter performance has risen significantly since December 2016 where compliance and conversions of Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) to EHCPs, completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, was the focus of the team.

3.36.3 The cumulative percentage of conversions from statements to EHCPs completed in a timely manner has risen from 52% to 58%. Within the quarter performance has been varied with a high of as much as 82% of conversions completed within 20 weeks during February 2017. Rotherham continues to have the lowest level of SEND tribunals nationally, with one being taken beyond the mediation stage since the reforms began.

#### **4 Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 4.1 The full service performance reports 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. Elected members 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 safeguarding services for children and young people.

## **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 CYPS Improvement Board, the CYPS Performance Board, the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Early Help Review Board. All the Boards receive performance reports 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 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)**

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Approvals Obtained from:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services		
Assistant Director of Legal Services		
Head of Procurement <i>(if appropriate)</i>	N/A	
Head of Human Resources <i>(if appropriate)</i>	Theresa Caswell	30.06.17

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