

Public Document Pack



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

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Monday 7 February 2022

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Corporate Parenting Board

The **Corporate Parenting Board** will meet in the **Virtual Meeting - online** at **10.00 am on Tuesday 15 February 2022.**

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".

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 Richard Smith

Councillor John Lawson

Councillor Karen Allison

Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds

Councillor Carole Pattison

Gill Addy

Tom Brailsford

Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities

Designated Nurse for Looked after Children/Care Leavers

Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)

Kirklees Fostering Network

Head of Joint Commissioning, Children & Families

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

Virtual School Headteacher

Kirklees Fostering Network

Keith Fielding

Stewart Horn

Colleen Kenworthy

Barry Lockwood

Sanna Mahmood

Elaine McShane

Mel Meggs

Sara Miles

Jo-Anne Sanders

Ophelia Rix

Janet Tolley

Christine Carmichael

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Board/Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Minutes of previous meeting

1 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 11 January 2022

3: Interests

9 - 10

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.

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.

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.

6: Public Question Time

The Board will hear any questions from the general public. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, questions should be emailed to executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk no later than 10am on Monday 14th February 2022.

7: Update on the Role of Corporate Parent

Carol Mckenna, Chief Officer of the Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group will attend to speak to the Board about the role of the Corporate Parent.

Contact:

Carol Mckenna, Chief Officer - Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group

8: Virtual School Governing Body Update

The Board will receive a verbal update from the Chair of the Virtual School Governing Body.

Contacts:

Councillor Carole Pattison
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Head Teacher

9: Children's Performance Highlights Report

11 - 24

The Board will consider a report giving key highlights from the latest Performance Monitoring Data for Children's Services.

Contacts:

Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher
Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
Ian Mottershaw, Head of Service –Contextual Safeguarding and Y.E.S, Family Support and Child Protection

10: Care Leavers Overview Report

25 - 34

The Board will consider the Care Leavers Overview Report presented by Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children.

Contact:

Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children.

11: Statement of Purpose for Children's Homes (Annual Report)

35 - 42

The Board will consider an overview of the Statements of Purpose of the five local authority Ofsted registered children's homes.

Contact:

Sara Miles, Head of Homes for Children, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

12: Children's Ambition Board Update

The Board will receive a verbal update in relation to the Children's Ambition Board.

Contacts:

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)

Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)

13: Updates from Board Members on Interaction with Services

The Board will consider verbal updates from Members in relation to progress and key issues following interactions with Services and partners to challenge the role of the Corporate Parent.

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

14: Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22

43 - 50

The Board will consider its agenda plan for 2021/22

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Present:

- Councillor Carole Pattison
- Councillor Richard Smith
- Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
- Councillor Andrew Marchington (ex-officio)
- Councillor John Lawson
- Councillor Karen Allison
- Elaine McShane, Service Director - Family Support and Child Protection
- Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher
- Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)
- Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children
- Colleen Kenworthy - Kirklees Fostering Network
- Barry Lockwood - Kirklees Fostering Network
- Dale'O Niell – Children's Scrutiny Panel Co-optee

In attendance: N/a

Apologies:

- Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)
- Christine Carmichael - Kirklees Fostering Network
- Stewart Horn, Head of Joint Commissioning - Children and Families
- Jo-anne Sanders, Service Director – Learning and Early Support
- Sara Miles, Head of Service – Resources, Improvement and Partnerships
- Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children
- Keely Lucas- Care leaver Representative
- Keith Fielding – Kirklees Fostering Network
- Stewart Horn – Head of Joint Commissioning Children and Families

1 **Membership of the Board/Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Viv Kendrick, Chair of the Board. The Board were invited to nominate a Chair to preside over the meeting. Councillor Carole Pattison was nominated by Councillor Karen Allison, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds.

Apologies had also been received from Christine Carmichael, Kirklees Fostering Network, Keith Fielding, Kirklees Fostering Network, Stewart Horn, Head of Joint Commissioning – Children and Families, Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director – Learning and Early Support, Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children, Sara Miles, Head of Service – Resources, Improvement and Partnerships and Keely Lucas- Care Leaver Representative.

The Board were advised that Farrah Munir was to join the Boards Membership as a Care Leaver Representative.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the Membership of the Board/Apologies, and it was agreed that Councillor Carole Pattison preside as Chair for the meeting.

2. **Minutes**

The Board considered the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 23rd November 2021.

RESOLVED- That the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record.

3. **Interests**

No interests were declared

4 **Admission of the Public**

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

5 **Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 **Public Question Time**

No questions from the public were received.

7. **Children's Performance Highlights Report**

The Board considered the latest reports giving key highlights on Performance Monitoring data for Children's Services up to the end of November 2021.

Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children presented the key highlights arising from the data relating to 'children entering care, children in care and placement stability'. It was noted that:

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- As of November 2021, there was 119 children looked after (CLA), within this cohort, there were 149 males and 116 females and the highest ethnic group White British at 71.9% .
- As part of scrutiny and oversight, weekly Permanence Panel planning meetings took place to identify where children could remain with connected families and communities where it was safe to do so.
- There had been a positive increase in placement with parents, achieved through supporting families within communities and engaging with the family group conferencing service.
- The data showed that children were been seen in a timely manner and work was ongoing to ensure the timely recording and presentation of data.
- Ophelia Rix regularly interrogated the data and was assured that all young people had been seen by their social worker or supervisor.
- There had been an increase each year in the number of Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's), and recent analysis of the data identified that Kirklees Council had the highest number of SGO's regionally.
- Work was ongoing to continue to support and promote applications for Special Guardianship's.
- The next update to the Corporate Parenting Board would include a focus on work undertaken in relation to care experienced young people.

The Board asked a question in related to the number of children (75) placed outside 20 miles of Kirklees. In response Ophelia Rix advised this was a result of the availability of Foster Placements.

The Board requested a breakdown of stability data to identify, for example, where children had moved back home. A further question was also asked in relation to the reasons for the increase in changes in social workers (i.e.- sickness, placement break down, children with additional needs).

In response, Ophelia Rix advised that there was a natural change in social worker within the process as a child moved from the Assessment and Intervention Team. To manage this transition, joint visits were made prior to the change to build the relationship between the young person and the new social worker and minimise any disruption. There had also been some staff sickness and resignations that had resulted in some increase in the number of changes of social workers. Ophelia Rix reassured the Board that as Head of Service she maintained oversight in relation to changes to ensure that any disruption was minimised.

Elaine McShane, Service Director - Family Support and Child Protection added that the increase was closely related to the challenging circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also important to note that in some circumstances social workers were dually allocated to help minimise disruption.

Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher presented the data in relation to Children Looked After Education Outcomes and highlighted that:

- The Virtual School continued to work with and support all young people from the age of 3 to 18 and 18 plus (with consent).
- The approach included bringing together all the professionals surrounding a young person to examine the individual's current situation and provide the correct support that the young person might need to accelerate their progress, as well as funding through the pupil premium.
- This was extremely important during the Covid-19 pandemic, where young people had missed school missing education.
- 100% of Personal Education Plan's (PEPs) had been completed within the Autumn Term in-line with the termly processes.
- The Virtual School was currently leading on all PEPs since the Covid-19 lockdowns began in March 2020. These were currently virtually held meetings.
- 100% of initial PEPs were completed within 10 school days of a child coming into care since 01/09/2021.
- 97% of school moves since the start of the academic year had been carefully planned across the service to ensure a smooth transition with no break in provision.
- Covid-19 continued to impact on Persistent Absence data, and it was important to note that there was no comparative national data since 2018/2019 (pre-pandemic).
- Addressing Persistent Absence remained a high priority, and the Virtual School continued working closely with social workers and parents to ensure support back into education.
- The Virtual School was taking a proactive approach to exclusions and suspensions, working closely with schools to implement preventative measures to ensure children stayed in education.
- As a result of high numbers of local Omicron (Covid-19 variant) infections there were some concerns about staff absence.
- Government Guidance stipulated that those children classified as vulnerable should remain in school.
- It was the Virtual School's role to challenge where that was not the case, and to provide support in the exceptional circumstances where the child was to be educated at home in the short term.

Responding to a question from the Board about the benchmarking of data, Janet Tolley advised that due to the lack of national comparative data that it was anticipated the impacts of the pandemic, on areas such as attainment and persistent absence, would begin to show over the next 6-12 months.

The Board agreed that this was an important area to continue to monitor, and further commented that the Winter term may begin to highlight new challenges and issues for young people. Janet Tolley responded to advise that the approach to children's physical attendance to school was to be fluid and responsive to new Covid-19 variants as they arise, enabling the best response for young people and their education.

The Board agreed this was the best approach to take highlighting how the virtual school's preparedness in relation to online working had built resilience for the future and had effectively allowed involvement with more young people.

Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships) presented the data in relation to Looked After Children Health and highlighted that:

- Dental Checks within the previous 10-12 months for Looked After Children had increased by 61.9%, this was above statistical neighbour and national averages of 40%.
- Performance for Initial Health Assessments remained high with Kirklees Local Authority rolling 12-month data showed that 86.7% were completed in the statutory 20 working day timescale, and Locala monthly data showed that 100% were completed in timescales for November.
- In relation to Review health assessments Kirklees rolling 12-month data showed that 89.1% and 91.6% of the 'Developmental' assessments (under 5years old) and 'Annual' assessments (over 5 years old) were completed within the statutory timescales.
- The data showed a positive trend in relation to Looked After Children Health, but it was important to consider how the pandemic was affecting staffing and the redeployment of staff.

The Board noted the data in relation to Looked After Children Health, commenting that it showed a positive trend, but that there had been some challenges around obtaining data as the information wasn't shared in a central database. In response Tom Brailsford confirmed that further work would be undertaken to investigate and address any delays in obtaining data.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the Children's Performance Highlights Report and it was agreed that that further work would be undertaken to investigate and address any delays in obtaining data in relation to Looked After Children Health.

8. Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care Annual Report

The Board considered the Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care Annual Report presented by Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships) who gave an overview of the report and highlighted that:

- The report related to complaints and compliments made by Foster Carers, Children Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers under the statutory complaints procedure within the Children Act 1989.
- The statutory complaints procedure included three stages:
 - Stage One: Complaints should be responded to by the relevant responding manager within 10 working days (automatic extension of a further 10 working days where necessary).
 - Stage Two: Implemented when a complainant was dissatisfied with findings at stage 1 and involved an independent investigation usually conducted by an independent person appointed to the investigation.
 - Stage Three: At this stage the Local Authority was required to establish a Complaints Review Panel (made up of 3 independent panel members)

to make recommendations to the Service Director who would decide on the complaint and any action to be taken.

- Most complaints were resolved either at stage 1 which showed the effectiveness of the restorative approach.
- It was important to make sure that key learning points arising from complaints were reported back to the Quality Assurance Panel and analysed.
- Key objectives were to ensure responses to complaints were made in a timely manner using clear and understandable language; to ensure that positive feedback was collated and shared to enable learning from best practices; and to improve the feedback loop from complaints to facilitate learning from children and families' experiences of services.

The Board highlighted that the compliments showed that the approaches taken to service delivery were effective in many ways. The Board also noted the importance of understanding and learning from positive feedback to share best practices and learning from any complaints was equally as important.

The Board were pleased to note that most complaints were dealt with within the statutory timescales but asked about the process for where there was a delayed response and if there was an independent review undertaken.

Tom Brailsford advised that where a response to a complaint was delayed that it was sent to a Head of Service/Strategic Director for analysis which ensured a level of independence. Further to this, in progressing through the stages of the statutory procedure a complaint would be reviewed by different Managers maintaining independence. In response, the Board were satisfied that the approach used the correct balance of internal oversight and independent review.

The Board noted that reducing the delay in implementing the policies was essential to reducing foster carers concerns around finances.

In response to a question from the Board about the timeliness of implementing staying put arrangements for Foster Carers, Ophelia Rix agreed that it was important to make sure that early conversations about staying put arrangements took place and advised that there were plans to address the challenges in implementing the policy such as maintaining communication with staff through regular briefing sessions and setting clear expectations of timescales. It was anticipated that there would be a reduction in concerns as the implementation of the policy progressed.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care Annual Report, and it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with the Kirklees Fostering Network about the implementation of the staying put arrangements.

9. **Virtual School Governing Body**

The Board considered a verbal update on the work of the Virtual School Governing Body presented by Councillor Carole Pattison and Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher who explained that:

- The Virtual School Governing Body met regularly with a cross section of representation that holds the Virtual School to account through supportive and challenging meetings.
- The Virtual School Governing Body had met on the 15th December 2021 to discuss the Annual Virtual Headteachers Report.
- Key areas of focus arising for the Virtual School included Key Stage 2 Outcomes, lowering the age range of Children accommodated for to ensure access to appropriate nursery provision and increasing involvement supporting young people with further education post 18.
- There was a new statutory duty and responsibility for advice and information for any young person previously looked after.
- Additional capacity had been created by appointing team managers on an honorarium basis to work strategically across services to focus on the new duty whilst maintaining support to the children currently within the Virtual School.

The Board commented that the new duty was a positive way forward and looked forward to further updates.

RESOLVED – The Board noted the Virtual School Governing Body Update.

10. **Children’s Ambition Board Update**

The Board considered a verbal update on the work of the Children’s Ambition Board presented by Elaine McShane, Service Director - Family Support and Child Protection who advised that the Ambition Board now included a wide range of services within its remit and proposed that a thematic approach was taken to future updates to the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Board noted that last meeting of the Children’s Ambition Board had been cancelled and the next update would be given at the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board to be held on the 15th February 2022.

RESOLVED – The Board noted the Children’s Ambition Board Update, and it was agreed that a thematic approach be taken to future updates to the Board.

11. **Update from Board Members on interaction with services.**

Board members shared updates following key interactions with services.

The Board noted that Councillor Lawson had proposed during a meeting of the Council that young carers be considered as allies in Corporate Parenting. In response, Elaine McShane, Service Director - Family Support and Child Protection reassured the Board that young carers received full assessment to ensure their needs

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were met. It was also suggested that a piece of communications work be undertaken using different forums, such as GP surgeries, to raise the profile of work carried out in relation to young carers and private fostering.

RESOLVED – The Board noted the Update from Board Members on interaction with services and it was agreed that communications work be undertaken to raise the profile of work carried out in relation to young carers and private fostering.

12. Corporate Parenting Board Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2020/21.

The Board considered the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2020/21.

RESOLVED –

1. The Board noted the forward work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year.
2. It was agreed that the Samantha Sykes Foundation Trust be invited to a meeting of the Board to provide an update on their work.
3. That regular reports in respect of implementing the Staying Put Policy be added to the Boards work programme for 22/23.

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.

Corporate Parenting Board – Highlight Report

Date of Board: 15 February 2022

Data is as at 31 December 2021, unless stated otherwise.

*Benchmarking Source: Children's Social Care Benchmarking Tool (BMt) V3.20. Benchmarking data is from March 2021 unless stated otherwise. SN = Statistical Neighbours average, Eng. = England average. Where no equivalent published data is available, "N/A" is shown.

Children Entering Care, Children in Care and Placement Stability

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Jan 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	SN	Eng.
4.02.01 Children in care - numbers in care per 10,000 of age 0-17 population.	Per 10,000 population aged 0-17	67.2 (673)	62.6 (627)	61.8 (619)	61.7 (617)	93.3	67.0
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↓		
4.02.04 Children in care by placement within and outside the LA boundary: Total placed outside Kirklees and more than 20 miles from home address	% (number)	11.3% (76)	12.3% (77)	12.1% (75)	12.6% (78)	12.6%	16.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
4.05.01 Placement Stability Within Year - LAC with three or more placements	% (number)	7.7% (52)	6.7% (42)	7.9% (49)	7.1% (44)	7.5%	9.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
4.05.04 Social Worker change of LAC in care 12+ Months: Number of Social Worker changes	Number	249	225	241	276	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
Average number of SW changes	Average	0.51	0.44	0.47	0.55	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- There is currently a decreasing trend in the number and rate of children in care from 67.7 (677 children) in Apr 21 to 61.7 (617 children) in Dec 21. The current 12-month average for Kirklees is 64.8 (649 children), below our 31 March 2021 published rate of 66.0, the England 2021 rate of 67.0 and significantly below our Statistical Neighbours 2021 rate of 93.3.
- Of the 78 children placed outside of Kirklees and more than 20 miles from their home address, the large majority are placed in fostering.
- Legal Gateway and Permanence Panel takes place on a weekly basis and chaired by the Head of Service. The panel meetings continue to oversee, and quality assure, consistency in regard, to decision making and planning around Placement moves, and care planning for children and young people. An External Placement Review Panel is now in place, and is held every 2 weeks, chaired by the Service Director. The purpose of the panel is to ensure better oversight of children who are not placed in Local Authority provision.
- In relation to External Residential Placements, we will continue to review these on a quarterly basis.
- Whilst the number of social work changes has improved a focus needs to remain on reducing this number further, as we are mindful of the impact this has on our children and young people and will continue to focus on staff retention and consistency in case allocation.
- We have seen a slight decrease in relation to the number of children who have had 3 or more home moves from 49 (7.9%) in November 2021 to 43 (7.1%) in December 2021. We have identified this number relates to our young people who are aged 13 plus, whereby the foster carer has given notice. Due to the limited availability of foster carers for this age group (a national issue) this has

resulted with the service having to utilise the temporary options that have been available, until a suitable home has been found. Also, of note we have successfully reunited a number, of the young people back with their birth family. This inevitably has seen an increase in the placement with parents' data but is a positive outcome for the young people

What do we want to improve?

- The service will continue to work with the Placement Support team and the Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) team to collaboratively support improving placement stability for our children and young people with a focus on integrating strength-based approaches and tools into practice.
- Further worker needs to be undertaken to 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.

Children Looked After Reviews, Visits and Missing

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Jan 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	SN	Eng.
4.06.01: CLA Reviews Within Statutory Timescale	%	98.7%	99.1%	99.1%	99.0%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↔	↓		
4.07.01: CLA visits within statutory time-scale: % of CLA visited in line with Kirklees Practice Standards	%	87.7% (590/ 673)	94.9% (595/ 627)	96.9% (600/ 619)	92.5% (571/ 617)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
4.09.02: Missing children: a. No. of CLA having at least one Missing episode per month	% (number)	2.5% (17)	3.2% (20)	1.9% (12)	2.9% (18)	9.3%	11%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		
b. No. of LAC that have more than one missing episode in the month (repeat Mispers)	% (number)	29.4% (5)	60.0% (12)	83.3% (10)	44.4% (8)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
4.09.03: Independent Return Interviews for CLA offered within 72 hours of the child being located	% (number)	81.8% (9/ 11)	56.3% (9/ 16)	61.9% (13/ 21)	86.7% (13/ 15)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- 9 requests for Initial Review forms were received by the Child Protection and Review unit in December 2021 relating to 19 children – there were 2 large sibling groups within this total. For all the referrals received, children and young people were allocated an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) within 24 hours and Initial Child Looked After Reviews were arranged within 4 weeks of the children and young people becoming Looked After.
- In December 2021, the Child Protection and Review Unit held 135 Looked After Review Meetings for children, with above 99% of these being held within timescales
- Independent Reviewing Officers closely monitor Child Looked After Review timescales to ensure that this high percentage is maintained and improved upon, 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 statutory timescales. This has been maintained despite IRO absence from work and vacancies in the team
- IROs continue to robustly review children's care plans. They provide time-bound actions, which they follow up in between reviews so that plans for children progress swiftly. Informal and formal resolution processes are used effectively when drift is identified. Children's reviews are well attended

by a range of partner agencies, who commit to taking actions to improve children's experiences and outcomes.

- In December 2021, 7 children and young people were supported by an Advocate from the Children's Right's Team at their Looked After Review, this included 6 Children Looked After living in host local authority area.
- The timeliness of CLA visits has fluctuated with a 12-month low of 87.7% in Jan 21, and a high in Jul 20 of 94.6%. Performance in December 2021 was 92.4%, above the 12-month average of 91.7%.
- There has been decrease in regard, to the number of Children in Care who have received a statutory visit in line with practice standards, this has been Covid related. We continue to monitor the visits on a weekly basis as part of our service performance meetings to address and increase the timeliness of visits to children and young people.
- *Missing CLA:*
 - The number of Children having at least one missing episode has reduced in November, however the average remains at approx. 3%. This average remains considerably below the national average and statistical neighbours (10.0% and 8.7% respectively).
 - The principles of 'Right Support, Right Person, at the Right Time' are consistently adopted when approaching an Independent Return Interview. Utilising familiarity and identifying the right person for the circumstances and placing the Young Person at the centre of the decision is the consistent approach undertaken. August and September provide evidence of how the principles have produced very high take up in successful independent return Interviews. October data appears far less favourable however there are circumstances relating to very specific individuals that account for a far lower take up in 'Return Home Interviews.' These circumstances cannot be shared within the report, but assurance can be provided that alternative remedial action was and continues to be undertaken in relation to those individuals.
 - The number of children having multiple missing episodes has fluctuated between 10 and 12 in the three-month period which is higher than the 12-month average. The percentage rate of these children is determined from a very low overall number in the cohort of missing children. The slight fluctuation in the overall number of Children therefore creates a significant shift in the percentage and as such presents a volatile range.
 - As per previous reports, all children's homes are being encouraged to review missing reporting strategies with the placing Local Authorities to ensure they are fit for purpose and have a clear expectation on the home to try all avenues to locate the child before reporting them missing.
 - Daily Risk Exploitation and Missing Meetings (DREAMM) occur with partners to discuss, intelligence, missing episodes and individual circumstances to ensure actions, and allocations are in keeping with the core principles placing the child at the centre.
 - The Philomena Protocol is a Police initiative to help locate and safely return a young person as quickly as possible when they are missing. The basis of the scheme is for vital information about the young person to be recorded on a form so that this can be used to help locate them safely and quickly. The Philomena Protocol documents continue to be used by all children's homes and semi-independent providers in Kirklees (introduced in July 2020). A number of meetings have been held with providers recently to consider the protocol, the information within it and expectations that all providers use it. Feedback showed that children's homes and semi-independent providers like the protocol and that the information held means that children are located more quickly and that it aids the Police to do this. It was recognised by the police that more work needs to take place with the police call operators who receive the information as they are not all familiar with the protocol.
 - Provider meetings are run 3 to 4 times per year. During 2020 these have focussed on the Philomena Protocol and support through Covid-19. Meetings have continued to take place and attendance has been good, but more work is required, to increase understanding and fully implement the protocol across the partnership.
 - There are a number of partners involved when a young person who is looked after goes missing. These include foster carers, children's homes, EDS, CLA Teams, Youth Engagement Service and WY Police. Despite the protocol in late 2021, Police highlighted a number of missing episodes where they questioned how young people had been reported missing. Police expressed a view that more could be done by the responsible carer to determine whether they are missing or whether they are absent from placement. This has

resulted in a discussion being planned between all involved partners to review responsibilities and reporting. The meeting has been postponed twice at the request of Police and is rescheduled to take place in February 2022.

What do we want to improve?

- The principles of Right Person, Right Support at the Right Time is embedded in the decision making through the Youth Engagement Service. This principle must continue to be the driver of decisions and become the default position across more services.
- The report identifies the number of independent Return Home Interviews offered and accepted. Securing more IRI's remains a priority and together with securing those IRI's comes the requirement to ensure quality and value is maximised.
- The Service Managers are increasing focus on statutory visit compliance to improve the performance. Regular performance meetings are held within the service to ensure that we can improve our performance.
- The Youth Engagement Service has developed a recording system to enable a more nuanced understanding of IRI outcomes. This recording is intended to inform discussion about how more productive and informative data might be able to be created regarding both the allocation of and outcomes of IRI's.
- Independent Reviewing Officers to continue to liaise closely with Social Workers and the Children's Rights team to ensure that children are enabled to participate in their Reviews and that their voice is heard. IROs are linked to social work teams and area clusters to share updates about services and highlight any themes and issues that maybe/could contribute to delay.
- Children's Rights Service have liaised closely with IRO Service and have relaunched updated online versions of Children's consultation documents for Looked After Reviews. These include children's consultation and feedback forms for Reviews and an Information about Reviews 'Booklet', for two ranges. These have been distributed to the social work teams to be shared with children and young people when they first come into care. The aim is to help children and young people gain understanding of what a Review meeting is, what they can expect, why it is important that their views are heard, the different ways they can make sure this happens, and to encourage improved participation of children and young people in their reviews.

Children Looked After Education Outcomes

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Autumn Term 21/22	Spring Term 21/22	Summer Term 21/22	Benchmarking	
					SN	Eng.
4.10.02 Personal Education Plans (PEP) up to date (current school age LAC with PEP in the last term)	%	100%				
	Direction of Travel	-				

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Cumulative	SN	Eng.
Initial PEP completed within 10 school days of Virtual School being notified child came into care	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	N/A

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Jan 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	SN	Eng.
CLA Persistent Absentees	%	N/A	20.7%	22.4%	22.0%	11.4% (2018/19)	12.0% (2018/19)
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
LAC with a mid-year school move	%	6	2	7	3	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- 100% of PEPs have been completed within the Autumn Term in-line with the termly processes.
- The Virtual School is currently leading on all PEPs since the Covid-19 lockdowns began in March 2020. These are all currently virtually held meetings.
- 100% of initial PEPs have been completed within 10 school days of child coming into care since 01/09/2021.
- We continue to work with social work teams to improve both PEP and initial PEP completion and the quality assurance of PEPs. We have successfully moved to termly PEPs to meet statutory requirements.
- 97.2% of school moves since the start of the academic year have been carefully planned across the service to ensure a smooth transition with no break in provision.

What do we want to improve?

- Our initial focus was the transition back into education following the Covid-19 school closures (vulnerable offer) with a continued focus on supporting young people who are having to work at home e.g. isolation / bubble closures. This will continue to be our priority following the current return to school for all pupils, especially with the ongoing Covid-19 cases for school aged young people.
- We will continue to have a focus on termly PEP completion with transition support and support for working at home where necessary as key focus areas.
- Attendance / Persistent Absence (PA) remains a high priority and all pupils with attendance less than 90%. We will need to be mindful of some of the emotional issues for our young people as they return and respond creatively where there are issues or concerns. Covid-19 continues to impact on the number of PA pupils, even though many of these young people are not attendance concerns. We monitor individual attendance closely and work to support young people on an individual basis. We will continue to maintain a strong focus on pupils not in full-time education provision.
- We will continue to work across service to reduce the number of school moves (2018-19 (82), 2019-20 (64) 2020-21 (75)) and to reduce the number of young people with a break in provision whenever possible.

Children Looked After Health

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Jan 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	SN	Eng.
4.11.11 Dental Checks within last 12 months - timeliness	%	33.1%	58.0%	61.9%	66.1%	31.9%	40.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↑		
4.11.12 Initial health Assessments completed on time - within 20 days	%	92.6%	85.1%	86.7%	85.3%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
4.11.13 Annual health assessments: a: Under 5's 6 month Developmental Assessments -percentage up to date	%	92.1%	86.8%	89.1%	84.4%	86.9%	89.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
b: Over 5s Annual Health Assessments – percentage up to date	%	87.3%	91.2%	91.6%	89.3%	92.2%	91.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
4.11.16 No. of LAC in care more than 12 month and identified as having a substance misuse problem during the last year	% (number)	0.41% (2)	1.17% (6)	1.38% (7)	1.38% (7)	2.2%	3.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↔		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- **Initial health assessments:** Kirklees Local Authority (LA) rolling 12-month data shows that **85.3%** were completed in the statutory 20 working day timescale. Locala monthly data shows that **100%** were completed in timescales for December.
- **Review health assessments:** Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **84.4% & 89.3%** of the 'Developmental' assessments (under 5yrs old) and 'Annual' assessments (over 5 yrs. old) respectively, were completed in statutory timescales. Locala monthly data shows that there has also been a reduction in the recording of assessments completed by the exact date, (**they are completed in the month they are due**). Any exceptions to this could be e.g., Covid positive household. This KPI reduction was anticipated, due to a contingency plan that was introduced from October 21. The purpose was to reduce the pressure to complete by an exact date, but to allow the nurses to configure their monthly diaries to be at its most efficient, given the capacity in the team. This prevents wasteful travelling to the same area on different days for multiple children. It reduces the need for unpaid extra working when RHA's are due at the beginning of the month which may coincide with weekends, annual leave and bank holidays. The impact of the temporary measure has been a positive factor in keeping the team focused, able to carry out all other CLA work and physically and emotionally well, under the current pressures. This arrangement has been discussed with senior managers and will be re-visited monthly. Breach reasons: team capacity x 17, difficulty arranging with carer x13, bereavement x1, respite x1, hospital admission x1, covid illness x1, refusal x1. There were 6 breaches by other LA's who agreed to complete our RHA's due to the child residing a distance from Kirklees. Breach reasons: capacity x2, carer arrangements x3, Covid illness x1.
- **Dental Checks within last 12 months:** Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **66.1%** of children age 1 year+, when asked at their health assessment had attended the dentist. This rolling figure is not helpful in showing the recovery of dental services. Locala monthly data shows that **90% & 98%** of children age 18m to 4 years, and 5 years+ respectively, had attended the dentist at the point of their RHA in December. The data suggests that dental attendance has hopefully returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Substance misuse:** 7 young people (**1.38%**) have discussed at their latest RHA, or are known to use substances, that have a significant impact on their daily life. All the 7 YP have been discussed with the local Substance Misuse Outreach worker, to ensure support has been offered. If a young person declines their RHA, a check is made with the social worker to ascertain if substance use is an issue. Any young person misusing substances at any level is offered support.

Children Looked After Convictions

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Quarter				*Benchmarking
		Jan-Mar 20/21 Q4	Apr-Jun 21/22 Q1	Jul-Sep 21/22 Q2	Oct-Dec 21/22 Q3	
4.12.01 Number of young people who have been looked after continually for 12 months or more aged between 10 and 17 who have offended and received a substantive outcome (Youth Caution/ Conditional Caution or a Court Order)	%	1.24% (4/321)	1.37% (5/364)	0.55% (2/364)	0.55% (2/364)	Eng.: 3.00% SN: 3.43% Y&H: 3.00%
	Direction of Travel	↔	↑	↓	↔	

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- For the year 2018/2019 65.8% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions but is however a much-improved picture from 2016 when less than 30% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions
- For the year 2019/2020 90.9% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions which in comparison with the last year is an increase of over 25% (65.8%).
- For the year April 20 to March 21, 87.7% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions. Whilst this performance is slightly worse than the same period of the previous year, it remains in line with that of the general population successfully completing their intervention.
- For the April to Dec 21 period 64.7% of Children Looked After successfully completed their interventions, compared to 81.7% of the general population. This is a reduction in Children Looked After completion from the same period of last year which was 85.7%, whilst the general population remains broadly the same.
- Whilst the numbers of Children Looked After offending remain small in the cohort, we are seeing a decrease in the numbers compared to the same period last year. In the year to date we have seen a decrease in the percentage of CLA offending from 4.36% (20/21) to 2.47% (21/22).

What do we want to improve?

- Continued reduction in the numbers of Children Looked After offending. The overall cohort for the 21/22 year is bigger than the 20/21 year (364 compared to 321), but through continued interventions by the YOT, restorative processes, liaison with Children's Homes and creative out of court disposals it is hoped the offending rate will continue to fall.
- There is a focus around Looked After Children in our subgroups – specifically Sub Group 2 – Reducing offending and reoffending.

Care Leavers

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Jan 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	SN	Eng.
5.01.04 Children in care aged 17 years and 4 months with a Personal Advisor	%	89.4%	73.5%	69.4%	79.4%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		
5.01.08 Local Authority In Touch with Care Leavers	%	85.1%	91.4%	90.8%	92.7%	95.6%	91.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
5.01.09 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation	%	79.3%	82.4%	86.2%	89.5%	91.5%	88.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
5.01.10 Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training (EET)	%	47.1%	55.9%	54.4%	54.9%	48.0%	52.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		
5.01.11 Number of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan that is up to date	%	86.2%	90.3%	87.6%	84.6%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- *Contact with care leavers* – There has been an increase in relation to the number of Care Leavers we were in touch with during December 2021 from 90.8% in November 2021 to 92.7% in December 2021. This also has, to be viewed in the context of this group being aged 18 plus and, in some situations, young people do not wish to keep in contact with their Personal Advisor. The team continue to work innovatively to keep in touch with all young people.
- *Number of young people in suitable accommodation* – There has been a significant impact on the increasing demands for tenancies during the pandemic. However, we have worked closely with our housing colleagues who have agreed to prioritise the properties for our young people, and this has helped to improve our performance. In December 2021 we have seen an increase to 89.5% from 86.2% in November 2021. We will continue to work with our Housing providers to ensure that suitable accommodation is available, we have also maintained strong links with private housing providers. We have continued to provide virtual and face to face life skills and pre-tenancy training and continue to explore collectively how we can improve independence training for our young people.
- *Children in Care aged 17 years and 4 months with an allocated Personal Advisors* – There has been an increase in performance on this indicator this month 69.4% in November 2021 to 79.4% in December 2021. Further work is to be undertaken as a priority with the team to address Personal Advisor (PA) allocation, but it is important to note that all the young people do have either an allocated PA or an allocated Social Worker.
- *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. Due to the COVID19 pandemic some of our young people have unfortunately been in a situation where they have either been furloughed or made redundant from their employment. In order, to offer support to our young people we have recently established a virtual clinic where extra support is available from our Careers Advisor. In December 2021 we have seen an increase in the number of young people who are either in employment, education, or training, this is also a priority area to be addressed by the team.
- *Pathway Plans* – We have seen a decrease in the numbers of young people who have an up-to-date pathway plan. 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. This is monitored at our performance meetings chaired by the service manager.

What do we want to improve?

- *Number of young people with a pathway plan* – The number of young people with a pathway plan has increased 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 have recently reviewed our financial offer to our care leaver along with our staying put policy and they will be launched following approval. We aim to review our commitment to care leavers, and both will significantly improve and enhance our offer to our young people.
- To improve the allocation timeliness of Personal Advisors.
- Work needs to be undertaken to increase the number of our young people who will have access to Education, Employment or Training.

Adoption

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Jan 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	SN	Eng.
5.02.01 Number of children adopted as a percentage of children leaving care (12 month rolling period)	% (number)	7.3% (17)	9.8% (23)	10.0% (22)	9.3% (20)	13.9%	10.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
A10 Average timescale (days) between the child coming into care and being placed with the adopter adjusted for foster carer adoptions (12 month rolling period)	Number	559.5	539.2	556.0	507.5	396.7 (17-20)	367.0 (17-20)
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
A2 Average timescale (days) between receiving court authority to place a child and the council deciding to match the child with an adoptive family (12 month rolling period)	Number	242.9	244.4	231.1	221.3	180.0 (17-20)	175.0 (17-20)
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- To the end of December 2021, 9.3% of children leaving care in a 12-month rolling period had been adopted, equating to 22 children. At the level of performance to December 2021, Kirklees remains significantly below the 2021 Statistical Neighbours rate of 13.9% although we are now in-line with the England rate of 10.0%.
- The average timescale has been increasing and stood at 618.1 in Dec 20 before decreasing to 507.5 in December 2021.
- The average timescale decreased slightly to 231.1 days in December 2021. Overall, this remains above the Statistical Neighbours average of 180.0 days and the England average of 175.0 from the Adoption Scorecard (3-year average outcome to March 2020).
- 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 and Permanence Panel 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 procedure's 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.
- During the recent COVID19 we have had some difficulties in relation to being able to progress transition plans however as restrictions have been lifted, we are now in a much stronger position in being able to progress these plans to be able to move children into their potential adoptive Placement. As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic we have experienced delays in relation to court hearings for application for adoption orders again as restrictions have lifted this is now an improving picture.

What do we want to improve?

- To continue to develop working relationships 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. Regular meetings between the Service Managers in One Adoption and Assessment and Intervention have been established which will improve areas of communication and partnership working to assist timely adoption for our children.
- We have been able to enable children to remain within family, whose alternative plan would have been that of adoption, through the Family Group Conference, and connected persons assessments.
- Kirklees will need to consider whether a panel environment would be of benefit, to consider the below recommendations. This could be similar to, if not, the same as Permanence panel, or be heard at this panel, as additional to the already set TORS. At this panel we would consider,
- Maintaining a realistic outcome of rescindment, within 12 months of Placement Order, if links have not been productive. We also need to have scrutiny of this within the panel environment. This would involve the formulation and frequency of this panel, to ensure all the below issues are considered to have had the appropriate oversight and management.
- Our ongoing relationships with One adoption and case audits together will be able to together consider individual cases, and be able to determine/monitor links, and matching children with potential adopters within the first 3 months of the Placement Order being granted, if this hasn't happened, we need to review this within a panel environment, to ensure we are working closely with One Adoption, and ensuring that everything possible is completed, to try and match children, much earlier (fund days/ National register)
- Through work with one adoption, we will determine harder to place children, and put plans in place, to consider these children for family fun days sooner, as we realistically know at the point of final order in most cases, that children will be more difficult to match. Therefore, we need to be more proactive about this approach.
- Reconsider the timescale for foster carers declaring an interest in adoption. At present this sits at 12 months, which then requires a 3-4 month assessment process. If this was to change to 6 months, then there is potential for a child to be adopted within 14 months of final order, for foster to adopt cases. (not EPP) Changes to this present arrangement would need to be agreed and discussed at senior management level, before this could progress.
- One of our main issues, is in relation to the recording systems, and accuracy. We need to be better at recording on the Liquid Logic which would give a better indication of orders being made. We remain to be committed to staff training, to ensure that accurate records are kept, which has also included a number, of roll backs, to determine the factual information. We will continue to prioritise this as a learning outcome, as both a refresher for staff, and as part of ongoing training/ induction of new employees.
- Through monthly meetings with One Adoption and case audits, we will work together at a proactive approach to improve the timeliness of the adoption orders being made, post placement.
- One Adoption and Kirklees, to work together at focussing on adoption cases in the Practice learning days. To highlight good practice and developmental areas.

Fostering

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Jan 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	SN	Eng.
6.02.07 Total New Carer Approvals in Month:	Number	3	3	7	6	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↔	↑	↓		
In-house Fostering approvals in the month	Number	2	2	6	3	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
In-house Fostering De-registrations in the month	Number	0	4	3	1	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
6.02.09 Placements split: a. In-house foster placements	Number	240	201	202	200	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
b. Family and friend placements	Number	104	107	109	106	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
c. Independent Fostering Agency Placements	Number	189	178	174	173	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- In December 2021 we approved an additional 3 in-house fostering families. The rolling 12-month total to Dec 21 was 42 households. There was 1 in-house recorded fostering de-registration in Dec 21. The rolling 12-months total for in-house de-registrations is 28. This gives a net gain of 14 households.
- The number of children placed with Kirklees foster carers decreased to 200 at the end of December 2021 compared to 202 in November. This is below the 12-month average of 233.
- The number of Family and Friends Placements stood at 106 in December 2021. This was at a 12-month high in November 2021 at 108 placements.
- The December figure of 173 Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements is a decrease of 1 from the 174 seen in November 2021. The 12-month average is 179.
- The Fostering Service is working to increase the number of Kirklees foster placements. The Council has achieved a net gain of 14 fostering families over the past 12 months.
- We are reviewing the 30 resignations so we can identify learning we can take forward. The initial finding is that many resignations are due to foster carers becoming special guardians, so this is a positive ending, where a child achieves permanency.
- The fostering recruitment process and team functions have been reviewed and will soon go live on Liquid Logic. When this process is live, we will have accurate recruitment data to show how many enquiries, expressions of interests and live assessments, and the time taken to complete each stage. In this interim period a tracker has been introduced to monitor and track the figures and performance, to aid improvement in the process.

What do we want to improve?

- Recruitment and retention of foster carers continues to be a priority. We are focussed on recruiting foster carers who can help us to meet our sufficiency needs around placements for older children, children with complex needs, offering long-term placements and emergency placements.
- We want to ensure that new foster carers receive the right level of support particularly in their first year of fostering; induction, training and support from a Supervising Social Worker are all essential aspects of supporting and retaining new foster carers. The new website for foster carers is live.
- We will be reviewing the annual leave entitlements and other non-monetary benefits for Foster Carer so that an accurate comparison can take place. We will also benchmark our benefits against other Local Authorities. The Kirklees offer then needs setting out so that existing and new carers are clear about the Council's offer to foster carers.

- We are currently implementing a modernisation plan for the Fostering Service. This includes the line management, performance management and the integration with the Placement Support Service.
- We have launched our first Mockingbird constellation and are planning to implement a second.
- Under the wider sufficiency agenda we are in the process of opening a new children's home in Huddersfield, Magdale House, and building work has commenced. Healds Road is now operating as an ITM (MST) Children's home to support children and young people's reunification using an evidence-based model.

Performance Intelligence Unit – January 2022

Appendix – Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
A&I	Assessment & Intervention (part of Family Support & Child Protection)
ADCS	Association of Directors of Children's Services
ASYE	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (for a newly qualified Social Worker)
BSM	Business Support Manager
BSO	Business Support Officer
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation
CIC	Child(ren) in Care (see also CLA and LAC)
CIN	Child(ren) in Need
CLA	Child(ren) Looked After (also see CIC and LAC)
CPP	Child Protection Plan
CPRU	Child Protection & Review Unit
CSC	Children's Social Care
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CWD	Children with a Disability
D&A	Duty & Advice (part of Family Support & Child Protection)
DCS	Disabled Children's Service / Director of Children's Services
EET	Education, Employment or Training
EHC	Education, Health and Care (Plan)
EITS	Early Intervention and Targeted Support
HMCI	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector
Form F	Assessment form for approval of Foster Carers
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
HOS	Head of Service
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference
IFA	Independent Fostering Agency
IHA	Initial Health Assessment (for a Looked After Child)
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
KNH	Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Child(ren) (also see CIC and CLA)
LAIT	Local Authority Interactive Tool (DfE tool for access to nationally published data)
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NQSW	Newly Qualified Social Worker
PA	Personal Advisor (to Care Leavers)
PEP	Personal Education Plan (for a Looked After Child)
PLO	Public Law Outline
QSW	Qualified Social Worker
RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference
RHA	Review Health Assessment (for a Looked After Child)
S17	Section 17 of the Children Act – Relates to Children in Need
S20	Section 20 of the Children Act – Relates to a child accommodated by the LA
S47	Section 47 of the Children Act – Relates to Child Protection
SDQ	Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability

Term	Description
SM	Service Manager
SN	Statistical Neighbours (closest match Local Authorities for benchmarking)
SW	Social Worker
TM	Team Manager
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child
Y&H	Yorkshire and the Humber
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Care Leavers Overview Report

Report of	Head of Corporate Parenting
Report to	Corporate Parenting Board
Report Originator	Ophelia Rix
Date of Report	30 th January 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As Corporate parents it is our role to ensure that children who are looked after children and young people leaving care are supported to achieve their goals and have the same opportunities to reach their full potential, enjoy leisure and cultural activities as any other child. In Kirklees we strive to ensure that
- Care Leavers pathway plans consistently and comprehensively address their needs and experiences.
 - Care Leavers plans are thoroughly and independently reviewed with the involvement, as appropriate, of parents, carers, residential staff, and other adults who know them.
 - Plans for their futures continue to be appropriate and ambitious, reflecting Care Leaver's wishes, goals, and aspirations.
 - All Care Leavers will have a pathway plan into independence in a timely manner.
 - An inclusive service where Care Leavers feel safe and confident about their future, care leavers are fully supported to achieve their full potential to the best of their abilities,
 - A modern service that makes use of innovation and technology to improve the lives of care leavers

2. Context

- 2.1 The aim of Care Leaver service is to ensure that each young person receives quality high level of support so that they can live successful independent lives. Each young person is unique, and it would be anticipated that their support needs will reduce over time, in recognition of their growing maturity and independence
- 2.2 The Personal Advisor is required to visit or be in contact with the Care Leaver aged up to 20 and to keep in touch with all young people aged over 21 up to age 25 throughout the year. The visiting pattern will be dependent on the wishes and needs of the individual care leaver
- 2.3 All eligible, relevant, and former relevant children should have a Pathway Plan, which will set out the support that will be provided to the care leaver once they have left care. This must be based on the Needs Assessment carried out. The Plan should be prepared before the young person leaves care.
- 2.4 The Pathway Plan should set objectives and include how and when these should be achieved. It should be reviewed when a young person requests this and/or the Personal Advisor thinks it is necessary or at a minimum of every 6 months.

- 2.5 Preparation to leave care starts when a young person is 16. In Kirklees when the young person is 16 the social worker undertakes the Personal Advisors duties until they are allocated a Personal Advisor from the Care Leavers Service and the support they receive can be in place until they turn 25.
- 2.6 Personal Advisors provide the care, advice and encouragement young people need to have the foundations for success in place to help them go on to achieve their full potential. We want our young people to develop the skills and resilience needed to grow into well-adjusted adults like we would our own children or children we have attachments with. Alongside the young person the Personal Advisor will develop a plan which sets out how they may achieve their goals.
- 2.7 We have a duty to ensure all Eligible, Relevant, and Former Relevant children are provided with a Personal Advisor. These include Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) who acquire former relevant status and who have been accommodated under S20 of the Children Act 1989 without necessarily meeting the criteria for eligible or relevant.
- 2.8 Young People with Qualifying status do not have a Personal Advisor allocated to them but are supported by having access to our Commitment to Care Leavers protocol, receive encouragement, advice, and support and receive a maintenance allowance if they are taking part in education or training and not in receipt of Universal Credit.
- 2.9 All children who are over 16 and leaving care fall within one of the following categories (Fig 1).

Fig 1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible child is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and were looked after on their 16th birthday and who is still being looked after.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant child is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who has left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16, but who were looked after immediately before being detained
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former relevant child is a young person over 18 who was previously 'eligible' or 'relevant'. Councils support this group until aged 21, or longer if they are in education or training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifying child is any young person under 21 (or 24 if in education or training) who stops being looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or being privately fostered, after the age of 16. This also includes young people who are under a special guardianship order
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former relevant child pursuing education is any former relevant child whose case was closed, for any reason. If we're informed that they're planning to continue education or training, they can ask the council for support. If eligible, any help would last until their 25th birthday

3. Care Leavers

3.1 There are currently 283 care leavers. **9** who are aged between 16 and 17 years of age, **211** between the ages of 18 and 20 and **63** that are post 21. **23** of the Care Leavers were Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and to support these young people we:

- Have linked with a GP in Huddersfield, who has developed project that supports the emotional and mental health of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.
- We are liaising with Migration Yorkshire to access training in relation to triple planning and the process to follow if appealing a right to remain is exhausted.

3.2 We recognise that it takes time to develop trusting relationships, and this may particularly be more difficult for our young people due to many instances of early childhood trauma they have suffered.

3.3 To support the development of a positive relationship, we are currently allocating Personal Advisor from the Leaving Care Service from the age of 17. This will allow for early planning and joint working between Social Workers and Personal Advisors to offer more robust support for the young person as they move into adulthood.

4. Pathway Plans

4.1 All eligible, relevant, and former relevant children should have a Pathway Plan, which will set out the support that will be provided to the care leaver once they have left care. This must be based on the Needs Assessment carried out. The Plan should be prepared before the young person leaves care.

The Pathway Plan should include:

- the nature of and level of contact and personal support to be provided.
- the young person's health needs and how these should be met.
- arrangements to support the young person in further education or employment.
- arrangements to support the young person in sustaining and developing family relationships.
- arrangements to ensure the young person is properly equipped for taking greater responsibility towards their independence.
- an assessment of the young person's financial needs and capacity and any financial assistance provided.
- arrangements to ensure the young person is living in suitable accommodation.
- Any 'Staying Put' arrangements.

4.2 The Pathway Plan should set objectives and include how and when these should be achieved. It should be reviewed when a young person requests this and/or the Personal Advisor thinks it is necessary or at a minimum of every 6 months.

Pathway Plans must reflect the young person’s developing level of maturity and independence and always reflect the young people’s voice.

4.3 The initial Pathway Plan is undertaken by the Social Worker and good practice is that if there is an allocated Personal Advisor from the Leaving Care Team then reviews undertaken prior to their 18th birthday will be done jointly. The PA from the Leaving Care Team takes sole ownership when the young person is 18.

4.4 The Care Leavers Service are responsible for completing the pathway plans for young people post 18. Out of the 283 care leavers, 240 have a current up to date plan, 34 are overdue and 9 have no plan in place. Out of the 9 where no plan is in place 4 are qualifying young people so not eligible for a Pathway Plan, 4 are pre 18 and 1 who has a Personal Advisor is in custody. This has resulted in a delay in completing a plan due to him not having looked after status prior his remand into custody.

Up to date plan	Overdue plan	No Plan
240	34	9

4.5 On further exploration of the data we identified that

- 8 of those showing as overdue had a review but there was a delay in recording.
- 7 are overdue as a result, of staff sickness.
- On occasion there has been a delay in authorisation of the plans due to manager absence. In order, to address these clear expectations have been set that the duty manager will authorisation these plans in the manager’s absence.
- Not all staff are fully confident in their ability to use Liquid Logic and are not following the correct procedure when generating pathway plans which has impacted on the data. In order, to address this specific training is planned to take place with all staff.

4.6 In order to further improve practice, we aim to learn from good practice in other service areas and alongside the training the quality of plans will be explored to ensure that they are reflecting specific individual needs of the young person.

They must address how the young person will:

- Live independently and ensure the young person is living in suitable accommodation including supporting them in staying put arrangements.
- Aspire & achieve which will look at education, training, and employment.

- That the young person is healthy & well and any concerns that may prevent this are addressed within the plan – e.g., support at the emotional wellbeing clinic. We also have a Care Experienced Parents working group.
- Keeping in touch with Personal Advisor and the nature of and level of contact and personal support to be provided.
- Young people’s needs regarding financial support should be assessed within the pathway along with areas of support, amounts to be paid and the frequency of payments to be made.

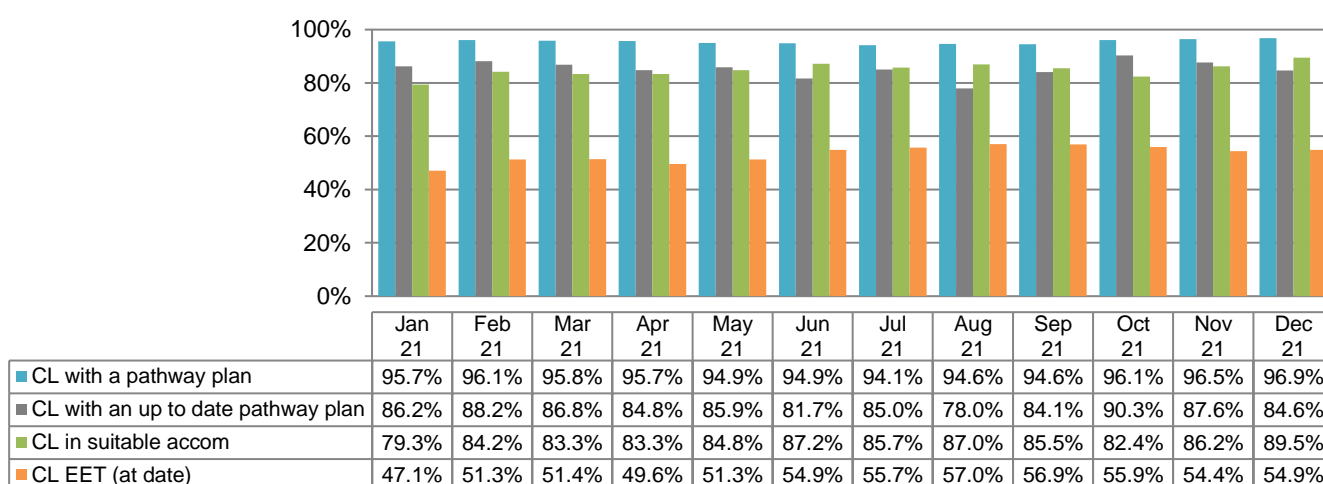
4.7 The expected components of a pathway plan are laid out in the Support & Financial Guidance Policy which is currently being embedded across the Childrens directorate. In relation to this we are:

- Delivering a series of briefing
- Encouraging staff to familiarise themselves with the financial payments available for supporting our young people.
- Devising an easy read guide for staff and young people
- Revising our commitment to care leavers.

5. Education, Training and Employment

5.1 The policy outlines several financial incentives to support our young people to aspire and achieve and actively engage in Education, Employment and Training (EET). The following sets out the numbers engaged and Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET). Fig 2

Fig 2 Care Leaver Pathway Plans, Suitable Accommodation and EET Outcomes



5.2 The number of young people not engaged in Education, Employment and Training has reduced. The contributory factor for some is due to the impact and disruption

of COVID, but this should not be a barrier to us facilitating and providing opportunities for our young people to be engaged in purposeful activity that supports their transition to adulthood. For them to achieve this we need to explore and create opportunities by building our links with communities, businesses, and Kirklees Council as the Corporate Parent.

5.3 The number of young people not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) needs to improve. To address this, we will ensure that:

- Personal Advisor's will attend all Personal Education Planning (PEP) meetings to ensure they have a greater understanding of a young person transitioning into the Leaving Care Team. This will enable them to have a greater understanding of strengths of the young person and understanding of what type of Education, Employment and Training (EET) provision is compatible and the opportunities for them to achieve are available.
- We will work with virtual school to establish how they can support young people post 18 in education.
- We plan to develop an EET panel to explore and match young people to available opportunities.
- We are working with data integrity colleagues to rectify issues including being able to update records in real time to ensure that data is a true reflection of the circumstances and no young person's records have information not updated in a timely manner.
- Regular joint program delivery of the 4-4-2 program between leaving care staff and Huddersfield Town Football Club (HTFC) which support our young people developing their independence skills and supports them into voluntary work which could potentially lead to employment opportunities.
- Activities are recorded for young people aged between 16-17 open to the social work teams.

6. Accommodation

6.1 Early planning is paramount and will provide security and stability for our young people to ensure that they live in suitable accommodation.

6.2 To support the pathway into independence in relation to accommodation we have a dedicated senior Personal Advisors as part of the Rough Sleepers Initiative and funded by the department for levelling up, housing and communities. This role is a consultative role with an overview of all young people who are threatened with homelessness in the leaving care service. This also includes the Prison Protocol which allows early preventative work to be undertaken between the senior Personal Advisor and Kirklees Housing to ensure that no Care Leaver is released from custody without a clear plan for quality accommodation.

Suitable accommodation	Unsuitable accommodation	Accommodation not recorded
254	19	10

- 6.3 The data highlights that we have 254 young people assessed to be residing in suitable/approved placements. 19 are currently in accommodation deemed unsuitable. However out of these, 14 are in custody. 4 out of the remaining 5 are deemed to be in unsuitable accommodation following returning to reside with parents and overcrowding. There is one young person who is recorded as homeless, but we are aware they are staying with her partners parents and are working to rectify this.
- 6.4 There are 10 young people whose accommodation status is not recorded. Out of these 7 are not known to the Care Leavers Service. Teams in the wider Childrens services will be reminded of the importance to update accommodation to enable us to provide a true reflection of a young person's accommodation status.
- 6.5 We are also embedding the Staying Put Policy In relation to this we are:
- Delivering a series of briefing
 - Devising an easy read guide
 - We are in the process of transferring some off the existing young people on a staying put arrangement onto the new policy.

7. Keeping in Touch

- 7.1 The Personal Advisor is required to visit or be in contact with the Care Leaver aged up to 20 and to keep in touch with all young people aged over 21 up to age 25 throughout the year as set out in The Leaving Care Act 2000.
- 7.2 The visiting pattern will be dependent on the wishes and needs of the individual care leaver. Contact with Care Leavers has seen a slight increase from 90.8% in November 2021 to 92.7% in November 2021. This equates to the Service being in touch with 262 of our 283 Care Leavers.
- 7.3 A review of the 21 young people highlighted as not been seen, was undertaken and identified that 8 of the young people were in a custodial setting and had encountered difficulties in undertaking visits within timescale and 13 had been seen by the allocated Social Worker.
- 7.4 As a care leaver service, we want to ensure that those with the highest level of support needs due to individual vulnerabilities are seen on a more regular basis which potentially could mean weekly dependent on need.
- 7.5 The frequency of visits and contact will be individually needs led. It will influence how we allocate cases to allow the Personal Advisors to manage and deliver high quality work with each young person and have time to build those all-important relationships.

8. Quality Assurance and Performance Oversight

- 8.1 We are currently in process of revising and updating our reporting systems to reflect the types of contacts and visit frequency across the age range 16-17, 18-20 and 21 plus.
- 8.2 As a service we aim to improve our quality and timeliness of work with a view to improving the outcomes for our Care Leavers. We will do this by:
- Continuing to address the timeliness of practice by monitoring and reviewing the performance data and quality assurance of practice at the performance meeting that will take place every fortnight between the service manager and the team leaders.
 - We are in the process of revising our practice standards for the service
 - We will undertake regular Practice Learning Days
 - Practice Learning Days are quality assurance activities that will take place across the entire of children's services. These are about learning for the individual practitioner and the service, enabling a learning culture to flourish.
 - The purpose of Practice Learning Days is to maximise impact and learning opportunities, ensuring that all areas of children's services have, the opportunity to engage and influence good quality practice embedded throughout the child's journey.
- 8.3 The first practice learning days with the relatively new service manager and team leaders was undertaken on 20th and 21st January 2022.
- 8.4 The key line of enquiry was regarding the quality of both pre and post 18 pathway planning with a particular focus on supporting transitions between children and adult services for young people/adults with identified learning, behavioural and emotional support needs.
- 8.5 Areas of good practice identified included:
- Targeted support to develop independent living skills
 - Evidence of liaison with health services and assurance of access to ongoing support
 - Identification of, and agreement for access to ongoing specialist care provision (funding for specialist residential placement / shared lives agreement/ extension to semi-independent living arrangements / pursuit of agreement for supported board and lodgings)
 - Timely referrals to adults' mental health and learning disability teams
- 8.6 Areas for development included:
- Limited exploration of the impact of the young person's diagnosis or their accompanying needs
 - Lack of robust exploration of likely support in cases where young people had expressed a determination to return to the care of their birth family post 18
 - Significant delay in updating plans
 - In some instances, it was identified where pathway plans had not been completed until post 18 by which time the Personal Advisor was the lead worker

8.7 To address the areas for development we will ensure:

- That robust induction plans are in place for new members of staff with opportunities to shadow other services.
- Service Managers from Children in Care and Care Leaver Teams will identify roles and responsibilities of the teams and identify areas where joint working will improve outcomes for our young people. This involves early planning.
- Pathways to adult services and with the Children with disabilities team will be explored and developed where necessary.
- We will ensure that all new Personal Advisor's attend and complete the BECOME programme and existing Personal Advisors are encouraged to attend has part of their personal development.

The BECOME programme is a 6-month accredited customised qualification which aims to develop PA's professional knowledge and understanding and improve their practice. We currently have four PAs on the current cohort, and we will be promoting the benefits of attendance moving forward.

8.8 Quality Assurance and Practice framework will focus on:

- Are we getting the practice basics right for our Care Leavers.
- Is assessment work being planned, are the right people involved in this and is this leading to meaningful change for our care leavers.
- Aspire all our Care Leavers are in employment, education, or training.
- Are PA's planning their work effectively.
- Are clear actions being generated not just from day to day work with the Care Leaver but through supervision and management oversight and at points of change or crisis.
- Are plans and actions being followed up and reviewed.
- Are Care Leaver's plans meeting their needs and are these being used to inform day to day support and intervention in their lives.
- Do our processes and procedures support effective planning.

9. Summary

9.1 Overall, there are several changes and expectations moving forward for the team. This will bring, some challenges, but we are confident that we can embed the changes and a consistent approach to provide a needs led service resulting in better outcomes for our young people as they grow to be young adults.

9.2 As a service, we are confident that as we further embed Performance Management and Quality Assurance processes this will enable us to continue to identify, challenge and improve things for children and young people to avoid care arrangements and care plans drifting. There has been an improvement in relation to identifying poor practice and outcomes for our young people with timely resolution.

- 9.3 Stability in leadership, management and decision-making are helping to improve the quality of planning and engagement from a strength and relational based approach, but we recognise there is still more to do.
- 9.4 There has been some improvement noted in relation to the scrutiny of performance data and quality of practice that occurs at all levels to ensure timely and effective care planning. It is recognised that further embedding of utilising the data to inform practice is required.
- 9.5 The relationship with partners and Corporate Parenting Board who provide independent scrutiny of Children Looked After and Care Leaver service has been strengthened. There is a clear process for escalation of concerns, and this provides assurances that any delay on planning is escalated timely.



Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 15 February 2022

Title of report: Statement of Purpose for Children’s Homes (Annual Report)

Purpose of report:

This report and the associated documents provide an overview of the Statements of Purpose of the five local authority Ofsted registered children’s homes. An Ofsted registered children’s home is required to have a Statement of Purpose to comply with Children’s Homes regulations.

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?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Tom Brailsford 03/02/2022
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick; Children’s Portfolio holder.

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes.

The information in this report does not identify any details of individuals, other than professionals employed by the Council. Information contained in the five individual Statements of Purpose has been redacted to ensure the location of the homes is not available to the public.

1. Summary

This report gives an overview of the Statements of Purpose for the local authority three mainstream and two homes for children with a disability.

All children's homes are regulated by Ofsted, The Children's Home Regulations 2015 which includes nine quality standards is the regulatory framework which informs Ofsted inspections. The quality standards set out aspirational and positive outcomes, and the requirements which children's homes must meet to achieve the overarching outcomes.

Ofsted are required to inspect all children's homes at least twice per year; one of these inspections is a full inspection, following which in an overall judgement of the progress and experiences of children living in the home is made. The other inspection is generally an interim inspection. Inspection judgements/findings can include recommendations for improvement and /or compliance notices.

Currently the Ofsted judgments for the five homes ranges from Outstanding to Requires Improvement.

Each Children's home is required to have a Registered Manager; a Registered Manager of a Children's Home must be approved by Ofsted and pass a Fit and Proper person's interview. The local authority as a 'Provider' is also required to identify a Responsible Individual. The Service Director for Child Protection and Family Support, is currently the Responsible Individual for the local authority children's homes.

The information set out in a Statement of Purpose is essential to help inform placement decision making. A Statement of Purpose must outline the range of needs of the young people who the home provides care for, the home's ethos, the outcomes the home seeks to achieve, and the approach taken to achieve them.

The Statements of Purpose for two local authority homes for children with disabilities Elm Grove and Orchard View state,

- Elm Grove – provides medium to long term care for up to six children and young people with a physical or learning disability, complex needs and/or sensory impairment. The ages of children vary and are dependent on need, group dynamics and compatibility coupled with any presenting risks at the time of admission
- Orchard View – provides residential short breaks and provision for emergency support for young people aged up to 18 years who have physical disabilities, learning disabilities and / or sensory impairments. The home may only provide care and accommodation for up to 8 beds under short break arrangements. (A variation to the statement of purpose was recently made in respect of Orchard View to allow the home to accommodate a maximum of two mainstream children)

The Statements of Purpose for Woodlands children's home, Copthorne House state,

- Woodlands - provides residential care for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties aged between 12-17 years on admission.

- Copthorne - provides residential care for up to four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties aged between 13-16 years on admission.

Like Woodlands the admission criteria for Copthorne is for young people who have been assessed as needing residential care due to them being unable to live within their own or foster families due to the breakdown in family relationships and/or where they are deemed to be at risk of significant harm.

The primary purpose of Copthorne and Woodlands is to keep young people safe, provide good quality care and support young people to achieve good outcomes. This includes

- Education
 - Contact and relationships with family and friends
 - Having good health
 - Accepting specialist help and support when its needed
 - Having hobbies and interests outside of home and school
 - Supporting young people to prepare for semi -independence or independent living.
- Healds Road – provides accommodation for up to four children and young people, aged between 11-17 years. The home provides short to medium term placements, primarily working with children and their families on a 12-week basis.

Whilst the primary aim of Healds Road is the same as Copthorne and Woodlands, Healds Road moved to operating a Multi-Systemic Therapy - Family Integrated Transition (MST/ITM) model in December 2021 and the homes' statement of purpose now reflects this.

The children and young people living at Healds Road are encouraged to participate in and complete a 12-week Dialectical Behavioural Therapy treatment programme. The home is supported by the Children's Service's Family support and Child Protection MST-FIT team. Whilst living in the home young people receive the residential element of the MST-FIT intervention, which supports a skill focused structured approach of working with young people. The aim is to ensure that young people are enabled and supported to move onto a successful and long-term placement, ideally with birth family, kinship carer or long-term foster carers.

- Magdale House - A new 4 bed mainstream local authority children's home is due to open in late spring/early summer. The home will have a Social Pedagogy ethos and approach based on a person and care centred value base and the principle of lifelong learning; to create a creative environment for children conducive to their well-being and learning, enabling them to develop their own resources and connect to society. The home will provide individual learning opportunities ('head, heart, and hands') to enable the children and young people to develop and achieve their own unique potential. The Statement of Purpose for Magdale House will reflect this approach.

The Statements of Purpose for Children's homes also set out how they meet the following,

- The arrangements for supporting the cultural, linguistic, and religious needs of the young people
- Consultation with young people about the care they receive - ensuring that their voice is heard and acted upon
- Equality, diversity, and children's rights
- Accommodation and location, - including Safe Area assessments
- The approach to the protection and safeguarding of young people, including bullying, missing, behaviour management.
- Care planning; the admission criteria, procedure, and process /or referral process and moving on from the home.
- Governance, the organisational structure, and details of the staff team, including the experience and qualifications of the staff.

Each children's home must also produce a Young Person's Guide which is available to all children. The guide supports the children who live in the home to understand the following:

- The Statement of Purpose.
- The care and support they will receive
- The day-to-day routines of the home
- The information which the home keeps on them and why, including who it might be shared with.
- Their right to access their case file.
- How to make a complaint.
- How to access an Advocate or Independent Visitor.
- How to contact the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

2. Information required to take a decision

N/A

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

N/A

3.2 Working with Partners

Our Key Partners are

- Children's Social Care social work teams (Children in Care and Assessment and Intervention teams)
- Child Protection and Review Unit (Independent Reviewing Officers)

- Virtual School
- Placement support - Family Support and Child Protection
- SENDACT (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Assessment and Commissioning Team)
- The Youth Engagement Service
- The Children's Services Joint Commissioning Team
- Multi-systemic Team (MST) Family Support and Child Protection
- Looked After Children Nurses and Nurse Advisor for Children
- The Base (Drug and Alcohol Support Services)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs)
- Learning Disability Nurses, Dieticians, Occupational Therapists, Movement and Handling Advisors
- The Youth Justice Service
- West Yorkshire Police
- West Yorkshire Fire Service

3.3 Place Based Working

N/A

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

N/A

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

This report is provided at the request of the Corporate Parenting Board to monitor the Statements of Purpose of the five Children's Homes run by the Council

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

N/A

4. Next steps and timelines

Statements of Purpose will be reported on annually

Officer recommendations and reasons

That this report is noted

5. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

N/A

6. Contact officer

Sara Miles, Head of Homes for Children, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

7. Background Papers and History of Decisions

A redacted Statement of purpose for each Children's home is attached

8. Service Director responsible

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

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Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>29th June 2021</p>	<p><u>Pre-meeting (private)</u></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services) - Stat</p> <p><u>Public Items:</u></p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>Overview of number of children in Care (snapshot) including age profile</p> <p>Children’s Rights Team Annual report</p> <p>Overall financial policy for care leavers</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>OFSTED and Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Membership of the Board</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>J Tolly/O Rix/ E McShane</p> <p>O Rix/E McShane</p> <p>M Tiernan/ A Gledhill/ S Miles</p> <p>E McShane/ L Warnes</p> <p>CLlr Pattison /J Tolley</p> <p>E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p>

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

	<p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22</p>	<p align="center">Board Members</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>
5th October 2021	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>One Adoption West Yorkshire – Annual Report</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>Staying Put Policy Fostering for Children in Care</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22</p>	<p align="center">O Rix/ J Tolley/ S Miles / G Addy</p> <p align="center">S Whitley</p> <p align="center">O Rix/ J Tolly / E McShane</p> <p align="center">E McShane</p> <p align="center">Cllr Pattison/ J Tolley</p> <p align="center">T Brailsford/ E McShane</p> <p align="center">Board Members</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>
23rd November 2021	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p>	<p align="center">O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p>

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

	Public Items:	
	Membership of the Board	Board Members
	Children's Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children's Homes	O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane /I Mottershaw/ J Tolley
	Youth Justice Service Update/Inspection Report Update (verbal)	Ian Mottershaw
	Thriving Kirklees and CAMH's update	Stewart Horn
	Annual Fostering Report	Stewart Horn/ Simon Brown
	Looked After Children Annual Health Report	G Addy
	Virtual School Headteacher Report Educational Outcomes	J Tolley
	Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)	Cllr Pattison/J Tolley
	Update on Ofsted Report	E McShane
	Children's Ambition Board Update	T Brailsford/ E McShane
	Updates from Board Members on interaction with services	Board Members
	Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22	J Harris

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

11th January 2022	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care focus on care leavers/LAC/fostering only</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Children’s Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>A Gledhill/S Miles</p> <p>Cllr Pattison/ J Tolley</p> <p>T Brailsford / E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Harris</p>
15th February 2022	Pre-meeting (Informal)	O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

	<p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Attendance by Carol McKenna –to provide a verbal update on the role of the Corporate Parent</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>Youth Justice Service – Children Looked After/Missing presentation</p> <p>Update on the Care Leavers Service</p> <p>Statement of Purpose for Residential Care</p> <p>Children’s Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22</p>	<p align="center">C McKenna Chief Officer CCG</p> <p align="center">Cllr Pattison/ J Tolley</p> <p align="center">O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p align="center">I Mottershaw</p> <p align="center">O Rix</p> <p align="center">S Miles / K Lord</p> <p align="center">T Brailsford /E McShane</p> <p align="center">Board Members</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>
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Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

<p>29th March 2022</p>	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Attendance by David Shepherd - Update on the Role of Corporate Parent</p> <p>Attendance by Colin Parr - Update on the Role of Corporate Parent (TBC)</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>Statement of Purpose for Fostering Service</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Children’s Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>David Shepherd</p> <p>Colin Parr</p> <p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>Sara Miles/Kieran Lord</p> <p>Cllr Pattison/ J Tolley</p> <p>T Brailsford / E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Harris</p>
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Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

Standing Items (as on Agenda Plan)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Attendance by Strategic Director Update on the Role of Corporate Parent

- (SD Growth and Regeneration– March)
- (SD Environment and Climate Change – March)
- (SD Children’s Services – date TBC)
- (SD CCG’s Chief Officer – February)

Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes

Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)

OFSTED and Improvement Board Update (verbal)

Updates from Board Members on interaction with services

Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22

Future items for consideration:

~~Overall financial policy for care leavers (June)~~

~~Annual Foster Carer Handbook (New Municipal Year)~~

~~Thriving Kirklees and CAMH’s update (November)~~

~~Starting Put Fostering for Children in Care (August)~~

Corporate Parenting Board

Agenda Plan 2021/22

Statement of Purpose for Fostering Service (March)

Statement of Purpose for Residential Care (February)

Supported Lodgings Scheme (date TBC) **new municipal year**

~~OAWY – Annual (highlights report on Kirklees performance data) (October)~~

OAWY – 6 monthly report **june/July**

Annual reports:-

- ~~• 6 monthly report on Children's Rights (Oct to March) (M Tiernan/A Gledhill) (June)~~
- ~~• 6 monthly report on Independent Visitors Scheme (Oct to March)~~
- **Annual Report on work of the Children's Rights (Paul Harris and Sara) April onwards**
- ~~• Annual report on Complaints and Compliments for Children in Care (January)~~
- Annual report on children who go missing from care
- ~~• Annual report on children and young people placed outside the Kirklees boundary~~
- ~~• Annual Health Report (report on health of looked after children)~~
- ~~• Annual Report on Kirklees Fostering Service~~