

# Corporate Parenting Board Report Highlight Report

This report provides an end of year summary with an overview of all the agreed indicators that monitor our performance for the Corporate Parenting Board. There are 63 indicators in total and currently we can evidence the following:

## Key Performance Issues at year end March 2017

Please refer to the Corporate Parenting Board report for data, relevant page numbers are provided in brackets.

### Children Entering Care (Page 3)

Current issues: None to Escalate

#### Head of Service Narrative – Linda Patterson

All admissions to care are discussed and agreed with the Service Director. Any requests for children to become subject to care proceedings are discussed and agreed at the weekly Legal Gateway Panel, chaired by the Service Director and attended by Heads of Service. Cases are then tracked via Panel and through the Case Manager to ensure that progress in achieving permanence for children.

All final Care Plans are signed off within Permanence Panel in advance of the 4 month LAC Review and in advance of final evidence being submitted to court. Work is ongoing to enhance the Edge of Care Offer and implement a Resources Panel to ensure that wherever possible, children are sustained at home with the right package of support and where children need to come into care, this is done in a planned manner based on assessment of need.

#### Improvement:

##### **4.01.04 Children Entering Care by Placement**

In March 17 25 children were placed in care, foster care 80% (20), residential 8% (2), placed with parents 12% (3)

The trend is a substantial increase in foster care placements since April 16, 56.7% (17) to March 17 80% (20) and substantial reduction in residential placements since April 16, 23.3% (7) to March 17 8% (2) . Placements with parents are also decreasing, but there were spikes in July , Aug & Sept 16.

##### **4.01.05 Children Entering Care by Placement within and Outside the LA Boundary**

In March 17 80% (20) children are placed within Kirklees and 20% (5) are placed outside Kirklees . 2.9% (7 children) improvement from Feb 17.

## Children in Care: (Page 7)

### Current issues:

#### 4.02.01 Children in Care

The trend has steadily been increasing since April 16, 658 (66.6) with a spike in Dec 16 of 705 (71.4), decreasing to 699 (70.7) March 17

#### 4.02.07 Children in Care subject to a Care Order placed at Home

**Improvement Plan Success Measure:** *Reduction in the number of children currently placed at home on care order from 45 to 30 by July 2017 with a further decrease from 30 to 20 by December 2017.*

The current position is 6% (42) children are placed at home and 94% (657) are not at home. This is lower than Feb 17 figures of 7.4% (51) children placed at home and 92.6% (51) not at home.

In April 16 the figure was 6.1% (40), increasing to 9.6% (66) Oct 16 then decreasing 6%(42) in March 17

### Head of Service Narrative – Linda Patterson

We have seen an increased number of older children/ young people (13-16 year olds) being accommodated. Some of these young people might not have entered care if we had a developed Edge of Care service. The plan, as part of the sufficiency strategy, is to develop an Edge of Care service to ensure work is done with families to stop children entering care where we can better support them at home. This aligned with a more robust “front door” will ensure that we have the right children accommodated at the right time.

The Placement with Parents panel continues to meet weekly, chaired by a HoS, and this continues to impact positively on the numbers of children placed at home with parents - in that numbers are reducing (appropriately). Legal Gateway, which meets weekly, is more robust and alternative plans are being put in place to support families to keep children at home without an Order.

## Children Leaving Care: (Page 12)

### Over the last 12 months the top care leaving reasons were as follows:

- 31% Planned return home to parents / other parental responsibility
- 19% to Independent Living - Formal Support
- 17% Adopted - consent dispensed with/ application unopposed

### Current issues:

#### 4.04.03 Children Leaving Care by Reason

In rolling 12 months, 258 (94%) children left care with positive outcomes and 16 (6%) with negative outcomes. In March 17, 14 (75%) of Children left care with "Positive" Outcomes and 5 (25%) left care with "negative" outcomes compared to April 16, 18 (95%) left care with Positive outcomes, 1 (5%) left care with negative outcomes.

**Action:** *Performance Intelligence Unit to investigate definition for Positive and Negative Outcomes and how they are recorded in the Service.*

## **Head of Service Narrative – Julie Mepham**

There are a variety of reasons for children leaving care. The numbers reflect children either returning home, moving into different arrangements with connected persons, being adopted or leaving at age 18. The drop at age 18+ is due to birthdays.

A high number of children/young people exited the service positively.

## **Looked After Children Moves: (Page 15)**

### **Current issues:**

#### **4.05.01 Placement Stability within Year - LAC with three or more placement moves**

***Improvement Plan Success Measures: Number of placement moves are in line with statistical neighbours and national comparators. Placement Stability to be in line with statistical neighbours (10%) by December 2017***

In March 17, 92 (13%) children had 3 or more moves in 12 months. This was higher than the figure for Feb 17 of 85 (12.1%).

#### **4.05.02 Placement Stability Within Two Years** The figure for March 17 is 180 (72.3)

#### **4.03.05 Placement Movement Reason for Looked After Children**

In past 12 months (April 16 to March 17):

Increase in "Carer request Placement End" - 0 in April 16 to 14 in March 17

Increase in "Change to / Implementation of Care Plan" - 4 in April 16 to 10 in March

Increase in "Other" reason - 3 in April 16 to 11 in March 17 (peak of 12 in Feb 17)

Increase in "No reason input" - 2 in April 16 to 6 in March 17.

Standards of Care Concern - 0 in March 17, 6 in Feb 17.

***Action: Performance Intelligence Unit to investigate "Care Plan", "Other" and "No Reason input"***

#### **4.05.04 Social Worker Change**

The number of children with Zero changes has decreased from 225 in April 16 to 121 in March 17.

The number of children with 3 changes has increased from 4 in April 16 to 31 in March 17.

## **Head of Service Narrative – Julie Mepham**

There is a more settled workforce in the corporate parenting service so performance in terms of change of social worker improves once the child becomes permanently looked after. There is a continued change in the workforce, particularly in the A&I service, which impacts on change of social worker. This is being addressed by the implementation of a team that will deal primarily with Court work ensuring that children retain one worker throughout proceedings.

Performance around placement stability gives cause for some concern and is in part due to the lack of suitable accommodation for our children in Kirklees this is being addressed through the sufficiency strategy which is headed by the Director of Place. An analysis of current placement type and need and a plan for the next 3-5 years is being developed by the Service. A first draft will be presented to the Improvement Board in June 17.

## Looked After Children Reviews and Visits: (Page 17)

### Current issues:

**4.06.01 LAC Reviews within Statutory Timescale:** 93.56% (654) of Looked After Children are currently up to date with LAC reviews, and 6.44% (45) LAC Reviews are out of statutory timescale.

**4.06.03 Child Participation in LAC Reviews:** 91.97% (126) children participated in their reviews.

**4.07.04 % LAC who have had a Statutory Visit in Line with Practice Standards:** The current position is 82.5% of LAC have had a statutory visit in line with Practice Standards. The overall trend is an increase from December 2016 (76.95%)

### Head of Service Narrative – Mandy Williams

There has been a small drop in the number of LAC Reviews that have been held out of timescales this is due to an increase in the number of Children becoming LAC, and some CYP that were not initially seen as LAC by Children's social care, and then became LAC backdated – this means their Reviews were automatically out of timescale.

The Service takes the involvement of children and young people in their Reviews very seriously, however it is the choice of the young person, so this can lead to fluctuations. Social Workers have been reminded to ensure this takes place and encouraged to visit children and young people between Reviews.

## Missing Looked After Children: (Page 19)

### Current Issues:

#### **4.09.02 Missing LAC**

57% (12) of Looked After Children went missing at least once in the month. This is higher than the previous month of Feb 17 44% (8).

### Improvement:

#### **4.09.03 Missing LAC- Return Interviews**

80% (8) Independent Return Interviews for LAC that were offered within 72 hours of the child being located. The overall trend has been an increase between 43.1% April 16 to 80% March 17

### **Performance Narrative**

Offers of return interviews to LAC have seen a sustained improvement in timeliness over the last 3 months. However, performance figures are affected by the inconsistency of data between Police and LA, and the absence in some cases of the M7 form relevant to the child's missing episode

## Looked After Children Attainment: (Page 21)

### 4.10.05 Attendance and Persistent Absence

**Attendance and Persistent Absence: LAC Attenders:** The current position is 93.40% (432) at Summer 2016 of the % of overall attendance for LAC within an education setting.

**LAC Persistent Absentees:** At Summer 2016 17.8% (77) LAC were deemed to be persistent absentees; The overall trend has been an increase each term from Summer 2015 (11.8%) to Summer 2016 (17.8%)

### 4.10.07 Pupils not in Full Time Educational Provision with Reasons

At 2015/16 HT6 there are 402 LAC children of which 4.23% (17) of children were not in full time education ( most current data). This is higher than 2014/15 HT6 when 345 children with 2.32% (8) not in full time education

There is a substantial increase in "other" reason for not being in education, from 0.29% 2014/15 HT6 to 2.74% 2015/16 HT6.

*Action: Performance Intelligence Unit to investigate incorrect recording of "Other" in reason*

### Head of Service Narrative – Martin Green

The Council established the Kirklees Virtual School in September 2014, in line with statutory guidance, to secure appropriate education provision for looked after children. The Virtual School has quickly established itself as a well-managed, rigorous and effective champion for the best learning outcomes for young people looked after by the Council. The success of the School was a highlight of the recent Ofsted report and it has made great progress during its first three years to establish credible and productive relationships with Schools, young people, other local authorities and colleagues in Family Support and Child Protection and across the Council. Building upon its successful foundations, the Virtual School will be extending its remit to provide a service for all looked after children and young people aged 0-19 (25 where young people have an Education, Health and Care Plan) and is committed to improving the education, employment and training outcomes of care leavers in line with the recommendations made by Ofsted.

The Corporate Parenting Board received an annual Virtual School Head Teacher report with a full data suite relating to the participation, achievement and attainment of looked after children at key stages 1-4. In future, the Board will receive data relating to 0-3 provision (Foundation stage) and post 16 provision (key stage 5).

### **Positive achievements for the Board in 2016/17 are:**

- 2016 KS4 attainment was above the national average (20% Kirklees – 18.8% National)
- 96% of looked after children of statutory school age had a completed Personal Education Plan in March 2017 compared to 78.3% in April 2016.

### **Areas for improvement in 2017/18 are:**

- Reduce the numbers of looked after children who are persistently absent (attendance below 90%).
- Reduce the numbers of looked after children who are not in full-time educational provision.
- Develop a strategy

**Current Issues:**

**4.11.12 Initial Health Assessments Completed on Time**

At March 2017 is 84% (247/294). The overall trend has been an decrease since April 16 (94.6%)

**Head of Service Narrative – Gill Addy, LAC Nurse**

**4.11.11 Dental Checks within Last 12 Months**

The main opportunity for this collection is at the review health assessment, also at LAC reviews, stat visits and carers reporting by phone. This year, BSOs have been contacting carers directly from the monthly data sheet. This has resulted in improved collection figures.

**4.11.12 Initial Health Assessments Completed on Time**

The data taken at source by health services, shows the average at year end is 98.25%. Immense efforts have been made by the wider LAC health team, e.g. extra clinics, personal visits made and travelling distances. The turnover of LA staff has impacted greatly on ensuring the process was followed in a timely manner. There were not 47 late IHAs - this will be related to data collection, rather than actual late assessments.

**4.11.13 Health Assessments within the Last 12 Months**

The number of Review Health Assessments (RHA) for the year is 676, up from 616 the previous year. We have secured funding for 30 hours LAC nurse time for 12 months. This will allow us to recommence carrying out the RHA for children living outside Kirklees, but within reasonable travelling distance. The area we have seen a downturn in figures is RHA done on our behalf by other areas, due to the numbers of LAC Out of Area (OOA). The number completed in timescales has reduced and averaged at year end at 61% and has been the lever to accessing the LAC nurse funding due to the cost and timeliness of the assessments.

**4.11.16 Substance Misuse by LAC & 4.11.17 Offered and Accepted/Refused Services for Substance Misuse**

There will be many LAC who use substances for recreational purposes and do not perceive that it is problematic or may not disclose use at all. It is the prolonged, problematic use that is recorded. The National average is 4% (many areas do not send in data nationally as it is hard to quantify with the strict guidelines. We have a substance misuse worker attached to vulnerable children including LAC. This worker attends the children's homes monthly with the LAC nurses and takes individual referrals. Training has also been given to Personal Advisers and residential staff, with a plan to widen to Social Workers.

## Care Leavers: (Page 29)

To improve performance there have been changes made to information collection, based on advised by Performance Intelligence Unit staff and reporting for Care Leavers. This should ensure more accurate data recording going forward.

Currently 206 care leavers are receiving leaving care services.

### Current Issues:

**5.01.04 Children in care aged between 17 and 18 with an allocated personal advisor**  
50.77% (33) children aged 17 have a personal adviser and 49.33% (32) children aged 17 do not have a personal adviser.

**5.01.08 Local Authority in Touch with Care Leavers**

84.5% (174) of care leavers have received a Personal Adviser Visit. 15.5% (32) have not received a PA Visit.

**5.1.09 Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation**

77.7% (160) care leavers are reported to be in suitable accommodation and 23.3% (46) are not.

**5.01.10 Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training**

The cohort of care leavers was 206: 78 (38%) EET and 128 (62%) NEET (reason: illness/disability/pregnancy or a PA visit to care leaver form not completed).

**5.01.11 Number of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan**

In March 17, 160 (77.7%) of care leavers have had a completed "Pathway" Plan activity on carefirst in last 6 months. 46 (22.3%) have not got a completed Plan. The figure is slightly lower for February 2017 (79.1%)

**Action: Team Focus on recording to ensure better compliance and evidence of performance**

### Head of Service Narrative – Julie Mepham

Work with Performance Information Unit is ongoing to ensure that the right information is captured from the Personal Advisor (PA) forms to improve recording and allow meaningful analysis of the service position. Our current position is poor. The Corporate Parenting service has extended the contract with C&K Careers for a FTE careers advisor to be placed within the service to work with the 18-24 cohorts.

PAs are charged with enabling their young people to sustain EET and ensuring additional support is in place where necessary.

The Virtual school have secured agreement for additional staff to work with the 16/17 year old cohorts of LAC. This will increase support and options for young people at this crucial stage.

The 16% is the young people who were not engaged with service or moved into unsuitable accommodation, some of which was custody. The figures show this a decreasing number. The PA service needs to be extended in 2017/18 to be compliant and young people aged 16+ will have a PA to the age of 25. Support will be needed from senior managers and the corporate parent board to ensure this happens as per the Ofsted report.

Performance in the Corporate Parenting Service in terms of Children's Plans is an improving picture with 79% of plans being in place at time of writing.



## Adoption: (Page 34)

### Current Issues:

#### **5.02.01 Number of Children Adopted as a Percentage of Children Leaving Care**

45 (16.54%) children left care as adopted. The average number of children leaving care per month over the past 12 months is 43 (17.43%).

#### **5.02.10 Number of children waiting to be placed in adoptive placements**

27 LAC with a SHOPBA date are not yet in an adoptive placement on last day of calendar month. This figure was 18 in April 16 and has increased significantly from 15 in Oct 16 to 27 in March 17.

### **Head of Service Narrative – Linda Patterson**

There continues to be evidence of an improving trend in timescales with current performance showing 513.6 days (**5.02.03**) from a child coming into care and being placed with an adopter. However over a three year timescales these improvements are not reflected due to a number of historical cases that have been in the adoption process.

There continues to be improvement in this area with current performance being at 153.9 days (**5.02.05**). In the last report, we declared 162.1 days. This cohort remains small and any delays in placing a child after court authority to place, impacts on the performance.

“One Adoption West Yorkshire” has been established as of the 1.4.17. They are now responsible for family finding for all Kirklees children with a plan for adoption. This new service will need time to embed with the aim that there is a greater choice of adopters to match the needs of our children and speedier family finding.

Action: Performance Intelligence Unit to ensure performance data is obtained from One Adoption West Yorkshire for future reporting

## Adopters: (Page 40)

### Current Issues:

#### **6.01.02 Adopter Initial Enquiries**

132 initial enquiries were received from prospective adopters during the 12 month rolling period. This is lower than 140 at Feb 17. This figure has declined month on month since 222 at April 16.

#### **6.01.03 Started/Completed Adopter Approval Process, Average Duration- Stage 1 & 2**

**Stage 2:** The average time to complete Stage 2 at March 17 is 86.4 (23). This has increased from 82.5 (19) at Feb 17.

### **Head of Service Narrative – Linda Patterson**

As at 1 April 2017 Kirklees is no longer responsible for the recruitment, assessment and approval of adopters. Since Jan 2017, all prospective adopters who have approached Kirklees have been recorded within the Leeds City Council's database (Leeds are the host for the “One Adoption” Agency). A standardised process has been in place across the 5 Local Authorities in West Yorkshire in terms of recruiting and assessing adopters in



anticipation of the implementation of One Adoption on 1.4.17. Going forward, performance information regarding the timescales for the assessment and approval of adopters will need to be requested from “One Adoption” as this data will not be collated by Kirklees Council.

## **Foster Carers: (Page 43)**

### **Current Issues:**

#### **6.02.01 Initial contacts in month, foster carer initial response in month and awaiting essential info part one in month**

**Awaiting Essential Info Part 1:** In March 17, 7 Awaiting Essential Info Part 1 were received. This has dropped from 11 in Feb 17. The figure was 3 in April 16 with an average of 4 per month over past 12 months.

#### **6.02.07 Fostering Approvals - In-house approvals and other approvals (IFA/OLA)**

**In House Approvals:** There were 0 In-house approvals in Feb and March 17. The figure was 5 in April 16 and the rate has increased slightly over the past 12 months, with a spike of 4 in Jan 17, before dropping to 0.

**Other Approvals:** In March 17, there were 10 “Other” approvals. The figure was 0 in April 16. The rate has increased significantly over the past 12 months.

#### **6.02.09 Breakdown of Foster Placements**

**Friends & Family Placements:** There were 90 F&F Placements. The figure was 79 in April 16.

**Independent Fostering Agency Placements:** In March 17, there were 188 Independent Fostering Placements. The figure was 161 in April 16.

### **Head of Service Narrative - Rob Finney – Service Manager**

We have been aware for some time that the recruitment in fostering has not been at the level needed. Robust plans have been put into place and we now have a team of fostering recruitment advisors that have replaced the fostering social workers. They have proved to be enthusiastic, bright and ideal for the task. They are managing the recruitment and retention activities for carers as well as all of the stage one assessment process. A new manager has been appointed to lead this team.

This has had some initial positive impact. Our target for the next three years is to recruit an additional 22 carers (net gain) per year over the next three years. We currently have 18 Form F assessments either being undertaken or ready to allocate in the very near future. This potentially puts us on track for well exceeding our first year target.

I would expect that as our pool of carers grows then we will make more internal placements at a ratio of up to 1.5 children per carer. If the LAC population remains stable, this will mean that we will be able to reduce the number of IFA and external placements to make significant savings.

The more focused recruitment activity is also being complemented with further development work in the service concentrating on 4 areas: compliance, quality assurance, business planning and leadership and management. There is good reason to be optimistic that the service can become good / outstanding given the time to implement and embed change, building on good resources and many areas of positive practice already in place.

## **Workforce: (Page 46)**

See tables pages 46-47

## **Summary**

A recommendation going forward would be that we provide the tables contained within the report to every Corporate Parenting board giving a detailed overview with a summary highlighting exceptions e.g. ' areas of Improvement' and 'areas of concern' so that the board is able to focus on the key issues to be addressed. In addition we will report on the indicators that are also success measures in the Ofsted Service Improvement Plan at every board meeting.