

Public Document Pack



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

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Monday 4 July 2022

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Corporate Parenting Board

The **Corporate Parenting Board** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **10.00 am** on **Tuesday 12 July 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 Elizabeth Reynolds

Councillor Richard Smith

Councillor John Lawson

Councillor Karen Allison

Councillor Carole Pattison

Gill Addy

Tom Brailsford

Keith Fielding

Stewart Horn

Colleen Kenworthy

Barry Lockwood

Elaine McShane

Mel Meggs

Sara Miles

Jo-Anne Sanders

Ophelia Rix

Janet Tolley

Christine Carmichael

Keely Lucas

Farrah Munir

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

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

Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers & Looked after Children

Virtual School Headteacher

Kirklees Fostering Network

Care Leavers

Care Leavers

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 - 12

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29th March 2022.

3: Interests

13 - 14

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 11th July 2022.

7: Children's Performance Highlight Report

15 - 28

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

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 Ambition Board Update

The Board will receive an 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)

10: 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

11: Corporate Patenting Board Agenda Plan 2022/23

29 - 36

The Board will consider the agenda plan for 2021/22 and any items for in

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

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Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Tuesday 29th March 2022

Present: Councillor Viv Kendrick (Chair)
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor John Lawson
Barry Lockwood - Kirklees Fostering Network
Colleen Kenworthy - Kirklees Fostering Network
Elaine McShane, Service Director - Family Support and Child Protection
Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children
Sara Miles, Head of Service – Resources, Improvement and Partnerships
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director – Learning and Early Support
Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children

In attendance: Louise Hallas, Virtual School Team Manager

Apologies: Councillor Andrew Marchington (ex-officio)
Councillor Carole Pattison
Christine Carmichael - Kirklees Fostering Network
Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher
Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)

1. Membership of the Board/Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Marchington, Councillor Carole Pattison, Christine Carmichael- Kirklees Fostering Network, Janet Tolley, Virtual School Headteacher and Tom Brailsford Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)

2. Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the last meeting held on the 15th February 2022.

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. Update on the Role of the Corporate Parent

The Board considered a verbal update on the Role of the Corporate Parent within the directorate for Environment and Climate Change presented by Colin Parr, Strategic Director for Environment and Climate Change. It was explained that:

- The Directorate was split across 3 areas, Environmental Strategy and Climate Change, Highways and Street Scene and Culture and Visitor Economy.
- The Directorate was the largest in the Authority and could provide a role in supporting Care Leavers into work i.e., supported apprenticeships, work experience placements etc.
- The Climate Youth Festival was an upcoming event which could provide potential opportunities for Children Looked After.
- Celebrating the Year of Music was a large initiative which could also provide opportunities for Children Looked After.

The Board noted the update and were invited to ask questions. In the discussion to follow the Board highlighted the need to improve access to early work and training opportunities for Care leavers as only 54% of young people were in education or jobs, meaning that the remaining 46% were missing out. The Board welcomed the information in relation to supporting Care Leavers into work through supported apprenticeships and work experience placements but questioned how Foster Carers would be made aware of any upcoming opportunities.

In response, Colin Parr asked whether there was a thematic jobs fair for Care Leavers and suggested that the Directorate could help to develop an event for this purpose as a way of sharing information about the opportunities available. The Board advised that C & K Careers worked individually with children and young people to improve access to opportunities, but there was no targeted jobs fair for Children Looked After and Care Leavers and agreed that consideration should be given to developing an annual event for this purpose delivered by both the Authority and key partner organisations.

The Board also highlighted that information about upcoming opportunities should be circulated to Foster Carers and the Fostering Network that the Year of Music would be a fantastic opportunity for Children Looked After to be invited to showcase their talents.

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director – Learning and Early Support agreed that the Year of Music could provide new opportunities for young people and advised that additional capacity had been sourced for the event. Consideration was also being given to linking in with, and engaging key stake holders.

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The Board raised a question in relation to job opportunities and if they could be mentioned in the Personal Educational Plans (PEP's).

Louise Hallas, Virtual School Team Manager responded and advised that job opportunities were mentioned in PEP's when the young person was suitable, and it was the right step for them. Louise also advised that in years ten and eleven the young person was seen by C & K Careers to discuss their interests and opportunities.

The Board noted the update on the Directorate for Environment and Climate Change's role as Corporate Parent and thanked Colin Parr for his attendance. It was agreed that:

RESOLVED:

1. An update on the Climate Youth Festival, the environmental sustainability strategy and engaging Looked after Children and Care leavers in its development be provided to a future meeting of the Board.
2. That consideration be given to developing an annual Careers Fair for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
3. Information about upcoming work and training opportunities should be circulated to Foster Carers and the Fostering Network.
4. Children Looked After should be invited to showcase their talents through the Year of Music Festival.

7. Children's Performance Highlights Report

The Board considered the latest reports giving key highlights on Performance Monitoring for Children's Services.

Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children presented the key highlights in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers. It was noted that:

- Data showed an improving picture in the work being undertaken.
- There was a decrease in the number of Children Looked After which was now 615 compared with the previous month.
- 490 children / young people were subject to Special Guardianship Orders.
- There were ongoing concerns in relation to the number of children in education, training or employment which was a key area of focus.
- Links needed to be made to create wider opportunities for young people to aspire and achieve.
- There had been an increase in the number of placements moves which was due to notice being given, issues relating to carers and the experience of young people throughout the pandemic.
- Weekly meetings took place to consider stability, which was another area of focus.
- There was a full overview report which set out the work being undertaken across the Children Looked After teams

Louise Hallas, Virtual School Team Manager provided an update in relation to the Virtual School, and highlighted that:

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- All children / young people in care aged between 3 and 18 years of age should have at least one Personal Education Planning (PEP) meeting each term.
- The team continued to work virtually and were able to attend all PEP meetings.
- As a result, 100% of children / young people had their PEP meeting each term.
- 96% of initial PEP's were completed within 10 working days for new children / young people entering care, and 100% were completed within 11 working days.
- Work continued across the service with social care to meet the educational needs of children / young people.
- Attendance remained difficult to compare due to COVID absences.
- Monitoring of attendance for all children / young people continued and individual work was undertaken with children / young people with attendance concerns or who were not in full time education.

The Board acknowledge that 100% of PEP meetings had taken place but questioned whether there was any disadvantage to doing them virtually.

Louise Hallas responded and advised that the advantages outweighed the disadvantages, as virtual meetings allowed an education professional to be present at each meeting who could support and challenge, which added quality to the meetings. Louise also advised that previously, only 40% of PEP meetings were attended in person due to the need to travel and that there was a clear criterion in place for when it was necessary to attend a meeting in person.

Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children provided an update in relation to Children Looked After Health, and highlighted that:

- Kirklees Local Authority (LA) rolling 12-month data showed that 85.9% of Initial Health Assessments were completed in the statutory 20 working day timescales.
- Locala monthly data showed that 100% were completed in timescales for February 2022.
- A breakdown of the 12 month rolling data identified that there were only 4 children whose initial assessment was completed late within the last year.
- Health assessments were still taking place via an initial telephone assessment followed by a clinic visit.
- The 12 month rolling data for review health assessments (RHA) showed 91% of under 5's and 91.6% of over 5's were completed within timescales.
- Locala monthly data for review health assessments showed 72% of under 5's and 60% of over 5's were completed within timescale.
- There had been a reduction in the completion of RHA's by the exact date over recent months.
- A contingency plan was introduced to reduce pressure on the team and the team were now trying to complete RHA's within timescales.
- A business case had been developed to look at extra staffing but had not progressed.
- The 12 month rolling data for dental checks showed 63.8% of children aged one and above had attended the dentist. The figure took in consideration data

from the previous year when dentists re-opened and had a backlog of routine appointments to schedule.

- Monthly data for February 2022 showed 73% of children aged 18 months to 4 years, and 100% of children 5 and above attended the dentist in February 2022.
- 89% of children aged 18 months to 4 years and 93% of children aged 5 and above were registered with a dentist. Those not registered were likely to be children who had moved placement, were new into care or young people who refused to attend their appointment and could not be kept on the register.
- The flexible commissioning project continued to help ensure all children including Care Leavers could be registered with a Dentist.
- Although data showed substance misuse had increased slightly, this was for the same 7 young people already known to have significant issue.

Elaine McShane, Service Director for Family Support and Child Protection shared an update on adoption. The Board were advised that the data highlighted a lengthy timescale in terms of decision making. Elaine advised that a specific piece of work was being undertaken to understand the decision-making process in relation to the adoption pathway from the point of initiating care proceedings to the final offer, to provide further clarity and understanding.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the Children's Performance Highlights Report, and it was agreed that a detailed update in respect of the adoption pathway and decision-making process be provided to a future meeting of the Board.

8. Children Looked After Overview Report

The Board considered the Children Looked After Overview Report presented by Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children who shared the key points and highlighted that:

- The number of Children currently looked after was 615 and concerns had been raised regarding that number.
- Work was undertaken in relation to maintaining children at home with their families.
- There were 490 Special Guardianship Orders in total which was positive.
- Since January 2021, 51 Special Guardianship Orders had been secured.
- Ongoing data identified 50 children were successfully returned home.
- In terms of ethnicity, there had been an increase in the number of Asian children becoming Looked After, which was at 10.2% in February 2022.

The Board highlighted that the number of Special Guardianship Orders had risen quickly and questioned how the Council ensured that the 490 children / young people were being properly supported and resourced.

Elaine McShane, Service Director for Family Support and Child Protection responded and advised that the increase had grown over a period of time and recognition had been given to the commitment of families to take on children. Elaine shared that practical support and financial support was offered, including the connected person support team, support groups within the community and universal services. Elaine

also shared that a review of the financial policy had been undertaken to support Special Guardianship placements in terms of pay rates and age criteria.

The Board highlighted the concern that sometimes families agreed to Special Guardianship Orders but were not always aware what opportunities were available and what could be expected.

In response, Elaine McShane advised that the decision was overseen by the Courts and that each child / young person had a guardian who took the perspective of the child as well as robust viability assessments and decision making to ensure children were placed in the right setting.

The Board highlighted that the Staying Put Policy was a positive step forward in ensuring support for children post 18 but shared that the allowance for children had not risen much within the last 8 years which was concerning when taking into account the increased cost of living. The Board asked if the matter could be looked at urgently and if consideration could also be given to other incentives.

Sara Miles, Head of Service for Resources, Improvement and Partnerships responded and advised that a draft financial policy was in place which would be sent out for consultation and included additional bonuses. Sara agreed that an update on the draft financial policy could be provided to the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the Children Looked After Overview Report, and it was agreed that:

1. Regular updates be provided in relation to ethnicity data.
2. An update be provided in relation to the draft financial policy at the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board.

9. Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service

The Board considered the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service presented by Sara Miles, Head of Service for Resources, Improvement and Partnerships who highlighted that:

- The Statement of Purpose had been revised in line with ongoing works in relation to the modernisation of the Fostering Service.
- It evidenced the aims and objectives of the service, and those for carers and children and young people.
- It shared the same view and aims as any parent, for their child to grow and achieve their full potential.
- It included information in relation to skills level payments, available services and work that was being undertaken with the placement support team.
- It included the development and support for foster carers and children / young people.
- The mockingbird offer was to be extended.
- Work had been undertaken regarding the review processes and another Independent Reviewing Officer was to be recruited.
- A draft financial policy was being developed to review Foster Carer finances and allowances.

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- There were 12 fostering assessments ongoing and 19 active stages at enquiry.

Sara Miles also shared that she would like to provide more detailed information to the Board in relation to the recruitment and retention of Foster Carers.

The Board highlighted the Mockingbird programme and their keen interest for a 2nd constellation to be developed. The Board questioned if there was a timescale for this?

Sara Miles was unable to provide a timescale but agreed to come back and share an update on the progress.

Elaine McShane suggested that Kieran Lord shared an update on The Mockingbird programme as well as other services including MSTFIT and placements support.

The Board highlighted the increase in Asian children entering care and questioned the successful recruiting of Foster Carers of an Asian background?

Sara Miles responded and advised that community work was being carried out to seek enquiries across all communities and agreed to provide a more detailed report to include the data showing what had been achieved and what work was ongoing.

The Board highlighted Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA'S) and questioned if any work had been carried out to identify what they offer compared with the Kirklees offer?

Elaine McShane advised that a piece of work had been done previously and highlighted that there were different layers of provision within IFA's depending on the needs of the children which replicated the Councils skills level, and in comparison, financially, there wasn't much difference. Elaine acknowledged that in terms of reviewing the financial policy and payments to Foster Carers, it was the right time to re-look at IFA provision.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service and agreed that:

- Detailed information in relation to the marketing and recruitment of Foster Carers in relation to the recruitment, retention and ethnicity be shared at a future Corporate Parenting Board meeting.
- An update be provided in relation to the development of the mockingbird programme, as well as other services including MSTFIT and placement support.
- A comparison be undertaken to identify IFA provision and how this differed from Kirklees provision.

10. Update on the Role of the Corporate Parent

The Board considered an update on the Directorate for Growth and Regeneration's role as Corporate Parent, presented by David Shepherd, Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration who highlighted that:

- The Directorate for Growth and regeneration was formed less than 2 years ago and there were 3 service areas which included, Homes and Neighbourhoods, Skills and Regeneration and Development.
- The Young People's Pathway sat within Homes and Neighbourhoods and provided targeted support to tenants under 25 years of age including Care Leavers.
- Assessments were undertaken and individual bespoke support plans were developed with the relevant services.
- There were regular check points throughout the tenancy, so support could be provided when required to ensure a successful tenancy.
- Additional support could be added to the pathway if required, such as money advice, income management, employment support etc, with the young person's consent.
- There was an allocations policy in place that gave young people priority (Band A), particularly Care Leavers.
- Accommodation support was available for people who were accommodating young people i.e., foster cares, who were awarded Band C to access council accommodation.
- The Pre-Apprenticeship Programme was a 26-week unpaid study programme for 16 –18 year olds, which ran annually.
- Its aim was to engage young people as they entered young adulthood to build on their skills and help them become successful in labour market engagement.
- It brought together all services to support the young person as well as those who disengaged.
- Multi Systemic Therapy Family Integration Transition (MSTFIT) was targeted at 11 to 17 year olds with behavioural difficulties. It supported unified work with families to help get them out of care.
- Joint work with Housing Solutions and Homes and Neighbourhoods had proved successful in re-housing families.
- Most children had a stay at Healds house as part of the initial transition model whilst ongoing work was undertaken with the child and family to identify a suitable property.
- An allocation's policy review would explore how managed lets could accommodate this rather than using 'choose and move', to provide a better match of property and ensure a higher potential for success.
- Although there were just short of 22,000 Council properties, there was not a great supply of properties and turnover each year, therefore the more properties taken out for managed lets resulted in less properties being available to others.
- In terms of Fostering and Adoption, work was undertaken to engage with Children's Services, support staff and families to find solutions to issues in relation to housing.
- Creative approaches were necessary to provide solutions, using the available resources.
- There was a dedicated employment support function within the Directorate which engaged all partners to develop bespoke arrangements, particularly for Care Leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- There was an action board in place that monitored and managed the support that was provided to NEET Care Leavers.

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- Kickstart was available for young people, particularly Care Leavers to actively engage them with private sector employers who were sponsored through the scheme.
- More employment opportunities were becoming available for young people as the economy bounced back following the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Lots of sectors were looking for people to move into entry level jobs which the Kickstart Programme supported in terms of employer funding and a package of support for the young person.
- Social value arrangements were always evolving, and services bought in through procurement arrangements were required to demonstrate and deliver them.
- The Cultural Heart (a large-scale regeneration programme) strategic delivery team were asked to carry out social engagement with young people, which included working with schools to provide opportunities of working with employers and to inspire young people to be part of the regeneration.
- The aim was to engage Care Leavers in the process, with a view to standardising this through the procurement process.

The Board raise concern that information in relation to the Works Better programme, Kickstart programme and social values arrangements was not shared directly with Foster Carers and questioned how this could be done better? David Shepherd noted the concern and agreed to distribute information, so everyone had access to it.

The Board highlighted the Pre-Apprenticeship Scheme and questioned the number of places available. David Shepherd responded to advise that he did not have the information but agreed to provide it. David shared that the scheme was not limited by the number of places but was about engaging young people to help them see it as something that worked for them. David also shared that the schemes were very well attended and attractive, and provided the opportunity to bring young people through into to employment with the right support packages in place for them to succeed.

The Board asked for more information about the approach to engagement with Care Leavers suggesting that it was important to communicating with Personal Advisors (PA's) as well as Carers. Ophelia Rix, Head of Service for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Looked After Children added that Personal Advisors were now involved at the early age of 15 in relation to planning and aspirational opportunities. Links were already developed with other services.

David Shepherd responded to agree that early engagement was best, and that Phil Marks and Gillian Wallis were the people to liaise with.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the update on the Directorate for Growth and Regeneration's role as Corporate Parent, and agreed that:

1. Further information in relation to the Works Better programme, Kickstart programme and social values be shared with Foster Carers.
2. The number of places available on the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme be provided.

11. Virtual School Governing Body Update

Louise Hallas, Virtual School Team Manager advised the Board that a virtual school governing body meeting had not taken place since the last Corporate Parenting Board Meeting and so no update was given.

RESOLVED:

The Board agreed an update be provided at the next Corporate Parenting Board meeting.

12. Children's Ambition Board

The Board considered an update on the Children's Ambition Board presented by Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support who highlighted that:

- The Ambition Board provided a positive opportunity to meet with partners and to share the key priorities that the Directorate was working towards.
- An update was given on Kirklees Futures (districts learning strategy), Special Educational Needs and Disabilities transformation plan, and the aim for Children's Services to be 'outstanding'.
- There was an opportunity to look at data across the Directorate.
- There was a review in relation to timeliness of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) and compliance.
- High level Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 outcomes and attendance were shared.
- The focus of next meeting would be around Early Support and the progress of the whole partnership.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the update on the Children's Ambitions Board.

13. Update from Board Members on Interaction with Services

The Board shared their attendance at the young parent's network meeting (virtually) and advised that it was a useful event where young parents were able to share their success stories.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the update on Interactions with Services.

14. Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22

The Board highlighted some of the agenda items to be considered in the next municipal year 2022/23, which included:

- Supported Lodging Schemes
- Support for Foster Carers
- Adoption Report
- Standard Items.

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The Board were asked to consider other Directorates who could be invited to the Corporate Parenting Board to share how they contribute as Corporate Parents.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the agenda plan 2021/22 and it was agreed that:

- Directors continue to be invited to the Corporate Parenting Board to share their contribution to the role of Corporate Parent within their services.
- Items to be added to the agenda for 22/2023 be sent to the Chair and Jodie Harris.

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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: 12 July 2022

Data is as at 31st May 2022, unless stated otherwise.

*Benchmarking Source: Children's Social Care Benchmarking Tool (BMt) V3.23. 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	
		Jun 21	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	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	65.0 (650)	61.0 (610)	60.5 (605)	60.4 (604)	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)	11.1% (72)	12.1% (74)	12.4% (75)	13.2% (80)	12.6%	16.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↑		
4.05.01 Placement Stability Within Year - LAC with three or more placements	% (number)	5.8% (38)	8.9% (54)	8.8% (53)	9.6% (58)	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	215	297	284	270	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↔	↓	↓		
Average number of SW changes	Average	0.39	0.55	0.60	0.60	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 65.0 (650 children) in June 21 to 60.4 (604 children) in May 22. The current 12-month average for Kirklees is 62.5 (625 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 80 children placed outside of Kirklees and more than 20 miles from their home address, the large majority are placed in fostering.
- The Heads of Service continues to have oversight of permanency planning through Legal Gateway and Permanence Panel. The panels are held weekly to ensure consistency regarding decision making and care planning for children and young people. The panels also provide a quality assurance framework and opportunity to evidence good practice and areas for development.
- 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 and provides a quality assurance function in that it provides high support and challenge as required to avoid drift and delay in care planning for children and young people.
- 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 an increase in relation to the number of children who have had 3 or more home moves from 53 (8.8%) in April 2022 to 58 (9.6%) in May 2022. 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.
- A review of placement stability will be undertaken as part of practice learning days to further identify areas of future learning and development and to strengthen the good areas of practice that are currently taking place.

Children Looked After Reviews, Visits and Missing

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Jun 21	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	SN	Eng.
4.06.01: CLA Reviews Within Statutory Timescale	%	99.2%	98.3%	98.3%	98.2%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↔	↓		
4.07.01: CLA visits within statutory timescale: % of CLA visited in line with Kirklees Practice Standards	%	92.6% (602)	95.9% (585)	93.2% (564)	96.4% (582)	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)	2.2% (14)	1.6% (10)	2.3% (14)	2.3% (14)	9.3%	11%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↔		
b. No. of LAC that have more than one missing episode in the month (repeat Mispers)	% (number)	71.4% (10)	60.0% (6)	64.3% (9)	50.0% (7)	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)	59.1% (26/ 44)	71.4% (10/ 14)	50.0% (10/ 20)	46.7% (7/ 15)	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- 14 requests for Initial Review forms were received by the Child Protection and Review unit in May 2022 relating to 14 children – unusually each of these referrals was for a single child. 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 May the Child Protection and Review Unit held 172 Looked After Review Meetings for children, with all but one (for 2 siblings) of these being held within timescales. Independent Reviewing Officers closely monitor Child Looked After Review timescales to ensure that this high percentage is maintained 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.
- IROs robustly review children's care plans. They provide time-bound actions, which are followed up in between review meeting to ensure that plans for children progress swiftly, and where drift is identified informal and formal resolution processes are used effectively. Children's reviews are well

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

- The Children's Rights Team supported 14 young people at their CLA review in the month of May with 5 of these young people living out of area.
- There has been an improvement in the percentage of Children in Care who have received a statutory visit in line with practice standards from 93.2% in April 2022 to 96.4% in May 2022. We continue to have weekly oversight and monitoring of the visits as part of our service performance meetings. The meetings focus on timeliness and quality of visits to young people as well as providing evidence of practice in relation key strengths and areas for further development.
- *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. With very specific exceptions all Children and Young people are offered an independent return home interview (97%).
 - 99% of all Independent Return Home interviews offered and accepted were completed.
 - The number of children having multiple missing episodes has fluctuated between 3 and 8 in the three-month period which is lower 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. 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 to continue to provide oversight of statutory visit compliance through the weekly performance meetings that are held within the service.
- 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. In the current situation where Covid restrictions have been removed, the IRO Service is working towards giving every child the opportunity for in person Review Meeting and visit if this what they indicate they would like.
- 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, and Evaluation forms for children to complete about their Reviews. 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.
- With others capture children's voices and experiences, and support young people's participation to inform service development.
- Introduce improved quality assurance mechanisms to support the development of the Children's Rights Service and the team, and bench mark the service against the new Advocacy Standards which are due to be published imminently.

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%	100%			
	Direction of Travel	-				

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Cumulative	SN	Eng.
Initial PEP completed within 10 school days of Virtual School being notified child came into care	%	100%	100%	100%	97%	N/A	N/A

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				Benchmarking	
		Jun 21	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	SN	Eng.
CLA Persistent Absentees	%	40.8%	23.2%	21.9%	22.8%	11.4% (2018/19)	12.0% (2018/19)
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
LAC with a mid-year school move	%	3	7	2	0	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- The nationally published information for CLA attainment shows outstanding performance at Key Stage 4 in 2021 and strong performance in terms of overall attendance and exclusions all in Quartile Band A.
- 100% of PEPs have been completed within the Spring 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 virtually held meetings unless there is a critical reason why in person attendance is required.
- 97% 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.
- 91% 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 (2 young people over 20 days UASC no school place)

What do we want to improve?

- Issues as a result of Covid continues to be our priority following the return to school for all pupils. This includes Catch up and Emotional Wellbeing.
- We will continue to have a focus on termly PEP completion as key focus area.
- Persistent Absence (PA) / Unauthorised Absence remains a high priority for all pupils with attendance less than 90%. We will need to be mindful of some of the emotional issues for our young people following the effects of the pandemic 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 have 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	
		Jun 21	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	SN	Eng.
4.11.11 Dental Checks within last 12 months - timeliness	%	42.8%	65.2%	63.1%	60.7%	31.9%	40.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
4.11.12 Initial health Assessments completed on time - within 20 days	%	92.9%	83.2%	86.5%	79.3%	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	%	94.7%	93.3%	91.0%	91.5%	86.9%	89.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↑		
b: Over 5s Annual Health Assessments – percentage up to date	%	92.7%	95.2%	95.0%	94.0%	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)	0.39% (2)	1.42% (7)	1.22% (6)	1.23% (6)	2.2%	3.0%
	Direction of Travel		↔	↓	↔		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

Initial health assessments (IHA):

- Kirklees Local Authority (LA) rolling 12-month data shows that **79.3%** were completed in the statutory 20 working day timescale.
- Locala monthly data for May shows that **75%** were completed in timescales for February 2022. This equates to 3 breaches; this was due to late notification and placement of child outside the locality.

Review health assessments (RHA):

- Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **91.5% & 94%** of the 'Developmental' assessments (under 5yrs old) and 'Annual' assessments (over 5 yrs. old) respectively, were completed in statutory timescales.
- Locala monthly data for May shows that **78%** of under 5-year-olds and **82%** of over 5-year-olds RHA's were completed in timescales. There were 11 in-house breaches related to arrangements with carers, holiday, capacity, and placement move.

Dental Checks within last 12 months:

- Kirklees rolling 12-month data shows that **60.7%** of children aged 1 to 18 years, when asked at their health assessment had attended the dentist.
- Locala monthly data for May shows that **60% & 95%** of children age 18m to 4 years, and 5 years+ respectively, had attended the dentist at the point of their RHA.
The slow recovery of the data is linked to younger children, where the carer has not yet registered and therefore the child has not attended.

Registered at dentist:

- Locala data shows **69% & 96%** of children age 18m to 4 years and 5 years + respectively at the point of their RHA, were registered with a dentist.
- The use of the 'Flexible Commissioning Project' has ensured all CLA should be able to register, and this is promoted.

Substance misuse:

- 6 young people (**1.23%**) have admitted or are known to use substances that have a significant impact on their daily life when asked at their last RHA. All 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
		Apr-Jun 21/22 Q1	Jul-Sep 21/22 Q2	Oct-Dec 21/22 Q3	Jan-Mar 21/22 Q4	
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)	%	1.37% (5/364)	0.55% (2/364)	0.55% (2/364)	0.00% (0/364)	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 21 to March 22 period 64.3% of interventions completed by Children Looked After were completed successfully compared to 72.8% of the general population. This is a reduction in Children Looked After completion from the same period of last year which was 87.7%, 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 5.6% (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 22/23 year is smaller than the 21/22 year (343 compared to 364), 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 remain low
- There is a focus around Looked After Children in our Subgroups – specifically Subgroup 2 – Reducing offending and reoffending.

Care Leavers

Key Indicator	Type of measure	Month End				*Benchmarking	
		Jun 21	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	SN	Eng.
5.01.04 Children in care aged 17 years and 4 months with a Personal Advisor	%	87.2%	90.2%	91.7%	97.4%	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↑		
5.01.08 Local Authority In Touch with Care Leavers	%	92.7%	91.2%	90.8%	91.0%	95.6%	91.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		
5.01.09 Care Leavers in suitable accommodation	%	87.2%	88.0%	88.0%	87.2%	91.5%	88.0%
	Direction of Travel		↓	↔	↓		
5.01.10 Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training (EET)	%	54.9%	56.9%	57.6%	56.6%	48.0%	52.0%
	Direction of Travel		↑	↑	↓		
5.01.11 Number of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan that is up to date	%	81.7%	80.2%	75.6%	80.2%	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 this month from 90.2% in April 2022 to 91.0% in May 2022. 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 continue to work with our housing colleagues who have agreed to prioritise the properties for our young people, and this has helped to improve our performance. In May 2022 we have seen a decrease to 87.2% from 88.0% in April 2022. 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. A further update of this work will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board in September 2022.
- *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 from 91.7% in April 2022 to 97.4% in May 2022. 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. 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 May 2022 we have seen a decrease 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 an increase in the numbers of young people who have an up-to-date pathway plan this month. 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 and the timeliness and quality of visits to young people.
- This is a key priority area for the service to address and 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	
		Jun 21	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	SN	Eng.
5.02.01 Number of children adopted as a percentage of children leaving care (12 month rolling period)	% (number)	9.1% (22)	8.8% (18)	8.7% (18)	8.3% (16)	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	562.9	515.6	498.6	498.6	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	262.8	199.3	179.1	185.9	180.0 (17-20)	175.0 (17-20)
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- 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 has 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.
- 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 working relationships with One Adoption and case audits will be able together to consider individual cases. We will be able to determine/monitor links and match 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	
		Jun 21	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	SN	Eng.
6.02.07 Total New Carer Approvals in Month:	Number	7	5	4	3	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		
In-house Fostering approvals in the month	Number	1	4	3	3	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↔		
In-house Fostering De-registrations in the month	Number	0	3	5	4	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↑	↓		
6.02.09 Placements split: a. In-house foster placements	Number	244	192	181	171	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↔	↓	↓		
b. Family and friend placements	Number	93	109	108	110	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↓	↓	↑		
c. Independent Fostering Agency Placements	Number	179	185	184	182	N/A	N/A
	Direction of Travel		↑	↓	↓		

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

- From March – May 2022 there were 12 new foster carer approvals. In March to May 2022 there was 1 fostering household de-registered and 11 resignations of which 7 were connected carers.
- The number of children placed with Kirklees foster carers decreased to 171 at the end of May 2022, this is below the 12-month average of 207.
- The number of family and friend's placements at the end of May 2022 was 110, this is higher than the 12-month average of 104.
- The May figure of 182 Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements for IFA placements was above the 12-month average of 177
- The Fostering Service is working to increase the number of Kirklees foster placements and achieved a net gain of 4 fostering households over the past 12 months.

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 short and long-term placements, and short notice / 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 and currently undergoing further development and refinement
- We are reviewing the annual leave entitlements and other non-monetary benefits for Foster Carer and benchmarking our benefits against other Local Authorities. The Kirklees offer will then be clearly set 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 further integration with the Placement Support Service.
- Under the wider sufficiency agenda, we are in the process of opening a new children's home in Huddersfield, the building work is expected to be completed by the end of the summer, whilst Healds Road Children's home is operational as an ITM/MST Children's home to support children and young people's reunification to a family setting.

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

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Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p align="center">Tuesday 12th July 2022</p> <p align="center"><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 30th June 2022</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 4th July 2022</i></p>	<p align="center"><u>Pre-meeting (private)</u></p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services) – Stat</p> <p>Care leavers/ Children Looked After Overview Report</p> <p>Ambition Board Data Slides</p> <p align="center"><u>Public Items:</u></p> <p>Membership of the Board</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>OFSTED and Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane /G Addy</p> <p align="center">O Rix</p> <p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane /G Addy</p> <p align="center">Board Members</p> <p align="center">J Tolly/O Rix/ E McShane</p> <p align="center">Cllr Pattison /J Tolley</p> <p align="center">E McShane</p> <p align="center">Board members</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>
	Pre-meeting (Informal)	

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<p>Tuesday 9th August 2022</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 28 July 2022</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 1st August 2022</i></p>	<p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Attendance by Strategic Director on the Role of the Corporate Parent</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report</p> <p>OAWY – 6 monthly report /Kirklees Highlights</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>OFSTED and Ambition Board Update (verbal)</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ S Miles / G Addy</p> <p align="center">(TBC)</p> <p>O Rix/ J Tolly / E McShane</p> <p>Michelle Rawlings / Nicola Steele</p> <p align="center">Cllr Pattison/ J Tolley</p> <p align="center">E McShane</p> <p align="center">Board Members</p> <p align="center">J Harris</p>
<p>Tuesday 27th September 2022</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 15th September 2022</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 19th September 2022</i></p>	<p align="center">Pre-meeting (Informal)</p> <p>Performance Monitoring report (Children’s Services)</p> <p align="center">Public Items:</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p>

Corporate Parenting Board

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	<p>Attendance by Strategic Director on the Role of the Corporate Parent</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p> <p>Children’s Rights Team Annual report</p> <p>Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)</p> <p>Children’s Ambition Board Update</p> <p>Updates from Board Members on interaction with services</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane /I Mottershaw/ J Tolley</p> <p>A Gledhill</p> <p>Cllr Pattison/J Tolley</p> <p>T Brailsford/ E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Harris</p>
<p>Tuesday 15th November 2022</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 3rd November 2022</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 7th November 2022</i></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 Strategic Director on the Role of the Corporate Parent</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p>

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	<p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</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</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>Cllr Pattison</p> <p>T Brailsford / E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Harris</p>
<p>Tuesday 24 January 2023</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 12th January 2023</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 16th January 2023</i></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 Strategic Director on the Role of the Corporate Parent</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</p>	<p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p align="center">(TBC)</p> <p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p>

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	<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</p>	<p>Cllr Pattison / J Tolley</p> <p>T Brailsford /E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Harris</p>
<p>Tuesday 7th March 2023</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 26th February 2023</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 30th February 2023</i></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 Strategic Director on the Role of the Corporate Parent</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</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>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p align="center">(TBC)</p> <p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>Cllr Pattison/ J Tolley</p> <p>T Brailsford / E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p>

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	Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan	J Harris
<p>Tuesday 7th April 2023</p> <p><i>Report Deadline: Thursday 13th April 2023</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Publish: Monday 17th April 2023</i></p>	<p>Attendance by Strategic Director on the Role of the Corporate Parent</p> <p>Children’s Performance Highlight Report CIC and Fostering/Children’s Homes</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</p>	<p>(TBC)</p> <p>O Rix/ J Tolley/ E McShane</p> <p>ClIr Pattison/ J Tolley</p> <p>T Brailsford / E McShane</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>J Harris</p>

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 2022)

Corporate Parenting Board

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- ~~(SD Environment and Climate Change – March 2022)~~
- (SD Children’s Services – date TBC)
- ~~(SD CCG’s Chief Officer – February 2022)~~
- (SD Adults and health – date TBC)
- (SD Corporate Strategy/Public Health – date tbc)

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

Virtual School Governing Body Update (verbal)

Ambition Board Update (verbal)

Updates from Board Members on interaction with services

Corporate Parenting Board Agenda Plan 2021/22

Items for consideration from previous year/to schedule :

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

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

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

~~Statement of Purpose for Fostering Service (March)~~

~~Statement of Purpose for Residential Care (February)~~

Supported Lodgings Scheme (date TBC) new municipal year

Report of Adoption – to consult with OAWY new municipal year

A report from the virtual School re Post 16 attainment.

Ethnicity of LAC and foster carers.

Annual / 6 monthly reports:-

- 6 monthly report on Children’s Rights (Oct to March) A Gledhill (June)
- Annual Report on work of the Children’s Rights) April onwards

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- 6 monthly report on Independent Visitors Scheme (Oct to March)
- 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
- OAWY – Annual (highlights report on Kirklees performance data) (October)
- OAWY – 6 monthly report (June/July)