

# Public Document Pack



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and  
Commissioning**

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Friday 31 January 2020

## Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

### Corporate Parenting Board

The **Corporate Parenting Board** will meet in the **Meeting Room 1 - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **10.00 am** on **Monday 10 February 2020**.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Muscroft', on a light-colored background.

**Julie Muscroft**

**Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning**

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

## The Corporate Parenting Board members are:-

### Member

Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)

Councillor Karen Allison

Councillor Fazila Loonat

Councillor John Lawson

Councillor Andrew

Marchington

Councillor Richard Smith

Gill Addy

Christine Bennett

Julie Bragg

Tom Brailsford

Steve Comb

Keith Fielding

Stewart Horn

Charlotte Jackson

Colleen Kenworthy

Barry Lockwood

Sanna Mahmood

Elaine McShane

Mel Meggs

Sara Miles

Jo-Anne Sanders

Ophelia Rix

Melanie Tiernan

Janet Tolley

Designated Nurse for Looked after Children/Care Leavers

Practice Improvement Lead (Children's Services)

Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)

Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)

Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)

Kirklees Fostering Network

Head of Joint Commissioning, Children & Familie

Improvement Partner (Children's Services)

Kirklees Fostering Network

Kirklees Fostering Network

Looked after Children and Leaving Care

Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection

Director for Children's Services

Interim Head of Service (Child Protection & Review Unit)

Service Director for Learning and Early Support

Principal Social Worker

Service Manager (Kirklees Looked after Children

Independent Service – Children's Rights Team)

Virtual School Headteacher

# Agenda

## Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

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**Pages**

**1: Membership of the Board/Apologies**

1 - 4

The Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting and announce any apologies received.

The Board will consider the proposed changes to the Board's Membership on the representation for Children's Social Work Services and Children's Rights, Compliments and Complaints Unit and Legal Project Officers and consider the attached Terms of Reference.

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**2: Minutes of previous meeting**

5 - 14

The Board will consider the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

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**3: Interests**

15 - 16

The Board Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have disclosable pecuniary interests, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items, or any other interest.

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**4: Admission of the Public**

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

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## **5: Deputations/Petitions**

The Board will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

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## **6: Public Question Time**

The Board will hear any questions from the general public.

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## **7: Role of Corporate Parent (Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure)**

The Board will consider a verbal report from the Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure) on the role of the Corporate Parent. (10am)

Contact: Karl Battersby, Strategic Director (Economy and Infrastructure)

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## **8: Role of Corporate Parent (Strategic Director for Adults and Health)**

The Board will consider a verbal report from the Strategic Director (Adults and Health) on the role of the Corporate Parent. (10.20 am).

Contact: Richard Parry, Strategic Director (Adults and Health)

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## **9: One Adoption Agency 6 monthly Report (April to Sept)**

17 - 30

The Board will consider a 6 monthly report from One Adoption West Yorkshire covering the period April to September 2019. (10.40 am)

Contact: Suzanne Whiteley, One Adoption West Yorkshire

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## **10: Ofsted and Improvement Board update**

The Board will consider a verbal update on key issues from Ofsted and the Improvement Board. (11am)

Contact: Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)  
Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)  
Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources Improvements and Partnerships)

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## **11: Children in Care Services Performance Highlights**

31 - 48

The Board will consider the latest reports outlining key performance highlights for children in care and care leavers, the Fostering Service and Children's Homes up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. (11.05am)

Contact: Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)  
Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)  
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Head Teacher

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## **12: Overview of number of children in Care**

49 - 54

The Board will consider an overview of the number and age of children in care. (11.15am)

Contact: Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)

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## **13: Siblings in Care**

55 - 58

The Board will consider a report outlining the success of placing sibling groups in care placements within Kirklees. (11.20 am)

Contact: Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)

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## **14: Update on Voice of the Child Development Plan**

59 - 64

The Board will consider a report giving an update on the Voice of the Child Development Plan. (11.35 am)

Contact: Sara Miles, Interim Head of Service (Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (Children))

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## **15: Updates from Board Members on interaction with Services**

The Board will consider verbal updates from Board Members who will give an update on progress and key issues following interaction with Services and partners to challenge the role of the Corporate Parent. (11.45 am)

Contact: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

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## **16: Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20**

65 - 74

The Panel will consider the agenda plan for 2019/20 municipal year.

Contact: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

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## **17: Dates of Future Meetings**

To note future meeting dates of the Board during the 2019/20 municipal year:

- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 10am
- 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 10am

To note provisional meeting dates of the Board during the 2020/21 municipal year (to be confirmed following Council AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020):

- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 , 10am
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2020, 10am
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020, 10am
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 21, 10am
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 21, 10am
  - 10<sup>th</sup> March 21, 10am
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## **Corporate Parenting Board – Terms of Reference**

The Corporate Parenting Board supports the delivery of a Corporate Parenting Strategy across the Council and is driving the improvements in corporate parenting as identified in the Improvement Action Plan arising from the recommendations made by Ofsted following their Inspection in September 2016.

At the meeting of Council on 24 June 2015, a decision was taken to establish a Corporate Parenting Board and since then the Board has been reconstituted annually and the Terms of Reference updated. This Board is non-decision making and is not subject to access to information rules. This report seeks approval for the Board to be re-constituted for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year on a 1:1:1:1 ratio and based upon the Terms of Reference as set out below;

**Purpose:** To ensure that the Council fulfills its responsibilities as good corporate parents for all their children in care.

The Corporate Parenting Board is accountable to Full Council through its Cabinet. Initial reporting of concerns will be escalated by the cabinet portfolio holder to appropriate governance bodies including Cabinet.

The Board will meet for a minimum of six times per annum (bi-monthly).

### **Membership:**

Cabinet Portfolio Holder (with responsibility for Children)

Elected Members representing all political parties

Chair of Children's Scrutiny Panel (ex-officio Member) or his/her nominee

Director of Children's Services

Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection

Service Director, Learning and Early Support

Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships

Chair of Governors

Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)

Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)

Virtual School Head Teacher

Virtual School Chair or Vice Chair of Governing Body

Integrated Commissioning Manager

Principal Social Worker

Interim Head of Service (Safeguarding and Quality Assurance - Children)

Designated Nurse for Looked after children

Representatives from Kirklees Fostering Network

~~Service Manager (Kirklees Looked after Children Independent Services—Children's Rights Team)~~

~~Social Work Practice Lead (Team Manager for Children's Rights, Compliments & Complaints Unit, and Legal Project Officers)~~

Care Leavers Advocate (Family Support and Child Protection)

~~Head of Service (Assessment, Intervention and Front Door)~~

~~Head of Service (Assessment and Intervention)~~

Representatives from a range of services and partner agencies will be invited as

appropriate and will receive papers including: Kirklees College, Calderdale and Kirklees Careers, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Sufficiency Team, Performance Team and Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing

**Terms of Reference:**

- 1 There is a requirement that all Board Members will make enquiries or visit services and partners to assist in exploring the role of the Council as a Corporate Parent and report back to the Board.
- 2 To consider and recommend ways in which the Council can improve the life chances of all children in care and care leavers.
- 3 To advise the Council's Cabinet and other governance bodies of actions that need to be taken.
- 4 To bring to the attention of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee any areas which may warrant Scrutiny consideration
- 5 To ensure there are good partnerships between council departments and partner agencies and that Council services and partners are held to account for their strategies and operational delivery.
- 6 To provide an opportunity for the voice of our children and young people to inform the considerations and recommendations of the Board.
- 7 To maintain a strategic overview of new developments, initiatives, plans, policies and strategies that impact on services for children and young people in or leaving our care.
- 8 To monitor the performance of the Council by receiving regular progress reports on all performance data relating to Corporate Parenting Services.
- 9 To receive regular reports on the progress and needs of care leavers including employment, further education, training, housing and health.
9. To consider statutory reports from the Adoption and Fostering Services, Independent Reviewing Officers, Residential and Youth Offending Teams and make recommendations.
10. To agree an annual work programme setting out its key priorities and areas for action.
11. To prepare an Annual Report on the areas considered by the Board, including its work programme, for presentation to Council and Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 11 To acknowledge and celebrate in the achievements of children and young people in care and support and participate in annual celebration events.



12 Review on an annual basis the Statements of Purpose of the Kirklees Fostering Service and Kirklees Registered Children's Homes

13 To receive an Annual Report on:-

- One Adoption (West Yorkshire)
- Children who go missing from care
- Health of looked after children
- The educational outcomes for looked after children
- The work of the Leaving Care Service
- Children and young people placed outside the Kirklees boundary
- Youth Offending Team relating to their work with children in care
- Private Fostering Service
- Children's Rights and Advocacy
- Complaints and Compliments
- Membership and Terms of Reference of the Board
- The Sufficiency of Placements for Children in Care

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Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

**Thursday 24th October 2019**

- Present: Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)  
Councillor Karen Allison  
Councillor Fazila Loonat  
Councillor John Lawson  
Councillor Richard Smith  
Gill Addy  
Christine Bennett  
Tom Brailsford  
Steve Comb  
Colleen Kenworthy  
Barry Lockwood  
Melanie Tiernan  
Janet Tolley
- In attendance: Andy Quinlan, Service Manager (Fostering)  
Yasmin Mughal, Complaints and Represent Manager  
Andy Quinlan, Service Manager (Fostering)
- Observers: Cllr Andrew Marchington (ex-officio)
- Apologies: Charlotte Jackson  
Elaine McShane  
Sara Miles  
Jo-Anne Sanders  
Ophelia Rix

#### **1 Membership of the Board, Introductions and Apologies**

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies had been received from Ophelia Rix, Julie Bragg, Elaine McShane, Jo-Anne Sanders, Charlotte Jackson and Sara Miles.
2. The Board noted that Tom Brailsford's new job title was Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships) and that he would remain a member of the Board.
3. The Board noted that the Head of Commissioning post was currently vacant, but that the new post-holder would be a Member of the Board.
4. The Board noted that the Terms of Reference Membership would be updated accordingly.

#### **2 Interests**

No interests were declared.

**3 Admission of the Public**

It was agreed that all agenda items would be held in public session.

**4 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions.

**5 Public Question Time**

No questions from the public were received.

**6 Role of Corporate Parent - Strategic Director (Corporate Strategy Commissioning and Public Health)**

The Board considered a verbal report from Rachel Spencer-Henshall, Strategic Director (Corporate Strategy Commissioning and Public Health) on the role of the Corporate Parent.

Rachel Spencer-Henshall highlighted the following key areas where the Corporate Strategy Commissioning and Public Health could act in an enabling role to Corporate Parenting:-

- Concessionary Council Tax relief for Care Leavers;
- Integrating Asylum Seeker looked after children into the local community;
- Job Scheme for Care Leavers – Sanna Mahmood was leading on a pilot to support care leavers into employment, it was hoped this could be continued long term;
- Exploration of gaining access for Care Leavers to employee benefits, such as My Staff Shop and Employee Healthcare;
- Commission services in public health to work directly with children and looking at needs of and assets for carers, including trying to achieve better targets for this vulnerable group;
- Free KAL passes for care leavers now available.

In response to a question from the Board relating to the Saturday Job Scheme for young people who were 16 years of age and in care, Rachel Spencer Henshall agreed to report back to the Board with further information.

The Board agreed to consider a future report on the outcomes of the pilot Job Scheme for Care Leavers and the Saturday Job Scheme. The Board agreed that these schemes should be part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and that the Head of Service for Assessment and Intervention would make the link via the local community hubs with local business representatives, who might be able to offer employment opportunities to young people in care and care leavers.

In response to a question from the Board relating to Oral Health Care and dental support for looked after children and care leavers, the Board requested that this be included in the Oral Health Strategy and Action Plan 2019. Gill Addy advised that registering looked after children at dentists should be part of the Strategy. Rachel Spencer Henshall suggested that the Oral Health Strategy and Action Plan 2019 be taken to the Health and Wellbeing Board for consideration.

The Board suggested that a strategic overview should be drafted which outlined what was available across the Local Authority for looked after children and care

## Corporate Parenting Board - 24 October 2019

leavers, which would ensure that those who were entitled received the same offer and that this was properly communicated to youngsters and carers in Kirklees.

Colleen Kenworthy from the Kirklees Fostering Network (KFN), advised that Kirklees Active Leisure had emailed the KFN with apprenticeship vacancies, which had been really helpful and had not previously been provided. The Board agreed it would be useful for the KFN to receive this information from KAL on a regular basis so that it could be shared with Foster Carers and thus promote potential employment opportunities to care leavers and young people in care.

The Board agreed that further enquiries should be made as to whether Council Tax Relief could be provided for care leavers and that this should be in comparison with other local authorities.

The Board agreed that further consideration should be given to providing KAL passes to foster carers as they had to take looked after children to leisure facilities but currently had to pay entry fees. Rachel Spencer-Henshall and Steve Comb agreed to liaise with KAL on this matter.

In response to a question from the Board relating to providing Max cards for foster carers at a cost of £3 and whether this could be part of the pupil premium funding, Janet Tolley agreed to liaise with the Kirklees Fostering Network to discuss further.

### **RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the verbal update on the role of the Corporate Parent and thanked Rachel Spencer-Henshall for her contributions.
2. That the Board consider a future report on the 'Saturday Job Scheme' for looked after children.
3. That the Oral Health Strategy Action Plan be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board at a future meeting.
4. That the Board consider a report on the outcome of the pilot job scheme for care leavers.
5. That the Head of Service for Assessment and Intervention make the link via the local community hubs with local business representatives who may be able to offer employment opportunities to young people in care and care leavers.
6. That KAL send regular updates to the Kirklees Fostering Network outlining apprenticeship vacancies so that these could be shared with foster carers.
7. That the Virtual School Head Teacher liaise with the Kirklees Fostering Network regarding max cards for foster carers and how these could be funded via the pupil premium.
8. That enquiries be undertaken to find out if council tax relief could be given to care leavers and that this should be in comparison with other Local Authorities.
9. The Board agreed that further consideration should be given to providing KAL passes to foster carers as they had to take looked after children to leisure facilities but currently had to pay entry. Rachel Spencer-Henshall and Steve Comb agreed to liaise with KAL on this matter.

**7 Ofsted and Improvement Board update**

The Board considered a verbal update on key issues from Ofsted and the Improvement Board presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)

Steve Comb highlighted the following key areas:-

- Unregulated and unregistered Children's Homes provision; unregulated Children's Homes did not have any regulations applied - this was a current focus for Ofsted and Kirklees Children's Services were currently looking at this area;
- There had been a recent increase in the number of children in care and the Improvement Board had requested a report which would identify further information relating to the children and their circumstances.

**RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the update on Ofsted and Improvement Board and thanked Steve Comb for his contributions.

**8 Children's Performance Highlight Report (Sept 2019)**

The Board considered a report giving key highlights on Performance Monitoring data for the Children's Service up to September 2019 presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency), Janet Tolley, Virtual Head Teacher and Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for LAC and Care Leavers.

The Board agreed to consider a report in February 2020 showing a breakdown of persistent absentees by foster carers, Connected and Kinship Carer placements.

In response to a question from the Board relating to how the figures for dental checks of looked after children and how the figures compared nationally, Gill Addy advised that Kirklees was above average, but that the team were trying to improve on the collection of data from dentists and carers. Colleen Kenworthy advised that foster carers did inform the supervising Social Worker when they took a child to the dentist. The Board were concerned that this information was not being passed on and Andy Quinlan agreed to follow up.

The following key areas were highlighted:-

- Persistent absentees of looked after children from education – this had improved since last year;
- A bid which had been made to the Department for Education to fund the 'Mockingbird' model of fostering had been unsuccessful; Kirklees was looking at developing its own model and would consult the Kirklees Fostering Network to discuss further.

The Board agreed that the use of acronyms in reports should be avoided where possible but if they had to be used, they should be put in full at least once. The Board agreed that the use of acronyms in reports should also be consistent.

In response to a question from the Board relating to One Adoption and how Kirklees compared nationally and with statistical neighbours in terms of the number of children adopted, Tom Brailsford advised that Kirklees would shortly be reviewing One Adoption arrangements and its partnership with Kirklees.

## Corporate Parenting Board - 24 October 2019

In response to a question from the Board relating to how many children remained an adopted child, Steve Comb agreed to ask One Adoption to provide the information in a future report. The Board noted that One Adoption would be attending the December meeting to give a 6 monthly update.

### **RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the Children's Performance Highlight Report (September 2019) and thanked Steve Comb, Janet Tolley and Gill Addy for their contributions.
2. That the Board consider a report in February 2020 showing a breakdown of persistent absentees by foster carers, Connected and Kinship Carer placements.
3. That the Service Manager for Fostering liaise with Children's Social Care to ensure that records reported by foster carers on attendance at dental practices by looked after children was passed on to the Designated Nurse Team.
4. The Board agreed that the use of acronyms in reports should be avoided if possible but if used should be consistent throughout.
5. That One Adoption provide figures on the number of children who remained adopted, including the numbers where the adoption had not been successful.
6. That the Board consider a future update on how Kirklees compared both nationally and with statistical neighbours in terms of the number of children adopted.

### **9 Overview of number of Children in Care**

The Board considered an overview of the number and age of children in care, which included information relating to young people aged 16 plus placed in unregulated semi-independent accommodation inside and outside of the District presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency).

Steve Comb advised the Board that this report was also considered by the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

The Board was informed that there had been a recent increase in the number of children in care and the Improvement Board had requested a report to look at who the children were, their age and what was known about them. Steve Comb further explained that Kirklees did support children to stay with their families, however, if they needed to come into care the necessary steps would be taken.

Steve Comb advised that good progress had been made on the number of children placed more than 20 miles from their home address.

In response to a question from the Board relating to whether the number of foster carers had increased, the Board noted that the numbers were only just stable. The Board was informed that 7 foster carers had been recruited but 12 had left. The Board agreed that more information was needed on why people left foster caring.

Tom Brailsford advised that the Mockingbird model in Kirklees would focus on what was best and would not be financially driven.

In response to a question from the Board regarding what support and information was available for people who might be thinking about becoming foster carers,

Colleen Kenworthy advised that Kirklees Fostering Network held coffee mornings where people could come and get more information and talk to other foster carers. Andy Quinlan advised that the service was looking at a 'buddying up' approach for those who were unsure if foster caring was right for them. The Board was informed that training was also available for potential foster carers to help them decide.

**RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the report on Number and age of Children in Care and thanked Steve Comb for his contributions.

**10 Annual Report on Review of Foster Carer Handbook**

The Board considered an Annual Report on the Review of the Foster Carer Handbook presented by Andy Quinlan, Service Manager for Fostering.

Andy Quinlan highlighted the following key areas:-

- In early stages of investigating whether the full Handbook should be made available on the internet with links so users could go straight to the information they required; the Board was informed that paper copies of the handbook would still be provided;
- Next review of the Handbook would be July 2020;
- Discussions had begun to look at the fees paid to Kirklees Foster Carers and any proposed changes would be built into the budget at Council in February 2020;
- Foster Carer recruitment process included information regarding allowances and how these could be calculated;
- Foster care was regulated and some information in the Handbook had to be displayed in a certain format.

The Board agreed that a foster carer allowance calculator should be made available on the internet to allow people to calculate their own allowances for foster caring.

The Board suggested that advice regarding Housing Benefits should be made available to foster carers and agreed that training for new foster carers should include information on how to apply for housing benefit for those carers who decided to give up work.

The Kirklees Fostering Network advised that the Handbook was a really useful guide for foster carers. The Board agreed that an early version of the web based Handbook should be shared with the Board as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the Annual Report on the Review of the Foster Carer Handbook and thanked Andy Quinlan for his contributions.
2. That the Board consider the web version of the Handbook before it went live on the Council's website.
3. That a foster carer allowance calculator be added to the website when the Handbook was live so that people could work out their own allowances for foster caring.



4. That the Recruitment Training for foster carers included information relating to how to apply for housing benefit should foster carers decide to give up work to become a foster carer.

**11 Annual report on Children's Rights and Independent Visitors Scheme (1st April to 31 March 2019) and a 6 monthly update (April 19 to Sept 19)**

The Board considered an Annual Report on Children's Rights and Independent Visitors Scheme (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019) and a 6 monthly update (April 2019 to Sept 2019) presented by Melanie Tiernan, Service Manager (Children's) and Anna Gledhill, Social Work Practice Lead.

**Annual Report on Children's Rights and Independent Visitors Scheme**

Melanie Tiernan highlighted the following key areas:-

- The highest proportion of work undertaken by the Children's Rights Team between April 2018 and March 2019 related to advocacy for children and young people looked after or care leavers (78%);
- Children and Young people who were supported at their Looked After Review or other meetings, 179 children and young people fed back that a positive outcome was achieved regarding issues they requested support for;
- Children and young people looked after living in another local authority area were some of the most vulnerable children and over the last twelve months a total of 82 had received support from the Children's Rights Team;
- Comments received from young people had been included in the report.

**Children's Rights Team - 6 monthly report**

Melanie Tiernan highlighted the following key areas:-

- Between 1.4.19 and 30.9.19 the Children's Rights Team supported children and young people relating to 198 advocacy issues and 132 of these were involved providing support at Child Looked After Reviews or other meetings;
- The issues of contact and placement continued to be recurring themes, however, if current figures continued for the next 6 months these would show an overall annual reduction from 2017-2018;
- There had been a reduction in the number wanting to make a formal complaint;
- Children and young people aged 10 or over who were subject to a child protection conference had the opportunity to speak with an Advocate to ensure that their wishes and feelings were heard within the process and taken into consideration;
- The Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum continued to meet twice a month; the 2 groups worked on a piece of graffiti art for a number of weeks which was presented to Corporate Parents in July.

**Independent Visitors Scheme – 6 monthly report**

Melanie Tiernan highlighted the following key areas:-

- At the end of September 2019, 44 young people were matched with an Independent Visitor; Councillor Kendrick advised that Councillors could help to promote the independent visitors scheme for looked after children;

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- 9 new referrals for young people to be allocated an Independent Visitor were received during 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30 September 2019, 5 of which were allocated an Independent Visitor of their choice;
- A short questionnaire was completed by Independent Visitors who attended a recent Peer Support meeting to capture the areas of support they felt they provided to young people;
- In September 2019 there were 10 young people who had been referred to the scheme had not been allocated an Independent Visitor, the scheme was currently oversubscribed;
- In order for the Independent Visitor Scheme to develop and support an increased number of children and young people, a business case had been submitted for additional Co-ordinator capacity.

Councillor Kendrick reported on the success of the Achieve Awards Event for Care Leavers held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019. The Board agreed it would like to support funding for future events of this type.

### **RESOLVED -**

The Board noted the Annual Report on Children's Rights and Independent Visitors Scheme (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31 March 2019) and a 6 monthly update (April 2019 to Sept 2019) and thanked Melanie Tiernan and Anna Gledhill for their contributions.

**12**

### **Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care**

The Board considered an Annual Report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 30 September 2019 presented by Yasmin Mughal, Complaints and Represent Manager.

Yasmin Mughal highlighted the following key points:-

- A significant number of complaints received were being resolved in the early stages;
- Working closely with the Children's Rights Teams in terms of complaints;
- Only 5 complainants out of 85 registered at Stage One had proceeded to Stage Two formal investigation;
- 2 complainants who were dissatisfied with the Stage 2 responses had proceeded to Stage 3;
- The Ombudsman had agreed with the view of the Local Authority in relation to all complaints and had taken no further action;
- The majority of complaints were consistently responded to within the statutory deadlines at Stage 1 and there had been a great improvement in the average time taken in responding to complaints;
- 100% of complaints received from young people were being responded to within statutory deadlines;
- Learning identified from complaints investigations was being shared with the Learning and Development Service.

The Board noted that the figures for failing to consult or communicate to complainants were still high, but acknowledged the trend was reducing. Yasmin Mughal advised that where a mistake had been made, an apology would be given by Kirklees and the matter followed up.

In response to a question from the Board on what had changed as a result of complaints, Yasmin Mughal advised that the team were now reporting a lot more on trends and had made significant improvements in terms of meeting timescales and were striving to respond earlier than statutory timescales.

Christine Bennett, Head of Service for Assessment and Intervention, advised the Board that it was positive that a Senior Manager would apologise where a mistake had been made and that she was working with Yasmin Mughal's team to try and get resolutions to complaints in the early stages. Melanie Tiernan advised that Managers would sometimes go out and visit the complainants when it was felt this was necessary to resolve a complaint.

The Board agreed that the report showed a significant improvement and culture change within the organisation where there was now a better sense of ownership for complaints.

Colleen Kenworthy advised the Board that the Kirklees Fostering Network were also working closely with Yasmin Mughal's team to keep complaints low and were continuing to build links between the Local Authority, looked after children and foster carers to resolve complaints.

**RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the Annual Report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care and thanked Yasmin Mughal for her contributions.

**13 Updates from Board Members on interaction with Services**

The Board considered verbal updates from Board Members who gave an update on progress and key issues following interaction with services and partners to challenge the role of the Corporate Parent.

Councillor Lawson advised the Board that he had been in discussions with Planning to look at future build of Children's Homes and the voice of the child could be taken into account as part of the planning process.

Councillor Kendrick advised the Board that she had presented a challenge to all Councillors at full Council in September 2019 relating to their role as Corporate Parents and the areas where they could help to promote and create opportunities for looked after children and care leavers in Kirklees. The Board was informed that following Council in September 2019, an email had been sent to all Councillors regarding recruitment events for foster carers and they were also sent a copy of the Fostering Newsletter. Councillor Kendrick further explained that some feedback had been received from Councillors and this had been fed back to the Kirklees Fostering Network.

Councillor Kendrick advised the Board that she had attended the following key events:-

- Kinship Carers Workshop at No 12 in Dewsbury on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and had agreed to take a number of issues away to follow up;

## Corporate Parenting Board - 24 October 2019

- Children in Care Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019; the Board agreed that it would be good to see more children and young people get involved in the Children in Care Council;
- Achieve Awards for Care Leavers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 which had been a very successful and emotional event.

### **RESOLVED -**

The Board noted the updates from Board Members on interaction with services.

#### **14 Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20**

The Board considered the agenda plan of the Corporate Parenting Board for 2019/20.

### **RESOLVED -**

1. That the 2019/20 Agenda Plan for the Corporate Parenting Board be noted and updated as agreed.
2. That the Governance Officer be authorised to liaise with officers on agreed actions.

#### **15 Dates of Future Meetings**

The Board noted the dates of future meetings of the Board during the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year and agreed to schedule an additional meeting in March 2020 to consider the high volume of agenda items on the agenda plan.

### **RESOLVED -**

1. The Board noted the dates of the remaining meetings in the 2019/20 municipal year:-
  - 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 10 am
  - 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 10 am
  - 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 10 am
2. The Board agreed to schedule an additional meeting in March 2020 to consider the high volume of agenda items.

**KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC**

**DECLARATION**

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

Name of Councillor

Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

## NOTES

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and

(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



## **One Adoption West Yorkshire half yearly Adoption Agency report 2019-20**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**

### **Summary Statement:**

1. Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield adoption functions as specified in the partnership agreement were delegated on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to Leeds City Council and One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) formally opened. OAWY was the first Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) to open in the country.
2. This report provides a summary on the developments of the service from April 2019 to October 2019.
3. As One Adoption West Yorkshire has entered into its third year there has been a focus on service review and innovation in order to ensure we provide an excellent adoption service to all our children and families. We have established a clear 'core offer' of adoption support to One Adoption families. We have embedded and extended our use of Virtual Reality technology in supporting adoptive parents in understanding the needs of their adopted children. Our links with Adoptive Parents, Adoptees and Birth Relatives continue to grow and they are shaping the delivery of our services. We have strong ambitions to work with our West Yorkshire LA partners to change the way we approach transitions for children from foster care to adoption, and post adoption contact, to ensure planning is bespoke and child centred.

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**Sarah Johal**  
**Head Of Service**  
**One Adoption West Yorkshire**

**Portfolio:**  
**Adoption**

**Report Contact: Suzanne Whiteley**  
**Service Delivery Manager**  
**Phone: 0113 5350978**  
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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Adoption**

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[ds.gov.uk](http://ds.gov.uk)

## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the work and developments within One Adoption West Yorkshire from April to October 2019, with additional information in relation to the performance relating to children in Kirklees.

## **2. Main issues**

### **Use of Resources**

#### **2.1 Staffing & HR**

- 2.2 An interim Service Delivery Manager (SDM) joined the agency on the 1<sup>st</sup> August to cover long term sick leave. The SDM is seconded from Barnardo's where she was responsible for the management of the Yorkshire and Humber Adoption Consortium (Hub manager role). In return the project manager for the Centre of Excellence moved over to cover this role for an initial nine month period.

- 2.3 A Recruitment and Assessment Team Manager has sadly made the decision to leave One Adoption due to personal circumstances and left her post as of 31<sup>st</sup> October. A full time team manager has been recruited and will be based at Kernel House. This manager will also cover for maternity leave from January working with a team made up of family finders and recruitment and assessment workers.

- 2.4 A number of business support staff have left in the last three months to take up other career opportunities and there is ongoing recruitment to these positions. These vacancies are causing issues throughout the service and other staff are going over and above their required duties to maintain the business of the service. The aim is to have all the vacancies recruited to and staff in post by the end of the year.

#### **2.5 Accommodation**

- 2.6 Work is now complete moving from 5 office bases to 3 main office bases, with desk space remaining in Halifax and Wakefield. These moves have enabled three teams across recruitment and assessment, family finding and adoption support to be co-located with one service manager.

- 2.7 The increase in teams at Kernel House in Leeds is causing pressure on space and is causing low morale and difficulties for staff. Constructive discussions are underway with colleagues and asset management to address this issues and the matter has been escalated to see if there are interim solutions that can be put in place to reduce overcrowding.

#### **2.8 Information Technology**

- 2.9 The Calderdale and Wakefield portals are now up and running effectively with staff being able to access the local children's systems from the OAWY laptop. Work is



ongoing in Bradford with the portal being in place and staff access in the process of being enabled. The final area to address is with Liquid Logic in Kirklees and discussions underway to address this.

## **2.10 Budget**

2.12 The overall position of OAWY is forecasting a balanced position at Month 6, with some potential risks of non-achievement of Inter Agency income (£270k). This has been offset by an underspend on staffing due to vacancies and income from another source.

## **2.13 Duty System**

2.14 Following on from an increase in the number of teams based at Kernel House a further evaluation of the duty system took place in summer 2019. This was on the basis that there were more staff based in the Leeds office, but the quota of duty across the 3 bases remained equal which wasn't felt to be fair. Further changes were implemented in September 2019, which saw a 7 week rota introduced with the Leeds office undertaking 3/7 weeks on the rota and Huddersfield and Bradford offices 2/7 weeks each. In addition the following changes were also introduced at the same time:

- Spread sheet for calls ceased to be used – apart from new enquiries about adopting. Everything else now has an enquiry created on Mosaic;
- Adoption adviser capacity is presently at a premium to prioritise initial visits and therefore a decision was made that Advisers don't have to be present on duty all day, but to check in for email contacts and any other messages;
- Duty managers to share duty on a 3 day/2 day split across a week.

2.15 The above changes are early in implementation, so it is hard at present to fully evaluate the impact, however we do know that by having to create a Mosaic enquiry for everything is taking a lot more time for workers and this is being monitored carefully. Further potential changes that have been identified as possible implementation with business support (when staff capacity allows):

- Phones to offer a choice of numbers and letterbox calls be responded to by Letterbox Business Support in first instance;
- Use of back up workers at busy times – to be brought forward to take calls and free up front-line workers to create Mosaic records.

## **2.16 Partnership working**

2.17 *Operational leads group*

2.18 Over the last 6 months this group has met twice and looks at interface issues. There have been recent discussions regarding streamlining our approach to adoption

allowances and moving children onto adoption looking at research and evidenced based practice. There is ongoing project work being undertaken to develop a protocol regarding the interface between OAWY and children's services regarding adoption support as well as a piece of work about access to records and archiving of adoption files. Changes to the national collection of adoption data was also recently discussed which will assist in tracking the progress of sibling groups.

#### 2.19 *Centre of Excellence Project*

2.21 The Department of Education has extended the funding for the One Adoption Centre of Excellence project until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and training of staff across the region continued into May. The creation of multi-disciplinary model has been completed and the report has been circulated to board members and health commissioners across the region for discussion about future funding of the model and the benefits this can have for children and families in the region.

#### 2.23 *Meetings with medical advisors*

2.24 The agency continues to meet with Medical Advisors across the region where there is a need to discuss practice issues. A medical advisor protocol has been agreed and there has been a series of peer support and auditing across the region to look at the quality of reports and this is helpful to improve the information provided for adoptive families. There has been challenges across two local authorities regarding capacity of medical advisor time and these issues continue to be addressed. There have been recent improvements with Wakefield, however, there is still continuing delays for children in progressing care plans in Bradford and this is being addressed at a local level.

#### 2.25 *Virtual school heads (VSH)*

2.26 The work across the region from our education worker alongside the five virtual school heads (VSH) continues to progress positively in implementing the new duty placed on VSH in each locality last year for previously looked after children who are adopted. The helpline is accessed by adoptive parents and schools and other professionals and the development of the web site will imminently provide an additional source of information for adopted parents and schools. We continue to work to increase the awareness of attachment and trauma at West Yorkshire schools by delivered training to school staff and by providing workshops to adopters in partnership with the service delivery teams and are continuing to explore piloting the secure base model for schools in the region. The discussions with the VSH involved the project workers for special guardians from Grandparents plus and these meetings are an opportunity for further exploration of the issues that need addressing for all these families moving forward. The team has completed and published the protocol for "Moving a School Age Children" and this has been shared as an example of good practice by the Department of Education and the National Association of Virtual School Heads.

## 2.28 *Special Guardianship*

The regional work regarding the special guardianship commenced earlier this year with the five local authorities and other key stakeholders including Grandparents plus and the department for work and pensions, seeking to create a standardised policy and approach regarding adoption and special guardianship support, including financial support. The stakeholder meeting held in early October considered recommendations from the various task and finish groups and further discussions are taking place with special guardians and adopters and the management board to progress decision making.

2.29 The Kinship Connected project, working across the 5 local authorities, in partnership with grandparents plus and the five local authorities is providing a strong focus on developing peer led support groups as a sustainable and effective way to support kinship carers. The two project workers also provide individual support and signpost for advice and link with charities and other avenues of support to meet needs. This is very much an early help provision and is being used in some local authorities for other kinship carers, as well as special guardians and the website and helplines provide support for all kinship carers in the Local authority area. There has been an interim evaluation report regarding this project and consideration is being given by the local authorities as to whether to extend this project which comes to an end in March 2020. The interim evaluation report is attached at Appendix 1. The project is still in its infancy but the support is “having a positive and statistically significant impact on kinship carers’ mental wellbeing and sense of isolation” .

2.30 Comments from Special Guardians accessing support from the project:

*"I don't necessarily need to access a lot of support but knowing that it's there is good and being contacted to be involved in the media side of Grandparents Plus as a case study/being on a video is positive.*

*"[My project worker] has done everything that has been asked and has been willing to support and advocate for me."*

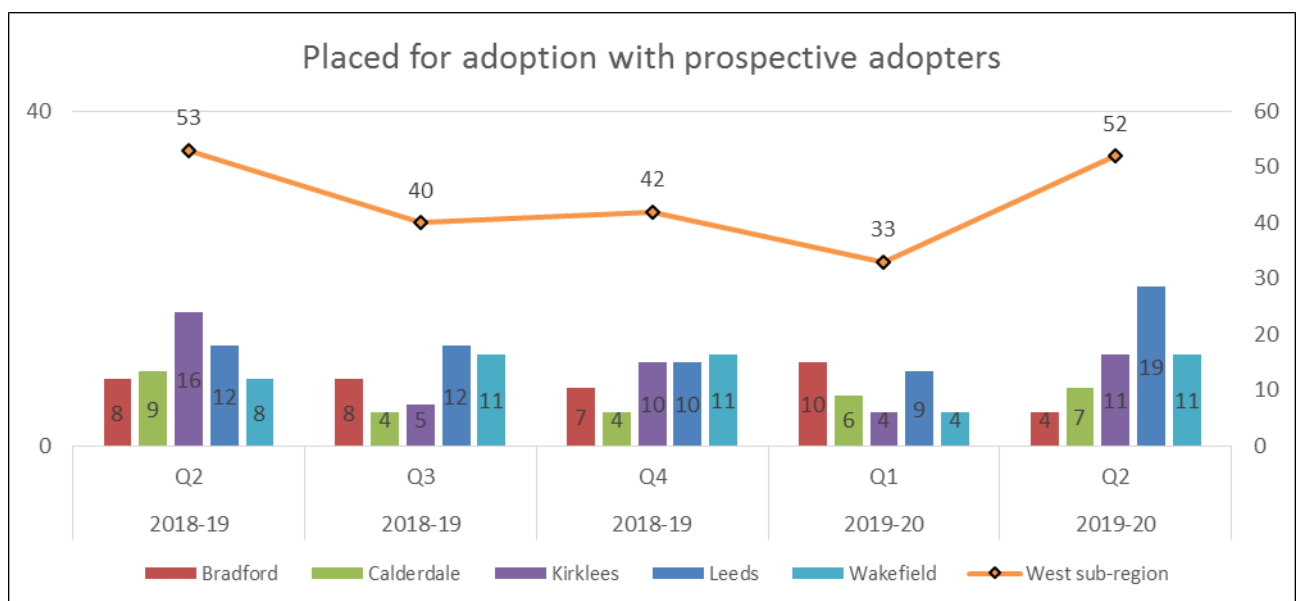
*"If it wasn't for the support I got from [name of project worker] and the kinship support group at [name of LA] I would still be sat here making no progress. The help has been invaluable."*

*"I wouldn't have coped without the support."*

2.31 **Performance Management**

2.32 **Children**

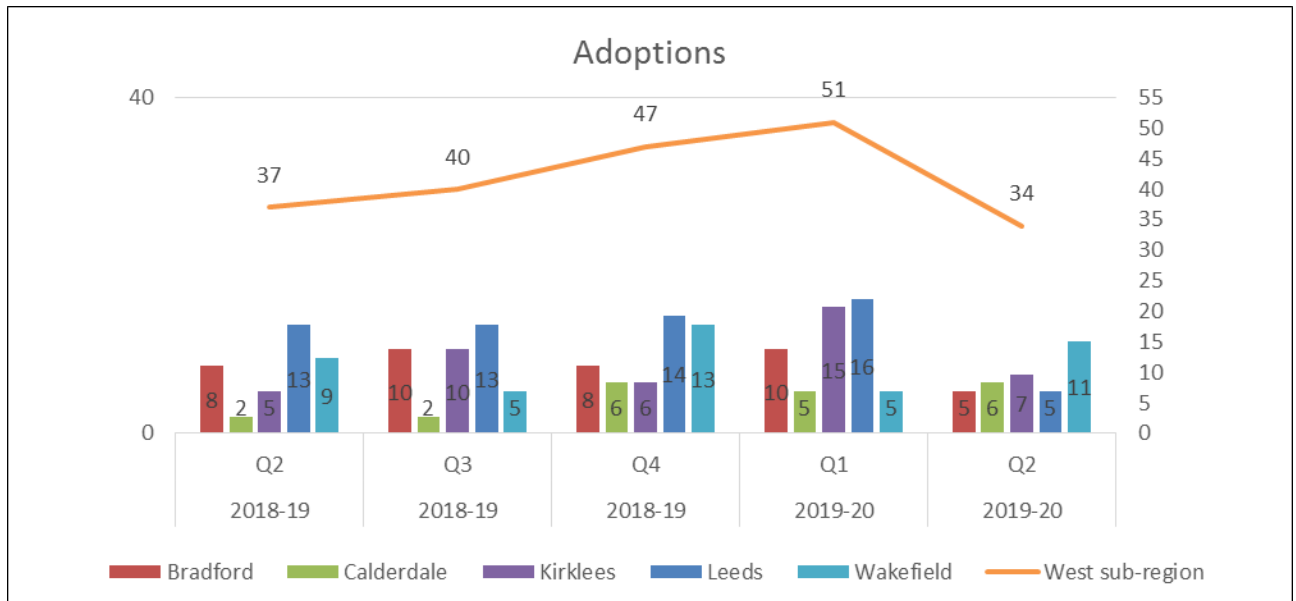
- 2.33 During the first half of 2019/20, 21 children had a plan for adoption ratified by the Agency Decision Maker in Kirklees. During 2018/19 there were 24 children who had their plan of adoption ratified by the Agency Decision Maker; the first half of the year demonstrates a likely increase in the number of children who have a plan of adoption in Kirklees.
- 2.34 25 Placement Orders were granted by the courts; giving the legal authority for adoption to be pursued as the permanence plan for a child. 30 Placement Orders were granted in 2018/19. The half yearly figures for 2019/20 show an increase on the half yearly numbers for 2018/19 when 18 Placement Orders had been granted and it is likely there will be an in year increase.
- 2.35 14 children were matched with prospective adopters, this is a decrease against the half yearly numbers from 2018/19. 37 children were matched with prospective adopters during 2018/19. There are a number of children who are linked with prospective adopters and awaiting matching panel, there is proactive family finding for children who have a placement order and are awaiting a match.
- 2.36 15 children have been placed for adoption. This is a reduction on the half yearly numbers for the previous year. In the second half of 2018/19 there was a reduction in the number of children placed for adoption; the current half year numbers are reflective of the second half of 2018/19.
- 2.37 The graph below highlights that there was an overall reduction in the number of children adopted in West Yorkshire in quarter 1 of 2019/20. Quarter 2 shows an increase in the number of children across the region matched with prospective adopters; a number of matches have been made for children who wait longer due to their needs.



- 2.38 22 children have been adopted in the first half of 2019/20, 12 children were placed with OAWY approved adopters. During 2018/19 a total of 28 children from Kirklees

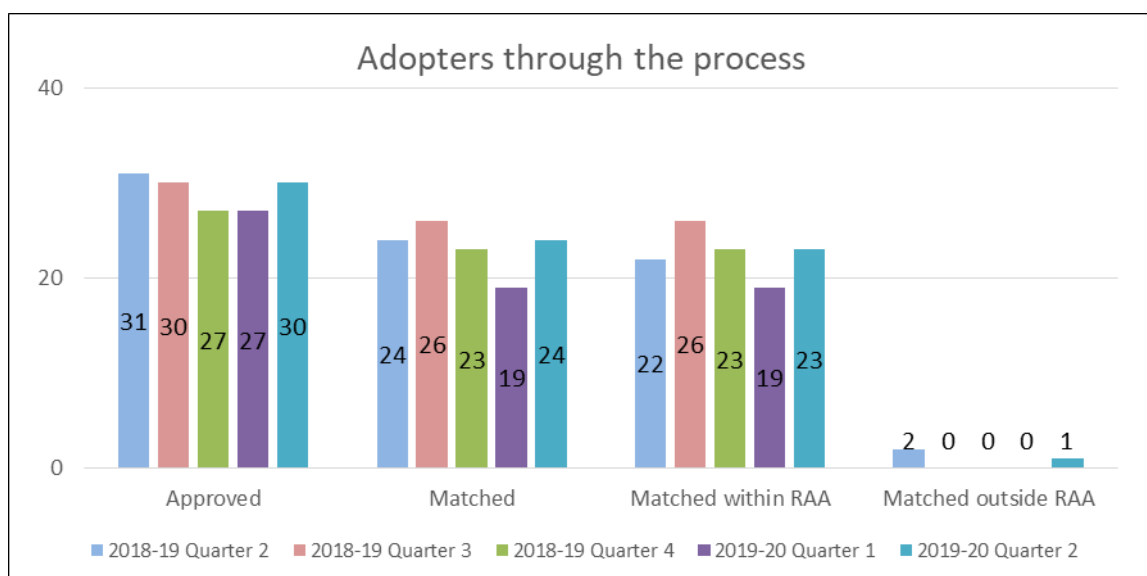
were adopted. It is likely that the number of children adopted in 2019/20 will exceed that of the previous year.

2.39 The graph below shows the number of adoptions per quarter of the 5 local authorities in West Yorkshire. It shows an increase in the number of adoptions in Kirklees for quarter 1. Overall there has been a decrease in the number of adoptions in the quarter. There are a small number of children within the region who have not been adopted in anticipated timescales. The number of children placed for adoption in the year previous generally is refelective of the number of children adopted.

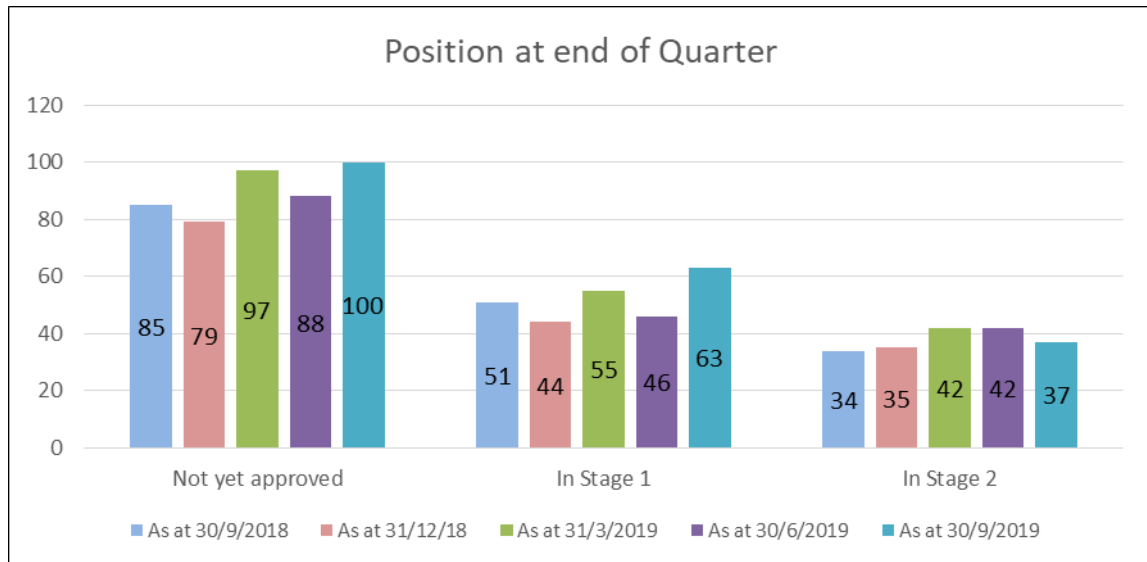


## 2.40 Adopters

2.41 In half year 57 adoptive families have been approved, 43 families have been matched with children, 42 of these being with children from the West Yorkshire region.



2.41 At the end of quarter 2 there are 100 families who are not yet approved, 63 of these families are in stage 1 of the assessment process and 37 are in stage 2. OAWY has seen an increase in the number of prospective adoptive families entering the adoption process over quarter 2. This will impact on the number of applicants in stage 2 of the process in the next quarter and should result in an increase in the approved adopters by the end of quarter 4.



2.41 It is anticipated that OAWY will approve over 110 adoptive families in year.

#### 2.42 Practice, quality of provision and management oversight

#### 2.43 Recruitment and Assessment

2.44 In May 2020 Coram Baaf awarded OAWY the quality mark for Early Permanence Placements. This will assist us in attracting adopters and is a partnership approach with the five local authorities, giving confidence in the court arena that adopters are fully prepared for this task and that support is available for all parties involved in these arrangements.

2.45 The pilot project of using the virtual reality headsets has been extremely positive over the last 18 months with an increase in adopters understanding more about the felt impact of trauma, increased empathy and understanding the need for a therapeutic parenting approach. The headsets have also started to be used with adopters post approval in adoption support where they are struggling to understand the issues that children face and have been taken into schools to help teachers understand the impact of trauma.

2.46 The preparation training is being updated and reviewed with the involvement of adopters given feedback and the fact we have not reviewed it since going live, although feedback is very positive about the training (comments below). The team are also implementing an extra days training looking at adopting siblings in order to attract more adopters to consider siblings.

*“Day 3 was my favourite day! I loved throughout the whole training that there was a parent at the training to answer any questions. I also found the family finder great on day 3!”*

*“I learnt about the Importance of identity. Telling your child that they are adopted and how to go about this. When/How/Age. To be honest and open from as early as possible.”*

*“Kept our attention throughout, topics explained at a good pace (not too fast, giving us time to think) used humour as well, which was definitely needed when discussing some difficult topics.”*

- 2.47 A review of the website is currently underway. Additional content has already been added alongside the online forms within the secure area accessed by adoptive parents. The structure of the website is also to be updated to make it more attractive to potential adopters and more user friendly.
- 2.48 *Adoption Support*
- 2.49 Although there are still a number of families waiting for a social work service, this has started to reduce overall, and requests for therapeutic support from the adoption support fund are the situations where families are waiting the longest. The referrals are prioritised according to need and whilst families are waiting for this they are able to access a service through our core support service and the peer support service is been well utilised. Kirklees has a number of families awaiting for adoption support assessments and these are being monitored closely and reviewed on a regular basis to prioritise the allocation of cases.
- 2.50 There are currently have 26 peer mentors, all of whom are supporting between 1–3 families. Two training workshops have been provided for mentors in the last 6 month period with another two planned for January 2020. 45 new referrals have been received in the last 6 months. The scheme is currently unable to accept referrals, unless they are urgent, until more mentors have been recruited and trained, as all our current mentors are at capacity. Adoption UK are currently recruiting experienced adopters from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to support our families. A training date is set for 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for newly recruited mentors to develop their mentoring skills.
- 2.51 One Adoption has continued to make significant use of the Adoption Support Fund Over the last 6 months and the DfE has agreed further funding for 12 months.
- 2.52 We have run a number of well attended and successful activity based events in the last 6 months across the region and these involved a large number of children and families attending with One Adoption staff attending in support.
- 2.53 A newsletter went out to all adoptive families across the region in June. There is a timetable and an editorial working group now in place to ensure these go out to families four times a year.

- 2.54 A 2<sup>nd</sup> single adopters group in the west of the region has commenced and the next three day 'Building Underdeveloped Sensory Systems' programme will be run with Sarah Lloyd, Occupational Therapist, towards the end of the year in the Wakefield/Leeds area.
- 2.55 A pilot has been completed looking at a consultation model to offer adoptive families who are currently waiting for a service with assistance from the centre of excellence staff. We are currently considering the learning from this pilot.
- 2.56 All Adoption Support staff have been trained in the last 6 months in Non Violence Resistance training and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (level 1). This training is an approach and model for practice that uses what we know about attachment and developmental trauma to help children and families with relationships. Developing trust with the help of PACE (playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy) DDP provides interventions for families and those who support them.
- 2.57 The Adoption support service is now running a series of evening workshops for adoptive parents on subjects including Brain Based Parenting and Education. These are being rolled out across the region throughout the year. The Adoption support managers and 2 social workers undertook training around access to records in post-commencement Adoption cases which came into force in April 2019.
- 2.58 *Family Finding*
- 2.49 OAWY have agreed to work with the University of East Anglia in implementing a research and evidence based approach to managing transitions from foster care to adoption. This requires a partnership approach with local authority fostering and social work teams and workforce development leads. Beth Neil introduced the model at our all staff event on the 24<sup>th</sup> October and is discussed in more detail in the service improvement section towards the end of the report.
- 2.50 The children's profiling events continue to take place and the last event was in September, inviting adoptive families from across the region and beyond to consider a selection of children awaiting adoption who were featured with high quality photos, DVDs and personalised displays. 22 families attended and we featured 34 profiles totalling 47 children, resulting in 25 expressions of interest. 2 of these expressions of interest have led to linking visits and 4 are being explored further.
- 2.51 We are currently in the process of commissioning a number of voluntary agencies to provide 30 placements for OAWY. The aim of this is to ensure that children are placed more locally in order for support to be more effectively provided.
- 2.52 Two Fun Days have taken place, June and October 2019. The Fun Days enable adopters to mix with children who have a plan of adoption and active family finding is taking place. 47 children attended the events, 13 sibling groups and 20 single children. 31 adopters attend the events, these being a mix of adoptive families



approved by OAWY and those approved by local authorities and voluntary adoption agencies. There were 27 expressions of interest in children at the event. 1 linking visit took place following the initial Fun Day and this is progressing to a match, 4 linking visits have taken place following the October event.

### 2.53 *Case File Audits*

2.54 Dip sampling case file audits have been undertaken with three Local authorities in the last four months to look at family finding activity for those children waiting (Leeds, Wakefield and Kirklees). The HOS and Service managers also completed audits in October looking at cases and team managers have audit activity planned during the autumn term. This is a helpful exercise to look at the quality of work and the preparation of adopters, adoption support work and planning for the children which is generally of a good quality.

## **2.55 Continuous Professional Development and Service Development**

### 2.56 *Service Improvement Plan (SIP)*

2.57 OAWY 2019/20 plan has actions link to the 3 Year Plan, the Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Assessment, the Adoption Charter and actions identified by the team. The SIP is tracked via quarterly meetings with service managers (the action owners) with shared actions discussed at SLT. A quarterly update report is presented to SLT to provide an overview of progress and discuss/ resolve any issues.

### 2.58 *Feedback*

2.59 Online feedback is now in place for information events, adopter preparation training, Early Permanence Placement training, bump into meetings, adoption panel and twilight sessions. These are looked at and reviewed to inform future training and events. There are also annual surveys for adopters, staff and designated teachers. Further surveys for connected and day 4 adopter training are in development.

2.60 The 2019 staff survey identified positive areas as being a strong team, training & development, communications, innovation and adoption support as positive areas. The areas that attracted the most constructive comments related to lack of capacity in terms of undertaking the work, training and consistency - there are plans in place to address each of these areas:

- Consistency – reviews are underway for matching and contact. This will identify and address areas of inconsistency.
- Resources – caseload reporting is in place and work is underway to capture non-casework activity. Whilst we understand how the resource is allocated we can capture how resource is deployed and ensure it is targeted appropriately;
- Training – a skills development plan is being produced for social work staff and core competency framework for business support;

2.61 The report card regarding the voice and influence of adopters and children is attached at Appendix 2. The adoption panel chairs write a 6 monthly report for the agency and this will be shared with the management board once received.

## 2.62 *Adoption Panels*

2.62.1 The adoption panels meet 7 times a month with three panel chairs. Panel Chairs complete a 6 monthly report and any learning from these is fed back in to the agency. Comments from adopters attending the panel are generally very positive. We had a response from 17 questionnaires from applicants between April and September, out of these the lowest score was 7 out of 10 with 11 of these returned scoring 10 out of 10.

*“The panel was very friendly and we felt very at ease and comfortable talking to everyone and answering the questions we were asked. A very positive experience. The Chair of panel was very friendly and welcoming.”*

*“Everybody put is at ease. It was clear they had read and absorbed the PAR. The questions were not trying to 'trip us up'. Everybody was very kind. We were nervous, but we both found it an enjoyable experience.”*

## 2.63 *Staff Skills Development*

2.64 Two all staff events have been held since April. One in June and October relating to key priorities in our 3 year plan.

a) The first event focussed on the importance of building an adoption system that supports children's relationship and identity and the issue of contact was looked at. Adopted teenagers, birth parents and adopters spoke at the event about their experiences and the research regarding contact in adoption was presented. Staff had an opportunity to put forward their ideas about opportunities, suggestions and barriers to developing a more open attitude to contact with birth families in adoption. A project plan has been developed to take forward strands of improvement work around this issue and we have linked with One Adoption North and Humber to take this project forward as part of our pan regional work. A conference for social workers across the wider Yorkshire & Humber region on this issue will take place in February 2020 with key input from adopted adults and teenagers, birth and adoptive parents.

b) the second all staff event in October focussed on the practice of Moving children from foster carer to adoption and hearing from Professor Beth Neil about the research and looking at implementing this in OAWY and getting ideas from staff on things that would be a model of undertaking this focussing clearly on children's needs as well as life story work and a session in the afternoon about Life stories and narrative therapy which can be used in adoption support but also to assist family finders support social workers in the local authorities and assessment workers support their families more effectively.

2.65 The Business support team has worked together to agree a core competency framework which will feed into the development of bespoke training for business support staff.

### **3. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **1. Resources and value for money**

The overall position of OAWY is forecasting a balanced position at Month 6, with some potential risks of non- achievement of Inter Agency income (£270k). This has been offset by an underspend on staffing due to vacancies and income from another source.

#### **2. Risk Management**

It is a regulatory requirement on the Local Authority that this report is prepared and presented to the Corporate Parenting Board of the Council. The report is linked to the corporate risk on Safeguarding Children.

#### **3. Legal Implications**

There are no legal issues arising.

#### **4. Equality and Diversity**

OAWY completed an Equality Impact Assessment last year and a clear action plan emerged from this to ensure that we are able to provide a comprehensive service to all communities. The actions are captured in the service improvement plan. This assessment has previously been presented to the management board.

#### **5. Consultation and Engagement**

Two staff events have been held over the last six months and an on-line survey was carried out. Both the events and the survey encourage involvement and the gathering of staff views. Staff identified capacity, training and consistency as key areas for development. As discussed in the report there are plans in place to respond to the issues raised.

Engagement with key stakeholders; local authorities, adoptees, adoptive parents and birth relatives is ongoing in a number of forums and shapes service provision and delivery.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Corporate Parenting Panel receives this report and continues to support the work of One Adoption West Yorkshire and the local authority to ensure our adopted children and families receive the best possible support.

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 Kinship Connected Interim Report
- Appendix 2 Voice of Adopters and Children



**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 10 February 2020  
**Title of report:** Children in Care Services Performance Highlights

**Purpose of report**

This report outlines key performance highlights for children in care and care leavers up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, for the board to consider and comment upon.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	No
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a></b>	No
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	Not applicable – for information
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Elaine McShane for Mel Meggs 31.1.20
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Not applicable
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Not applicable
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cllr V Kendrick (Children)

**Electoral wards affected:** None

**Ward councillors consulted:** None

**Public or private:** Public

**Have you considered GDPR?** Yes GDPR considered no service users identified

## **1. Summary**

### **Placement Stability and Support**

#### **What difference did we make?**

The total number of children in care was 657 on 30th November 2019 with a slight increase to 659 in December 2019. In terms of comparators Kirklees (Dec 19) data shows 65.8 CIC per 10,000 child population. Statistical Neighbours last validated data (2019) = 91.6, England (2019) = 65.0 per 10,000 child population

The Legal Gateway Permanence Panel continues to support consistency in regards to decision making and planning around placement moves for children and young people. A weekly External Placement Review Panel is now in place, to provide better oversight of children who are not placed in council provision. An External Placement Review of all children who are placed out of Local Authority to consider their care planning and explore options of returning to the local area if this is in line with meeting the children and young person's needs, we have already made progress reducing this number placed outside of Kirklees and more than twenty miles away from Kirklees from 127 in 2017 to 78 in August 2019, standing at 81 at the end of December 2019.

For Placement Stability the placement support team are very active and we have implemented innovative solutions to support several placements. An example of plans to limit unplanned moves is as follows: where a foster carer or placement is given 28 day notice, the Team Manager will coordinate a meeting within 5 working days to look at what can be provided to avoid placement breakdown and to maintain the current placement.

Whilst the data shows improvement in certain areas we are focussing on the negative data particularly as it relates to three and four placement changes in the previous 12 month period.

Whilst social work change data has improved compared to the previous month, we are mindful of the negative trend related to social work changes, when compared to the same point last year, and the impact this has on our children and young people and we will continue to focus on the retention of staff and consistency in case allocation.

#### **What do we want to improve?**

Placement stability - we will also use lessons learned to inform practice. Always have Placement Stability meetings in place.

Improve allocated social worker stability.

Reduce number of children placed more than 20 miles from their home address. We aim to recruit more local foster carers to provide more local placement options.

## Health of Children in Care Service Narrative

### What difference did we make?

*Initial health assessments:* Kirklees Local Authority (LA) rolling 12-month data shows 88.5%% were completed in timescales. (In August 2019, 4 sibling assessments were asked to be re-arranged on the final date of statutory timescales. This will negatively affect the LA data until August 2020, due to small numbers producing a high percentage loss).

*Review health assessments:* Kirklees rolling 12-month data for developmental assessments completed in timescales, i.e. children under 5 years old, were **90%** and for annual assessments, i.e. children over 5 years old, were **95.4%** on time. Locala monthly data records that **100%** of the developmental and **97%** of the annual assessments were completed in timescales. There was 1 late RHA. (Reason – Difficulty arranging with carer). All Kirklees LAC who decline an assessment, are informed that a ‘Virtual’ assessment will be completed if they agree. The ‘Virtual’ assessment gathers available health information from current records and discussions with carers and the social worker. The assessment information helps to inform the LAC reviews and those caring for the children of any outstanding health needs. These are not counted in the data.

*Dental Checks within last 12 months:* Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **80.2%** of LAC have been recorded as having received a dental check. This figure will be higher, as it relies on being notified by carers or Social Workers after each dental attendance, in between health assessments. Additional actions are taken to find this information other than at their health assessment e.g. attachment slips on other correspondence and contact with carers from monthly exception reports.

*Registered at dentist:* Locala monthly data shows **100%** of all age LAC were registered with a dentist at the time of their RHA. The Designated Nurse is informed following the child’s health assessment by electronic task from Locala, of any children not registered to allow action to be taken. The Designated Nurse and a Public Health colleague, have agreed that consideration will be made at the next meeting on 24.1.20 of the ‘Oral Health Strategy and Action Plan 2019-24’, to raise the profile of Looked after Children and Care Leavers, as a cohort who should automatically access dental registration.

*Substance misuse:* **1.05%** (5 children) of looked after young people were identified at their last review health assessment, as having a dependant problem with substances. Consideration must be given to the difficulty in obtaining an accurate figure, as it is dependent on the young person admitting the extent of the issue, given that it is illegal and they may not wish to share the information. (National figure 4%). Those young people who refuse any support are discussed with the local support service, to try to have a targeted response. Any young person misusing substances at any level is offered support.

## **Adoption Service Narrative**

### **What difference did we make?**

To the end of December 2019, 13.5% (25 children) had been adopted as a percentage of children leaving care in a 12-month rolling period. At the level of performance to December 19, Kirklees is slightly above the England rate of 12.0% (2019) and the Statistical Neighbours rate of 17.7% (2019).

The average timescale between coming into care and being placed for adoption has been increasing and reached 487.9 days in November 2019, this reduced slightly to 486.5 in December 2019. Overall this remains better than the Statistical Neighbours and National averages, 512.4 and 486.0 days respectively, from the most recent Adoption Scorecard (3-year average outcome to March 2018). Kirklees performance on that Scorecard was 487 days, so performance is currently similar.

The average timescale between the Council receiving court authority to place a child and the Council matching a child with an adoptive family improved slightly to 229.1 days at the end of December 2019. Overall this is better than the Statistical Neighbours average of 243.6 and better than the national average from the most recent Adoption Scorecard (3-year average outcome to March 2018). Kirklees performance on the 2018 Scorecard was 198 days, so it is now taking longer on average for this part of the adoption process.

We have established weekly clinics to support children's social workers who are undertaking child permanence reports, sibling assessments and considering whether a plan for adoption is appropriate. This is a joint initiative between the Assessment & Intervention Service and One Adoption and will be supported by regular training and workshops. One Adoption continue to attend legal gateway on a weekly basis in order to track children with a plan for adoption and to ensure a family finder is allocated.

If an adoption placement ceases then One Adoption have a 'disruption review' and their new procedure is on our procedures website. They will be working with Kirklees staff on the implementation of this process. We have a structured Agency Decision Making process in relation to adoption planning. This includes legal and medical advice as well as advice from One Adoption West Yorkshire.

Adoption Support Fund offers funding for ongoing support to adoptive families and children. There has been an increase in successful applications for Kirklees children that resulted in an increase of support, training and therapeutic input.



## **What do we want to improve?**

Develop an even closer working relationship between One Adoption West Yorkshire and Kirklees social workers and managers, to ensure we maximise the potential benefits of the regional adoption agency in Kirklees. The family finding team at One Adoption with responsibility for Kirklees have now moved into Civic Centre 1 which will improve areas of communication and partnership working to assist timely adoption for our children.

## **Head of Service Narrative: Janet Tolley- Virtual School Head Teacher:**

### **What difference did we make?**

96.8 % of PEPs have been completed within the Autumn Term in-line with the new termly processes.

91% of initial PEP's have been completed within 10 school days of notification to the Virtual School since 01/09/2019.

We continue to work with social work teams to improve both PEP and initial PEP completion and the quality assurance of PEP's. We have moved to termly PEP's to meet statutory requirements and this will need to continue to be clearly communicated and implemented across the service as a priority.

Attendance has slightly improved on this time last year, as has the number of pupils who are persistent absentees.

75.8% of school moves have been carefully planned across the service to ensure a smooth transition with no break in provision, with 79% within the statutory timescale of 20 working days.

### **What do we want to improve?**

We will continue to have a focus on termly PEP completion as all pupils should now have a termly PEP from 1st Sept 2019.

Attendance / Persistent Absence (PA) remains a high priority and all pupils with attendance less than 90% have a PA plan in place agreed by all professionals working with the young person.

We continue to maintain a strong focus on pupils not in full-time education provision. Wherever possible we look to ensure a return to full time education as soon as possible but these situations are often very complex.

## **Looked after Children Reviews and Missing**

### **Service Narrative**

#### **What difference did we make?**

49 requests for Initial Review forms were received by the Child Protection and Review unit between 1st October and 31st December 2019 – relating to 71 children who have become Looked After, this is a significant rise compared to the previous 3 months. All of these children were allocated an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) within 24 hours, and Initial Child Looked After Reviews were arranged for all these children to within 4 weeks of their becoming Looked After.

Between October and December, the Child Protection and Review Unit held 560 Looked After Review Meetings. Over 94% of these were within timescales. Independent Reviewing Officers closely monitor Review timescales to ensure that this high percentage is increased, whilst a clear rationale is recorded on a child's file if there are circumstances which result in a Child's Review meeting not being held within time scales. Mid-way reviews are embedded in practice and this continues to improve evidence of Independent Reviewing Officer's oversight on children's files.

There has been an increase with regards to the number of Children in Care who have received a statutory visit in line with practice standards we continue to monitor the visits as part of our service performance meetings. The introduction of Advanced Practitioners within the service will further enhance the improvement with regards to our performance.

In November and December 2019, 35 children and young people were supported by an Advocate from the Children's Right's Team in their Looked After Review. 13 of these were for children living out of Kirklees.

At the end of December 2019, 43 Children Looked After were supported by an Independent Visitor.

For young people who are reported as missing (from home or care) for a period of more than 24 hours or 3 times over a 30 day period a multi-agency strategy meeting to discuss safety planning is considered, to enable a risk management plan to be developed which seeks to support a young person and reduce further missing episodes.

In October 2019 a Children's Social Care thematic audit on children missing from home or care was undertaken, the findings of which have been analysed to help develop service delivery and performance. This work is being undertaken alongside the development of an electronic missing dashboard, to enable improved analysis of and response to reported missing episodes.

## **What do we want to improve?**

Children New into Care referrals to the CPRU to be made in a consistent and timely manner. To progress this, Child Protection and Review Unit Service Manager with oversight for Children Looked After reports to every Legal Gateway Panel on children with status of 'Becoming Looked After' referred to CPRU to help address any drift and delay.

Independent Reviewing Officers to continue to liaise closely with Social Workers to ensure that children are enabled to participate in their Reviews to ensure their voice is heard, which includes being made aware of their right to an Independent Advocate at the earliest opportunity.

Development of the return interview offer for Children Looked after who are reported as missing and reside in a host authority.

## **Children in Care involved in the criminal justice system**

### **Service Narrative**

#### **What difference did we make?**

For the year 2018/2019 65.8% of CIC young people have successfully completed their interventions which in comparison with the previous year is a decrease of 10% but is however a much-improved picture from 3 years ago when less than 30% of CIC young people successfully completed their interventions. For the 3rd quarter of this year (Oct to Dec 2019) the percentage of CIC offending is 0.86%. Although this is not an improvement for the same period last year which was 0.61%, the year to date is currently 2.88% which is a significant improvement on the same period last year of 4.88%.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the number of CIC offending these continue to be relatively small numbers of young people in comparison to the larger CIC cohort. This figure continues to be encouraging when in 2010 almost 13% of Kirklees CIC were convicted of an offence, this compared with a national average of about 5% and a local average of 7%.

West Yorkshire data continues to indicate that rates of reoffending overall by young people is lower in Kirklees than neighbouring Councils [HERE](#)

#### **What do we want to improve?**

We continue to see year on year reductions in offending by CIC. The latest quarterly figure for offending 0.86%, although a slight increase on the same qtr. for last year still presents us with a significant reduction in the yearly figure at 2.88% in comparison to 4.88% for the same period last year.

Through continued interventions by the YOT CIC team, restorative processes, liaison with Children's Homes and creative out of court disposals it is likely the offending rate will continue to fall.

## **LEAVING CARE Service Narrative**

### **What difference did we make?**

*Contact with care leavers* – There has been a slight increase however we continue to maintain a high percentage of care leavers we are in touch with, currently in touch with 88.1% of care leavers, this has to be viewed in the context of this group all being aged 18 plus. In some situations, young people are not wanting to keep contact with their Personal Advisor, the team work innovatively to keep in touch, we have a best practice protocol in place.

*Number of young people in suitable accommodation* – There has been a decrease in the number of young people in suitable accommodation. This is linked to young people who are taken into custody, rather than a lack of suitable accommodation in the borough. We continue to maintain strong links with KNH and Housing and the Housing Panel is enabling us to ensure that suitable accommodation is available in a timelier manner when young people are moving to their own accommodation. We have recently made some strong links with private housing providers and are considering how collectively we can improve our skills for independence training. We now have life skills and pre-tenancy training in place held weekly at “No.11” and “No 12” and where possible link young people with tenancy support when housed in KNH tenancies.

*Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers* – We now have an established service at our new drop in no 12 in the North of the district which has improved our reach with our young people.

*Personal Advisors* – The service report shows that 100% of our Young People aged 17 and 4 months have either an allocated PA or an allocated Social Worker. We have been able to strengthen our pathway planning in relation to developing timely transitions with young people.

*Education Employment Training* – Our performance in relation to Employment, Education and Training (EET) indicator is a focus for improvement. We have a C&K Careers Advisor in the Leaving Care Service. We have a pro-active multi agency group to improve opportunities in partnership working and there is a real desire to ensure our young people are afforded the best of opportunities in relation to EET.

*Pathway Plans* – We continue to work with the Personal Advisors to ensure pathway plans are completed in a timely manner to meet targets with a focus going forward on the improvement of the quality of plans, the involvement of young people and ensuring we capture their wishes and feelings.

## **What do we want to improve?**

*Number of young people with a pathway plan* – The number of young people with a pathway plan has slightly decreased. Work is currently ongoing within the service and it is expected that the measure will improve further. We continue to work with the Personal Advisors to ensure pathway plans are completed in a timely manner to meet targets with a focus going forward on the improvement of the quality of plans, the involvement of young people and ensuring we capture their wishes and feelings. We are currently undertaking work to analyse the decline in young people placed in suitable accommodation.

### **2. Information required to take a decision**

Not applicable

### **3. Implications for the Council**

#### **3.1 Working with People**

Not applicable

#### **3.2 Working with Partners**

Not applicable

#### **3.3 Place Based Working**

Not applicable

#### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not applicable

#### **3.5 Improving Outcomes for Children**

Oversight and monitoring of children in care performance to continue at future Corporate Parenting Board to monitor progress, as requested by the Chair.

#### **3.6 Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

#### **3.7 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

### **5. Next steps**

Managers to lead the focus on areas of performance with staff, in areas where outcome data is not what we expect it to be.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**  
That the report and key highlights on performance within Children in Care Services be noted.
7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**  
Not applicable
8. **Contact officer**  
Steve Comb, 01484 221000  
[steve.comb@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:steve.comb@kirklees.gov.uk)  
  
Julie Bragg 01484 221000  
[julie.bragg@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:julie.bragg@kirklees.gov.uk)  
  
Janet Tolley, 01484 221000  
[janet.tolley@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:janet.tolley@kirklees.gov.uk)
9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**  
Monthly performance information is used to inform the narrative for this report
10. **Service Director responsible**  
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director (Learning and Early Support)  
Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)

**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 10 February 2020  
**Title of report:** Children in Care Services Performance Highlights  
 (Fostering and Children's Homes)

### Purpose of report

This report outlines key performance for Fostering Service and Childrens Homes up to December 31st 2019, for the board to consider and comment upon.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable – for information
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford for Mel Meggs 28.1.20
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Not applicable
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr V Kendrick (Children)

**Electoral wards affected:** None

**Ward councillors consulted:** None

**Public or private:** Public

**Have you considered GDPR?** Yes GDPR considered no service users identified

## 1. Summary

### Fostering Service

#### What difference did we make?

December 2019 saw two new carer approvals, one in-house and one connected carer. The rolling 12-month total of approved carers to December was 21 approvals. There were two in-house fostering de-registrations in Dec 19 (including connected carers). The number of children placed with Kirklees foster carers increased to 240 in December 2019, a slight increase from the level in November. This is above the 12-month average of 226. The number of connected person's placements decreased, from 95 in July 2019 to 89 in Dec 2019 (Note that this figure includes Regulation 24 placements). The September 2019 figure of 181 for agency fostering represented a 12-month high in the number of Independent Agency placements, although this has now reduced slightly to 175 December 2019. This compares to a 12-month low of 157 in January 2019. This increase reflects the use of independent agency foster care to place the increased number of children in our care, because we did not have internal carers available. Prospective carers in assessment Stage 1 fostering advisors nine Stage 2 nineteen this includes six supported lodgings, one of which is a Connected Persons. Exit interview feedback to service manager is in place for any carer who resigns.

#### What do we want to improve?

Recruitment and retention of foster carers is a priority as is reducing the use of fostering agency care. The Service Manager is focussing on these challenges as two separate matters, improving our offer for existing carers and a focus on recruitment. We continue to develop the Recruitment Team to increase numbers of Kirklees carers and will have focussed campaigns for respite care that can be a softer introduction to fostering, and teenagers exhibiting troubled and troublesome behaviours. A recruitment and retention focus for our foster carers is a key strand of our improvement work and the Service Manager is working closely with the Recruitment Team to ensure that the numbers of assessments increase and that they are completed in a timely fashion. Capacity has been realigned to improve timelines for applications to foster Form F assessments. All foster carer resignations are scrutinised by the service manager and panel, and expression of interest in fostering that does not progress is peer challenged within the fostering team.

We have recently signed an agreement with the National Fostering Network to work together this year to implement two Foster Carer Mockingbird hubs in Kirklees, this model facilitates additional support to specific carers. We will be consulting with Kirklees Fostering Network, and other stakeholders to discuss how we can develop our Kirklees model, and work with the National Fostering Implementation team, who hold responsibility for monitoring the application and "fidelity" of the licensed model. The Challenges re carer recruitment are a both a local and national issue.

Latest figures from the National Fostering Network show that 8,500 more fostering households are needed across the UK. The carer supply and demand activity has led to supply constraints, with less choice of carer availability across the UK, we



experience this at a local level. We continue to pursue a range of recruitment activity, to improve our internet search presence to prospective carers we have entered into an agreement with “Google Ads”. The Service Manager is working closely with the Kirklees Fostering Network to continue to develop our fostering service offer and ensure that carers are supported appropriately.

Foster carers now have membership of the Corporate Parenting Board. We have launched a new package of carer benefits including access to the employee health scheme, and access to the staff discounted shopping scheme. A Service Manager with commissioning background is now line managing the Placement Finding Team, the Placement Support Team is now line managed within Children in Care social work. A Carer Training analysis and refresh is to take place

## **Childrens Homes**

Three of the Councils five Ofsted Registered Childrens Homes have been inspected individually unannounced over two days by Ofsted between October and December 2019. We are pleased to report that the homes have been graded as “Good” overall. Our two further homes will be inspected unannounced in this financial year.

### **2. Information required to take a decision**

Not applicable

### **3. Implications for the Council**

#### **3.1 Working with People**

Not applicable

#### **3.2 Working with Partners**

Not applicable

#### **3.3 Place Based Working**

Not applicable

#### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not applicable

#### **3.5 Improving Outcomes for Children**

Oversight and monitoring of children in care performance to continue at future Corporate Parenting Board to monitor progress, as requested by the Chair.

#### **3.6 Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

#### **3.7 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

4. **Consultees and their opinions**  
Not applicable
5. **Next steps**  
Managers to lead the focus on areas of performance with staff, in areas where outcome data is not what we expect it to be.
6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**  
That the report and key highlights on performance within Fostering and Children's Homes be noted.
7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**  
Not applicable
8. **Contact officer**  
Steve Comb, 01484 221000  
[steve.comb@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:steve.comb@kirklees.gov.uk)
9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**  
Monthly performance information is used to inform the narrative for this report
10. **Service Director responsible**  
Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources Improvement Partnerships)

**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
**Title of report:** Number and Age of Children in Care

## Purpose of report

To provide information to the Board on a regular basis relating to the number and profile of children in our care. Including information related to the number placed outside of the District.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	NA
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane for Mel Meggs 9.1.20
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	NA
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr V Kendrick Children's Portfolio

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted: No**

**Public or private: Public**

**(Have you considered GDPR?)**

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

## 1. Summary

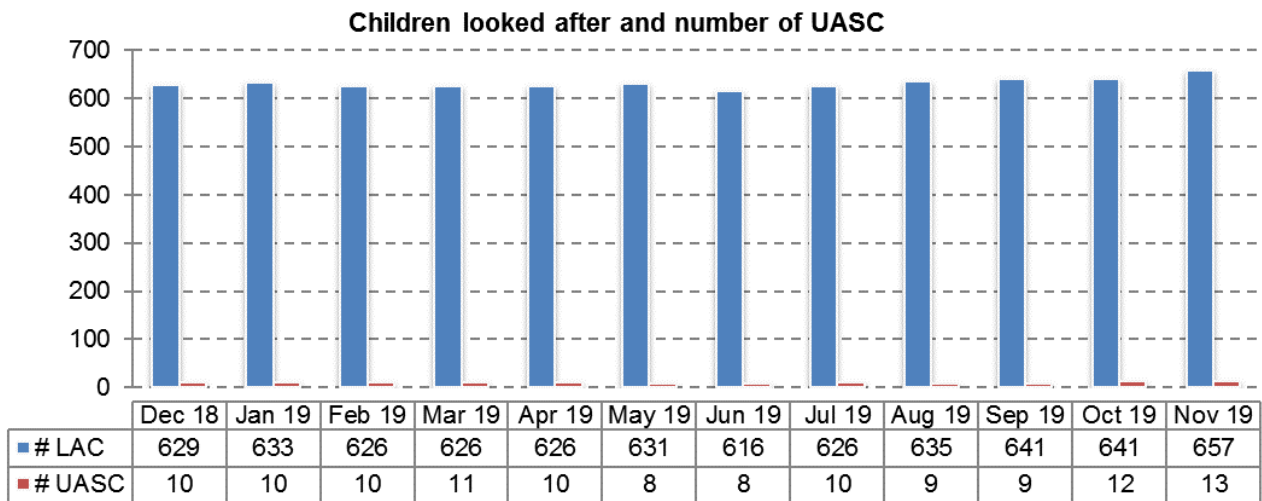
This graph shows the number of children in care (657 excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

The current number of LAC equates to a rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17 of 65.6. This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 91.6 and a national average of 65.0 based on recently published data for March 2019.

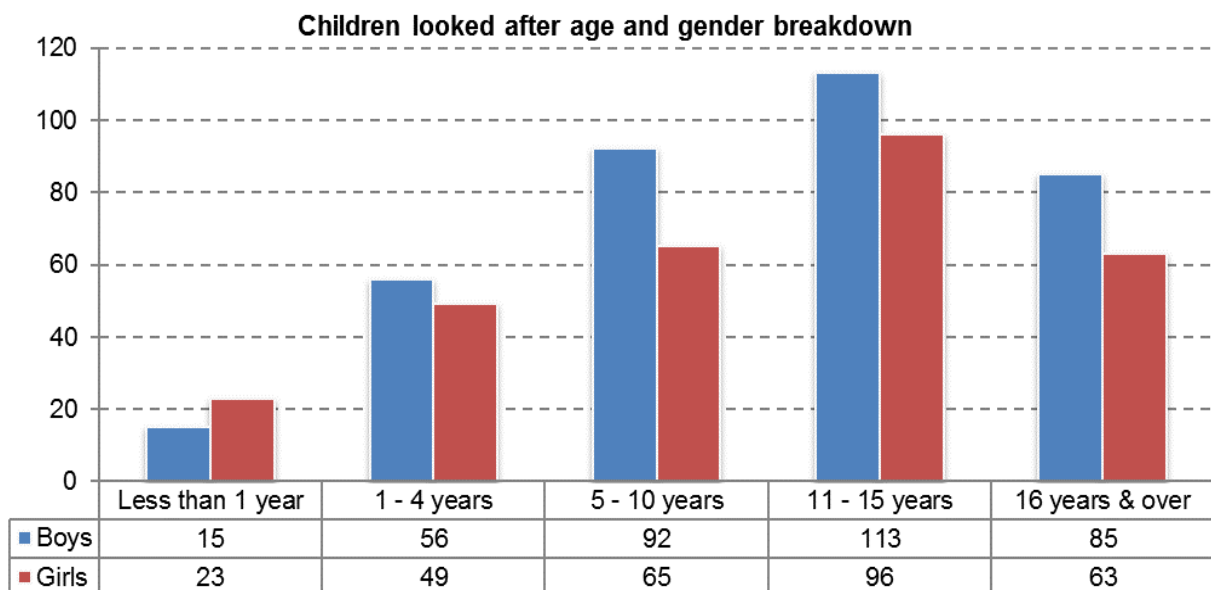
Kirklees (Nov 19) = 65.6

Statistical Neighbours (2019) = 91.6

England (2019) = 65.0



This graph shows the breakdown by age and gender of the children in care. The largest age group for boys is 11 - 15 years with 112 (116) children and the largest age group for girls is 11 - 15 years with 95 (96) children.

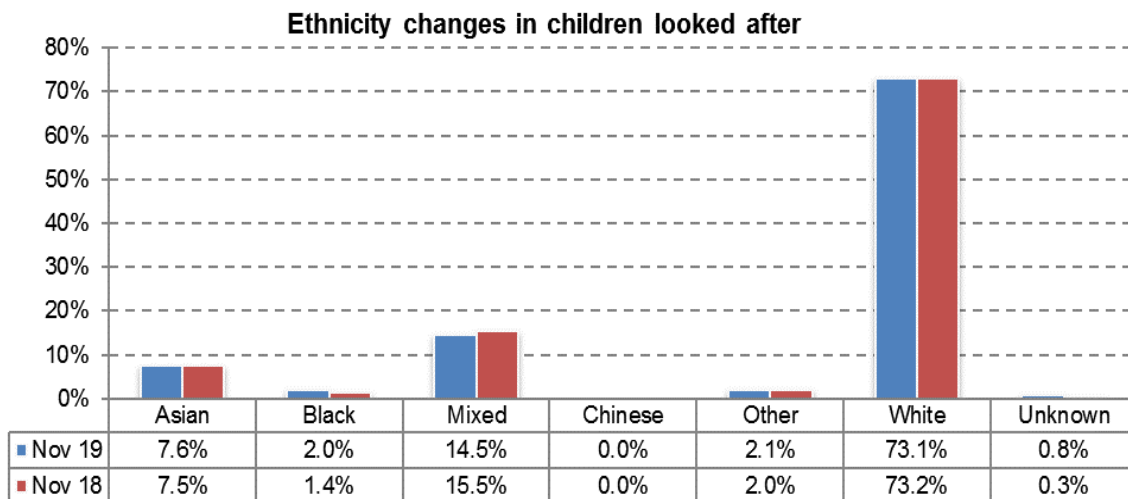


## Statistical Neighbours

Local Authorities that the Department for Education regard as similar and close socio economically to Kirklees, not measured by population size.

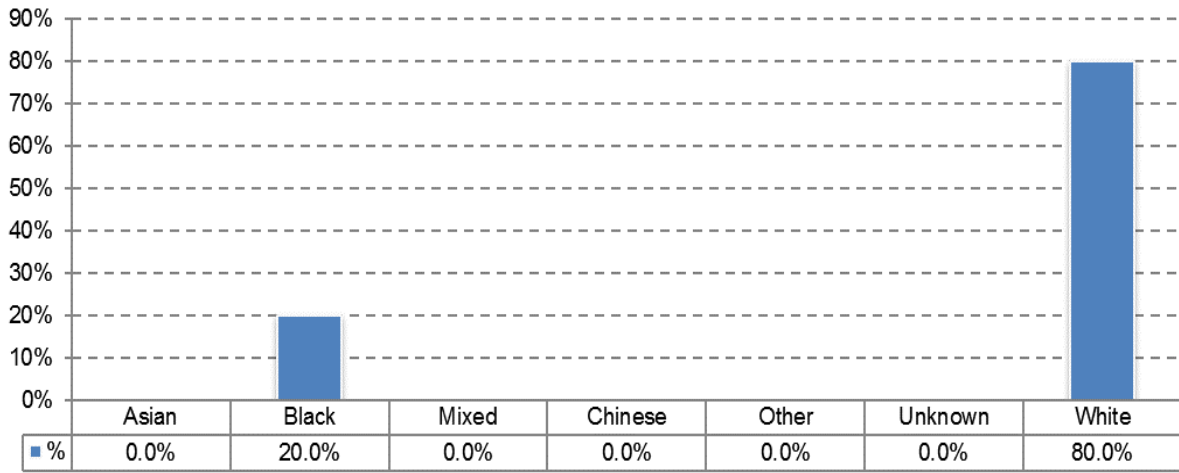
Local Authorities "Very Close"* to Kirklees (* Source LAIT)
Kirklees Council
Rochdale Borough Council
Bolton Council
Calderdale Council
Bury Borough Council
Dudley MBC
Derby City
Lancashire Council
Stockton-on Tees Borough Council
Leeds City Council
Telford & Wrekin Council

This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of November 2019 and the same point 12 months ago. This has been relatively stable throughout the period.

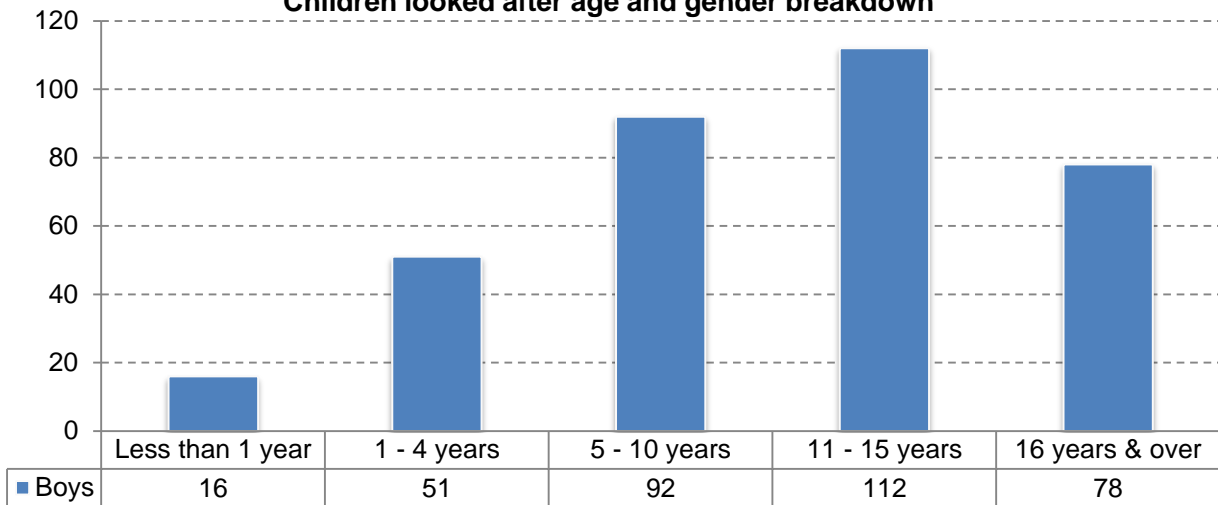


This graph shows the percentage breakdown by ethnicity of children entering care this month. Note that this outcome is based on small numbers. In November 2019 there were 5 young people who were recorded as entering care at the point of data extraction in the month of whom 4 were White and 1 was of Black ethnicity.

### Ethnicity of children becoming looked after this month



### Children looked after age and gender breakdown



## Children and Young People placed more than 20 miles outside of Kirklees

The number of looked after children placed outside Kirklees District and 20 plus miles from their home address was 80 on 30 November 2019. This follows a continuum of decline from a number of 127 in 2017, and a reduction of 9 over the last six months. The majority of our children and young people placed out of area are placed in foster care, the remainder are placed in children's homes, semi-independent homes, a small number in youth custody or other specialist settings.

The current Number of Children and Young People placed outside Kirklees and more than 20 miles from home is 80. This equates to 12.2% of the total LAC cohort. The recent historical position is detailed below:

	30 Sept 2019		31 Oct 2019		30 Nov 2019	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Placed outside Kirklees &amp; over 20 miles from home address</b>	78	12.2%	81	12.6%	80	12.2%

### Semi Independent Accommodation aged 16 plus

On 30<sup>th</sup> November there were 44 young people accommodated in semi-independent accommodation, 31 within District and 13 of our young people placed outside of the Kirklees District as detailed below.

<b>Placements outside of Kirklees in semi-independent living accommodation (not subject to Children's Home regulations)</b>			
As at 30/11/2019			
LA of Placement	Aged 16	Aged 17	Total
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council		1	1
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	3	3	6
Leeds City Council		6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>
Legal Status	Aged 16	Aged 17	Total
Full Care Order	2	7	9
S20 CA 1989 - Single Placement	1	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>

#### 2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required, this report is submitted at the request of the Board to monitor the number of children in care. This report is also shared with the Children's Scrutiny Panel on a monthly basis.

#### 3. Implications for the Council

##### 3.1 Working with People

Not applicable

##### 3.2 Working with Partners

Not applicable

##### 3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable

- 3.4 **Climate Change and Air Quality**  
Not applicable
- 3.5 **Improving Outcomes for Children**  
This information is provided at the request of Corporate Parenting Board to monitor the number of children in care their age and location of placements.
- 3.6 **Reducing demand of services**  
Not applicable
- 3.7 **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**  
Not applicable
- 4. **Consultees and their opinions**  
Not applicable
- 5. **Next steps**  
A similar report will be presented to future meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board.
- 6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**  
That the report be noted.
- 7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**  
Not applicable
- 8. **Contact officer**  
Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting
- 9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**  
Previous reports to the Children's Scrutiny on number and age of children in care.
- 10. **Service Director responsible**  
Elaine McShane, Service Director (Child Protection and Family Support)



**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
**Title of report:** Siblings in Care

**Purpose of report:** To give an overview of siblings in care and whether they are placed together.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</b>	<b>Key Decision – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Elaine McShane for Mel Meggs (6<sup>th</sup> December 2019)</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Cllr Kendrick</b>

**Electoral wards affected:** N/A

**Ward councillors consulted:** N/A

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes no individuals have been identified in this report.

## 1. Summary

The Corporate Parenting Board have asked for an overview of the numbers of siblings in care.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

There are currently 58 groups of siblings in care who are subject to a Full Care Orders, 38 groups of siblings are currently placed together in the same placement and 20 groups of siblings are placed in separate placements. The number of siblings range from 2 – 5, there are currently 35 groups of 2 siblings, 19 groups of 3 siblings, 2 groups of 4 siblings and 2 groups of 5 siblings. The children and young people are currently placed in a range of placements which include fostering, residential and supported accommodation.

When a decision is made and approved for a sibling group to come into the care of the local authority and where appropriate there is a placement search for the children to be placed together. In some situations this might not be the best option and this is dependent on the assessments of the individual needs of the children and young people.

In some situations when concerns are raised with regards to sibling relationships the allocated social worker will undertake a sibling assessment to determine whether it is in the sibling's best interests for them to remain living together.

If the assessments identify that it is not possible for siblings to remain together then contact arrangements are made taking into account a number of factors which include the individual care needs of each child, relationships and their age, type of contact including activities dependant on age to build positive family connections balanced against ensuring that each child continues to have a stable placement. The arrangements are reviewed at their looked after children reviews to ensure that positive sibling relationships are maintained into adulthood.

## 3. Implications for the Council

### 3.1 Working with People

Not applicable

### 3.2 Working with Partners

Not applicable

### 3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable

### 3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

### 3.5 Improving outcomes for children.

To ensure that children and young people are able to maintain relationship with their birth siblings.

### 3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Not applicable

## 4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable.

## 5. Next steps and timelines

Not applicable.

- 6. Officer recommendations and reasons**  
That the report be noted.
- 7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**  
Not applicable
- 8. Contact officer**  
Julie Bragg, Head of Service (Children in Care and Care Leavers)
- 9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**  
None
- 10. Service Director responsible**  
Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)

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**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
**Title of report:** Voice of the Child update

**Purpose of report:** To provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an update in respect of the Voice of the Child Plan.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Not Applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford for Mel Meggs (11.12.19)
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Not applicable
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	<b>Cllr Viv Kendrick Children's</b>

**Electoral wards affected:** None

**Ward councillors consulted:** None

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes, no individuals have been identified in this report.

## 1. Summary

This report provides an update of the Voice of the Child Plan. The Voice of the Child Plan was developed through a the Voice of the Child Task and Finish Group with a key objective: To ensure that all children and young people are involved in the decisions that affect them; their participation is essential to improve services and respond to their needs, and the shared aim of their participation should be change; and to actively promote young people's participation in co-production and contributing to service development.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required.

## 2. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

Not applicable

- **Working with Partners**

Not applicable

- **Place Based Working**

Not applicable

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not applicable

- **Improving outcomes for children**

The Voice of the Child Plan outlined expectations in relation to how we will engage with children and young people to elicit their views and ascertainable wishes and feelings. The key principles of the plan was to ensure the views of children and young people influence the care and services they receive and service development. The plan was to support improved outcomes for children, young people and their families by improving professional practice and the quality of service delivery.

The Voice of the Child Task & Finish Group was established in June 2018 and comprised representatives from teams and services across Kirklees Council. The objectives for the group were:

- To ensure that the Voice of the Child was promoted and on the agenda for each service within children's Services.
- To ensure that all children and young people are involved in the decisions that affect them; their participation is essential to improve services and respond to their needs, and the shared aim of their participation should be change; and to actively promote young people's participation in co-production and contributing to service development.

The group was responsible for developing the Voice of the Child Plan, oversight of the delivery and responsibility for quality assurance of each area within the plan, with the overall aim of working towards developing a culture within the workforce which

supported, promoted and valued the participation of children, young people and their families. Below is a summary of the work the plan has achieved to date:

- Children's Services have a history of involving children, young people and their families in the recruitment of foster carers and professionals within the authority. Further work with HR to review involving young people in the wider recruitment of all staff has been undertaken, resulting in a finalised recruitment procedure. This is due to be considered by the Workforce strategy group for agreement and introduction.
- In order to ensure that elected members effectively champion the views of children, young people and their families *Total Respect* training was delivered by young people from the Children in Care Council in October 2019 to elected members, to support their understanding of the issues which affect children and young people who are Looked After and help them represent and promote the views of children and young people.
- A Youth Participation Vision task and finish group has been established with partners, to help develop a shared vision which will provide a common understanding of youth participation and why youth participation is a vital part of everyday practice. The group will focus on the identification and development of engagement resources, sharing of good practice and aims to become an effect conduit for two way dialogue with children and young people. The work of the group also includes the development of a Children and Young People's Participation Strategy.
- In order to ensure Learning and Development pathways promote the voice of a child, there have been changes made to the training provided to the Children's Social Care workforce. There is now an increased frequency of the delivery of the *Engaging the Mind of the Child* and the content has been developed to support practitioners to effectively engage with teenagers. Learning and development pathways for Social Workers have also been updated to ensure that, *Engaging the Mind of the Child* and *Total Respect* training is mandatory for all new starters. In addition to this, a training programme in relation to child development and attachment has been developed and is now available for the Children's Services workforce. In consultation with the Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership, this training is also available for partner agencies.
- The Children's Social Care Duty and Advice team have a '*Child's Voice guide*' and are utilising this when having contact conversations.
- A protocol has been drafted to ensure that concerns or queries raised by Looked After children and young people via the Children's Right's Team are considered and responded to in a timely manner. This protocol is at the consultation stage.
- The Children's Rights Team and the Child Protection and Review Unit have consulted with representatives from IT, to consider the development an app or alternative platform to enable Looked After children and young people to share their views on an on-going basis. How this could be achieved is currently being considered.

- There is a pilot working group consisting of Social Workers, Early Support workers and Child Protection Conference Chairs who are considering how best to obtain feedback/children's views regarding their experiences. The Early Support service have committed to organising a Voice and Influence working group, and the Family Group Conference Team have collated feedback from Children and Young People which has demonstrated the impact of their service provision, the team intend to present their findings to other service areas.
- Children's Social Care audits have included contacting a small number of children and young people to obtain their views and experiences to inform the overall audit findings. However, the method used did not achieve meaningful participation, this is an area of development which will be considered within a new Children's Service's Quality Assurance Framework, due for consultation early in the New Year.
- Annual Fostering reviews now include input and feedback from children and young people to inform the review.
- **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**  
Not applicable

### 3. **Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

### 4. **Next steps and timelines**

The Voice of the Child Task and Finish group has concluded and the stand alone Voice of the Child Plan has ended. The objective of the plan has been achieved in that capturing and strengthening the voice of the child is now a central aim for services when working with children. For Children's Social work, monitoring will continue via the Children's Social Work Improvement plan, to ensure that the Voice of the Child is an integral element of service delivery. Development work is being undertaken with the wider Children's Services, teams, with two Young People's Voice and Influence workers helping to embed and oversee the work, working in partnership with service areas and teams.

### 5. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be received and noted by the Corporate Parenting Board as per Section 13 of The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006.

### 6. **Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

### 7. **Contact officer**

Anna Gledhill, Social Work Practice Lead  
[Anna.gledhill@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.gledhill@kirklees.gov.uk)

### 8. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable

### 9. **Service Director responsible**



Tom Brailsford, Service Director, Resources, Improvement, and Partnerships.

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**Corporate Parenting Board**

**Agenda Plan 2019/20**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Issues for Consideration</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p align="center"><b>19<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b></p> <p>Pre-meeting 9.30 am – 10.00 am Public Meeting 10.00 am – 12 noon Old Court Room, HTH</p> <p align="center">Deadline for reports 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019</p> <p>Apols: B Lockwood, O Rix</p>	<p align="center"><b>Pre-meeting (Informal)</b></p> <p>Educational attainment and progress – LAC outcomes data 2018 SFR analysis</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center"><b>Public Items:</b></p> <p>One Adoption WY Annual Report (may be deferred)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>Summary of educational outcomes for 2018</p> <p>OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Overview of number of children in Care (snapshot) including age profile</p> <p>Statement of Purpose for Fostering Service (Annual)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Areas for Board Members to Champion and Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20</p>	<p align="center">J Tolley</p> <p align="center">S Comb/J Tolley</p> <p align="center">S Johal (One Adoption)</p> <p align="center">S Comb/J Tolley</p> <p align="center">J Tolley</p> <p align="center">S Comb/J Bragg</p> <p align="center">J Bragg</p> <p align="center">A Quinlan</p> <p align="center">Board members</p> <p align="center">Board Members H Kilroy</p>	
<p align="center"><b>10<sup>th</sup> September 2019</b></p> <p>Pre-meeting 9.30 am – 10.00 am Public Meeting 10.00 am – 12 noon</p>	<p align="center"><b>Pre-meeting (Informal)</b></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center"><b>Public Items:</b></p>	<p align="center">S Comb/J Tolley</p>	

## Corporate Parenting Board

### Agenda Plan 2019/20

<p>Reception Room, HTH</p> <p>Deadline for reports 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019</p>	<p>Membership of the Board – to verbally propose a change to add Anna Gledhill, Social Work Practice Lead (Family Support and Child Protection)</p> <p>Animation by adopted teenagers (8 mins video)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Overview of number of children in Care (snapshot) including age profile</p> <p>Annual report on the health of looked after children</p> <p>Annual report on Youth Offending Team relating to their work with children in care and comparative data for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19</p> <p>Annual Report on Private Fostering</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>Suzanne Whiteley (One Adoption)</p> <p>S Comb/J Tolley</p> <p>S Comb</p> <p>J Bragg</p> <p>G Addy</p> <p>R Smith</p> <p>A Quinlan</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> main item on agenda</p> <p>(RS to send a rep to Board as on leave)</p>
<p><b>24th October 2019</b></p> <p>Pre-meeting 9.30 am – 10.00 am</p> <p>Public Meeting 10.00 am – 12 noon</p> <p>Mtg Room 1, HTH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pre-meeting (Informal)</b></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p>Head Teachers Report on educational outcomes of looked after children</p>	<p>S Comb/J Tolley</p> <p>J Tolley</p>	<p>Report received – awaiting Jo’s sign off</p>

**Corporate Parenting Board**

**Agenda Plan 2019/20**

<p>Deadline for reports 14th October 2019</p> <p>Apologies: E McShane</p>	<p align="center"><b>Public Items:</b></p> <p>Attendance by Rachel Spencer-Henshall on role of Corporate Parent (verbal update)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Annual report on Review of Foster Carer Handbook</p> <p>Annual report on Children’s Rights and Independent Visitors Scheme (1<sup>st</sup> April 18 to 31 March 19) to include a 6 monthly update (Apr 19 to Sept 19)</p> <p>Overview of number of children in Care (snapshot) including age profile</p> <p>Number of young people in Kirklees aged 16-17 in semi/independent accommodation (inc outside District)</p> <p>Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20</p>	<p>R Spencer-Henshall</p> <p>S Comb/J Tolley</p> <p>S Comb</p> <p>A Quinlan</p> <p>M Tiernan/A Gledhill</p> <p>J Bragg</p> <p>S Comb</p> <p>Y Mughal</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>	<p>1<sup>ST</sup> ON AGENDA (20 mins)</p>
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**Corporate Parenting Board**

**Agenda Plan 2019/20**

<p><b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b></p> <p>Pre-meeting 9.30 am – 10.00 am Public Meeting 10.00 am – 12 noon Mtg Room 1, HTH</p> <p><b>** CANCELLED **</b></p> <p>Apols: Cllr K Allison, G Addy, K Fielding, C Bennett, S Comb, C Jackson, O Rix, Cllr R Smith, Cllr A Marchington, Jo Sanders</p>	<p align="center"><b>Pre-meeting (Informal)</b></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report</p> <p align="center"><b>Public Items:</b></p> <p>One Adoption Agency 6 monthly Report (April to Sept)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report – CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Overview of number and age of children in Care</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>The success of placing sibling groups in placements within Kirklees</p> <p>Update on Voice of the Child Development Plan</p> <p>‘Staying Put’ Scheme</p> <p>Supported lodgings</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20</p>	<p>J Tolley/J Bragg/S Comb</p> <p>Suzanne Whiteley (One Adoption)</p> <p>J Bragg/S Comb/J Tolley</p> <p>S Comb/J Bragg</p> <p>J Bragg</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Bragg</p> <p>A Gledhill</p> <p>Andy Quinlan</p> <p>Andy Quinlan</p> <p>Helen Kilroy</p>	
<p><b>10<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b></p> <p>Pre-meeting 9.30 am – 10.00 am Public Meeting 10.00 am – 12 noon</p>	<p align="center"><b>Pre-meeting (Informal)</b></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center"><b>Public Items:</b></p>	<p>S Comb/J Tolley</p>	

## Corporate Parenting Board

### Agenda Plan 2019/20

<p>Mtg Room 1, HTH</p> <p><b>Deadline for reports 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b></p> <p>Apols: B Lockwood, A Gledhill</p>	<p>Attendance by Karl Battersby on role of Corporate Parent (verbal update)</p> <p>Attendance by Richard Parry on role of Corporate Parent (verbal update)</p> <p>One Adoption Agency 6 monthly Report (April to Sept)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes (to include a breakdown of persistent absentees by foster carers, Connected and Kinship Carer placements)</p> <p>OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Overview of number of children in Care (snapshot) including age profile (to include anonymous scenarios of good practice of placement stability)</p> <p>The success of placing sibling groups in placements within Kirklees</p> <p>Update on Voice of the Child Development Plan</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20</p>	<p>K Battersby (10-10.20)</p> <p>R Parry (10.20-10.40)</p> <p>Suzanne Whiteley (One Adoption) (10.40-10.55)</p> <p>S Comb/J Tolley/J Bragg (11.00-11.10)</p> <p>S Comb/J Bragg (11.10)</p> <p>J Bragg (11.20)</p> <p>J Bragg (11.25)</p> <p>A Gledhill (11.35)</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>	
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**Corporate Parenting Board**

**Agenda Plan 2019/20**

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b></p> <p>Pre-meeting 9.30 am – 10.00 am Public Meeting 10.00 am – 12 noon Mtg Room 1, HTH</p> <p><b>Deadline for reports 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b></p> <p>Apols: A Gledhill</p>	<p align="center"><b>Pre-meeting (Informal)</b></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center"><b>Public Items:</b></p> <p>Saturday Job Scheme</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report - CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Overview of number and age of children in Care</p> <p>Staying Put Scheme</p> <p>Supported lodgings</p> <p>Number of secondary school and placement moves for LAC (to inc an update on action being taken to reduce number of moves that take place)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2019/20</p>	<p>S Comb/J Tolley</p> <p>D Lucas</p> <p>S Comb/J Tolley/J Bragg</p> <p>S Comb/J Bragg</p> <p>J Bragg</p> <p>A Quinlan</p> <p>A Quinlan</p> <p>J Tolley/S Comb/J Bragg (to be confirmed)</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>	
<p><b>9<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b></p> <p>Pre-meeting 9.30 am – 10.00 am Public Meeting 10.00 am – 12 noon Mtg Room 3, HTH</p>	<p align="center"><b>Pre-meeting (Informal)</b></p> <p>Educational attainment and progress – LAC outcomes data and SFR analysis</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p>	<p>J Tolley</p> <p>S Comb/J Tolley/J Bragg</p>	



**Corporate Parenting Board**

**Agenda Plan 2019/20**

<p><b>Deadline for reports 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Public Items:</b></p> <p><b>NO QUESTION TIME</b> (pre-election period)</p> <p>Review of Membership and Terms of Reference of the Board (prior to Council AGM)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Statement of Purpose for Registered Children’s Homes (Annual)</p> <p>Statement of Purpose for Fostering Service (Annual)</p> <p>Overview of number and age of children in Care</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board work programme and Agenda Plan for 2020/21</p>	<p align="center">H Kilroy</p> <p align="center">S Comb/J Tolley/J Bragg</p> <p align="center">S Comb/J Bragg</p> <p align="center">L Caunce</p> <p align="center">A Quinlan</p> <p align="center">J Bragg</p> <p align="center">H Kilroy</p>	
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## Corporate Parenting Board

### Agenda Plan 2019/20

#### Standard reports (as on Agenda Plan)

#### Future reports (dates yet to be agreed):

- Future shape of service and relationship with partners (E McShane/S Comb) – date tbc
- Action Plan on the Fostering and Placement services in Kirklees (A Quinlan) – date tbc
- Early Help and edge of care (M Meggs/J Saunders) – date tbc
- Update on pilot to mentor and provide role modelling for young people in placements and children’s homes around school attendance (J Tolley) – date tbc
- Kirklees Fostering Network (achievements, current priorities and future aspirations)
- Progress updates from the Residential Managers of the Children’s Homes on the improvements and actions being taken following Ofsted reports (L Counce/C Morgan)
- Children’s Homes – plans for the future (J Bragg)
- Commitment to Care Leavers (J Bragg)
- Grandparents Plus to attend future meeting of Board (date to be confirmed)
- Educational Employment and Training and what was being done with local businesses (Julie Bragg) – date to be confirmed
- Sufficiency of foster placements living outside the area to include subset data showing the residual number of children on placement living outside the area (Steve Comb) – to be confirmed
- Consideration of the web version of the Foster Carer Handbook (prior to go live date) (CPB 24.10.19) (A Quinlan)
- Outcome of the pilot scheme on the job scheme for care leavers (CPB 24.10.19) (RSH)

#### Annual reports:-

- 6 monthly report on Children’s Rights (Oct to March) (M Tiernan/A Gledhill) – June 2020 (same month every year)
- 6 monthly report on Independent Visitors Scheme (Oct to March) (M Tiernan/A Gledhill) – June 2020 (same month every year)
- Annual Report on Children’s Rights and Independent Visitors Scheme (April 19 to March 20) – (M Tiernan/A Gledhill) – June 2020 (same month every year)
- Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care (Y Mughal) – October 2019 (same month every year)
- Annual report on children who go missing from care (Lead Officer tbc) – date tbc
- Annual report on the work of the leaving care service (J Bragg) – date tbc
- Annual report on children and young people placed outside the Kirklees boundary (S Comb) – date tbc
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report (S Comb) – date tbc
- Annual Health Report (G Addy) – September 2019 (same month every year)

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

### **Agenda Plan 2019/20**

- Annual Report on Private Fostering (A Quinlan) – September 2020 (same month every year)
- Annual review of the Foster Caring Handbook (A Quinlan) – July 2020
- Annual Report on Kirklees Fostering Service (A Quinlan) – June 2020 (same month every year)

#### **Quarterly reports:**

- Fostering Agency Report (April to June) (A Quinlan) – date to be confirmed
- Fostering Agency Report (July to Sept) (A Quinlan) – date to be confirmed
- Fostering Agency Report (Oct to Dec) (A Quinlan) – date to be confirmed
- Fostering Agency Report (Jan to March) (A Quinlan) – date to be confirmed

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