

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 April 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:

4.01.04 Children Entering Care by Placement

There has been a steady reduction in % of Residential Placements since May 16, (23.3%) to low of 5.5% in Feb 17, but rising back up in Apr 17 to 14.3% (however this is just 2 children)

Head of Service Narrative – Linda Patterson

No change from May 2017. 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

General trend is an increase in the use of foster care alongside a reducing number of children entering care. This percentage in fostering has increased from 58% in May 16 to 71% currently.

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

In Apr 17 is 78.6% (11) children were placed within Kirklees and 21.4% (3) were placed outside Kirklees. This is slight drop from Mar 17 (80.8%) but an overall improvement from May 16 when 69.2% (18) children were placed within Kirklees and 30.8% (8) were placed outside Kirklees.

Children in Care: (Page 8)

Current issues:

4.02.01: Children in Care

The current position in April 17 is 690 children in care. This is lower than 699 in Mar 17. The trend had been steadily increasing since May 16 (677 children) with a spike in Dec 16 of 705 children.

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.

In April 17, 64 (9.3%) children are placed at home. This is 34 children above the Target of 30 children. However, this is lower than the 9.4% (51) of children placed at home in Feb 17. The annual % trend is fairly static with slight increase to a peak of 81 (11.8%) in Oct 16.

Head of Service Narrative – Linda Patterson

Between December 2016 and March 2017, we held a dedicated Placement with Parents Permanence Panel to review all the children who are placed at home on Care Orders. Responsibility for ongoing reviewing was given to the IROs and Service from 1.4.17. This focus is beginning to positively impact on the numbers of children placed at home with parents - in that numbers are reducing where appropriate. Legal Gateway now meets weekly and is more robust and alternative plans are being put in place to support families to keep children at home without an Order.

The figure of 64 children on 4.02.03 for Placement with Parents for April 2017 also includes children who are placed at home under Section 38(6) of the Children Act as we have no means on Care First to separate these out. This gives a false picture of the number of PWP cases.

Children Leaving Care: (Page 13)

Improvement:

4.04.03 Children Leaving Care by Reason

In Apr 17, 20 (100%) of children left care with a positive outcome. This has improved from 14 (75%) in March 17. For the rolling 12 months, 94.7% (269) children have left care with positive outcomes and 5.3% (15) with negative outcomes.

Head of Service Narrative – Julie Mephram

In the 3 months to the end of April, there were 15 adoptions, 24 children and young people who returned home as planned and 6 who moved into independent living. However, 6 had left care for an unspecified reason. This will be investigated by the service to ensure correct recording. In the year to date only 2 young people have left care due to being sentenced to custody, both of whom were in Summer 2016. This is a very positive outcome.

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 is in line with statistical neighbours and national comparators. Placement Stability to be in line with statistical neighbours (10%) by December 2017*

In Apr 17 there were 14.6% (102) of LAC with three or more moves in 12 months, higher than the outcome of 13% (92) in Mar 17 and the highest recorded in the past 12 months (73 in May 16). We are currently 4.6% above the 10% target set to be reached by December 17. We would need to reduce the number of children and young people to 70 with 3 or more moves based on April 17 data.

4.05.02: Placement Stability within Two Years

April 17 outcome was 69.2% which was a 3.1% decrease from 72.3% in Mar 17. The percentage had been consistently over 70% since December 16 before dropping in Apr 17.

4.05.04 Social Worker Change

The number of social worker changes has been rising over the past 12 months, with the average number of social worker changes standing at 0.47 in May 16 and increasing to 1.18 in April 17. 12 month comparison (Children figures in brackets):

- 0 Changes - Decrease May 16 63% - Apr 17 29% (115)
- 1 Change - Increase May 16 28% - Apr 17 37% (peak Dec 16 46%) (146)
- 2 Changes - Increase May 16 8% - Apr 17 22% (88)
- 3 Changes - Increase May 16 1% - Apr 17 6% (23)
- 4 Changes - Increase May 16 0% - Apr 17 4% (14)
- 5 Changes - Increase May 16 0% - Apr 17 1% (4)
- 6 Changes - Increase May 16 0% - Apr 17 2% (6)

Improvement:

4.03.05: Placement Movement Reason for Looked After Children

In April 17 there were 19 placement movements, a reduction from 48 in Mar 17.

Improvements are:

- "Carer request Placement End" - Mar 17 (14) to Apr 17 (6)
- "Change to / Implementation of Care Plan" - Mar 17 (11) to Apr 17 (5)
- "Other reason" - Mar 17 (11) to Apr 17 (7)
- "No reason input"- Mar 17 (6) to Apr 17 (0)
- "Standards of Care Concern" Feb 17 (6) to Apr 17 (0)

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. The "Proceeding Team" has started its work and will deal primarily with Court work ensuring that children retain one worker throughout proceedings. The change in the management of the Legal Gateway and Permanence Panel has impacted positively on children coming into care and placement moves.

Performance around placement stability continues to give 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 July 17.

Looked After Children Reviews and Visits: (Page 18)

Current issues:

4.06.01: LAC Reviews within Statutory Timescale

For Apr 17 the % LAC Reviews within timescale is 92.45% - a decrease of 1.11% from Mar 17 (93.56%). This is the lowest figure since May 16 (98.5%) and has declined steadily since Dec 16.

4.06.03: Child Participation in LAC Reviews

In Apr 17, 91.57% of children participated in LAC reviews. Review participation increased steadily from May 16 (91.34%) to a high of 96.27% in February 2017, before dropping Mar 17 to 91.97%.

4.07.04: % LAC who have had a Statutory Visit in Line with Practice Standards

The current position is 82.5% of LAC has had a statutory visit in line with Practice Standards. The overall trend is an increase from December 2016 (76.95%)

4.07.03: Number of IRO visits held in the month

In April 17 7.3% of LAC had an IRO visit recorded, a 7.7% decrease from 15% in March 17. This is the lowest number recorded since Dec 16 (9.9%).

4.07.04: IRO visits held within timescale (6 months)

In April 17, 55.0% of LAC had a visit from an Independent Reviewing Officer recorded on CareFirst within the last 6 months (based on the cohort of LAC on the last day of calendar month) - This was a 5.2% decrease from Feb 17 (60.2%).

Head of Service Narrative – Kerrie Scraton

Within the Child Protection & Review Unit (CPRU), work has taken place to ensure that the importance of achieving 100% compliance for timeliness of LAC reviews is at the forefront of practice, supervision and team meetings. The allocation process has been changed as it was building in delay. The small decrease is due to the impact of absence in the CPRU, which is being proactively managed.

Missing Looked After Children: (Page 20)

Current Issues:

4.09.02: Missing LAC

In April 17 52% (13) of LAC went missing more than once in the month. The trend is similar over 16/17, with a dip in Nov 16 to 32% (6).

Head of Service Narrative – Sally Williams (MASH Service Manager)

Increase in missing notifications of 185, 133 of these were repeats. As of 8 June a Missing Pilot has been launched to ensure a quality missing from care service and this will provide clarity to this data.

An identified delay in completing return home interviews has been communicated between professionals. This process has been amended so a return home interview will be offered, unless specifically asked for this not to take place.

Looked After Children Education Outcomes: (Page 21)

NOTE: This section is not yet approved by the Virtual Head – data is being refreshed for the “not in full-time education” section

Current Issues:

4.10.01: Attainment LAC Key Stage 2

23.5% of Kirklees Looked after Children achieved Key Stage 2 Reading/Writing & Maths Combined in 2015/16. This is 1.5% below the England LAC rate of 25%

4.10.05: Attendance and Persistent Absence

LAC Attenders: LAC attendance was 93.6% up to April 2017 for the current academic year. 290 out of the cohort of 381 have had 95% attendance or above.

LAC Persistent Absentees: % LAC who are persistent absentees was 15.5% in April 2017. 9 of the 59 persistent absentees were borderline (between 85% and 90% attendance).

Head of Virtual School Narrative – Janet Tolley

In 2016, attainment at KS1 for Kirklees LAC reaching the expected standard or above was above national LAC for Reading and Science but below national LAC in Writing and Mathematics. The gap between all Kirklees children and the Virtual School is less than the national gap for Reading and Science, in-line for mathematics but below for writing.

In 2016, attainment at KS2 for Kirklees LAC reaching the expected standard or above in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined, was better than the West Yorkshire outcome, in line with national LAC but below Statistical Neighbours (by 2 pupils).

The attainment gap in Kirklees (between all children and LAC) was less than the national attainment gap for all indicators.

The Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) shows the Kirklees outcome to be in the following quartile nationally:

- Reading: Quartile D (Rank 58)
- Writing: Quartile B (Rank 40)
- Mathematics: Quartile B (Rank 32)
- Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling: Quartile C (Rank 63)
- Reading Writing & Mathematics: Quartile D (Rank 37)

In 2016, average progress scores at KS2 for Kirklees LAC:-

- Reading: The average progress score for Kirklees LAC is better than Statistical Neighbours but below that for national LAC. However, the LAC outcome is better than that for all Kirklees children.
- Writing: The average progress score for Kirklees LAC is in-line with Statistical Neighbours but below that for national LAC. However, the LAC outcome is better than that for all Kirklees children.
- Mathematics: The average progress score for Kirklees LAC is better than Statistical Neighbours and national LAC. However, the LAC outcome is just below that for all Kirklees children.

The Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) shows the Kirklees outcome to be in the following quartile nationally:

- Reading: Quartile C (Rank 69)
- Writing: Quartile C (Rank 80)
- Mathematics: Quartile B (Rank 47)

Looked After Children Health: (Page 26)

Current Issues:

4.11.11: Dental Checks within Last 12 Months

In April 17, 86.7% (507) of the current COHORT (LAC 12+ months) had a recorded dental check within the past 12 months on CareFirst - a decrease from Mar 2017 (89.4%). The overall trend has been a steady increase since June 2016 (66.8%).

4.11.13: Health Assessments within the Last 12 Months

For LAC aged Under 5 the Percentage of Developmental Assessments Up to Date was 99.3% in Apr 17, which was the higher than 97.8% in Mar 17. For LAC aged 5 + Over Health Assessments up to Date was 97.5% in Apr 17 and has continue to improve month on month from 94.7% in Oct 16.

Improvement:

4.11.12: Initial Health Assessments Completed on Time

In April 17 88.0% of Initial Health Assessments had been completed within 20 working days of the child coming into care - this is higher than Mar 17 (84%), but lower than 93.4% in May 16.

Head of Service Narrative – Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children

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. The slight increase in April 17 is due to this fact, the figure will fluctuate continually throughout the year, but the LAC team are ensuring they are contact carers. A large issue is that contact numbers for carers are not kept up to date on CareFirst.

4.11.12 Initial Health Assessments Completed on Time: Data provided monthly to LAC Nurse team by Locala shows Feb 95%, March 100% and April 100%. In February there

was 1 child with a late IHA, (with a reason of social worker had left and not notified carer). The Business Support Officer inputs assessments the day after clinic takes place (with exception of BSO annual leave). PIU will investigate possible issues with the data in liaison with LAC Nurse Team to ensure dates are being input correctly.

4.11.13 Annual health assessments – Under 5's 6 monthly up to date: Data provided monthly to LAC Nurse team by Locala shows 100% for April 17. The CareFirst data may be a result of lag in returns at month end. There were no Out of Area Developmental health assessments in April 17. A 30 hours LAC nurse has been funded for 12 months and started in post 1 May 2017. This will allow us to carry out the Review Health Assessments (RHA) for children living outside Kirklees, but within reasonable travelling distance (Bradford / Wakefield/ Leeds/ Manchester). We have seen a downturn in figures in RHAs where they are completed on our behalf in other LA areas.

4.11.16 Number of LAC who have been in care more than 12 months and identified as having a substance misuse problem during the last year and 4.11.17 Substance Misuse by LAC & 4.11.17 Offered and Accepted/Refused Services for Substance Misuse: There may be a number of 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.

Looked After Children Convictions: (Page 28)

Note: No new data available since the May 2017 Corporate Parenting Board.

Improvement:

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.

From Jan to March 17, 0.87% (3) YP were looked after continually for 12 months or more aged between 1 and 17 who have offended and received a substantive outcome. This figure is lower than April to June 16 data of 1.75% (6). This trend continued for July to Sept 16 and Oct to Dec 16 also. The % cumulative Offending data figure is 6.14% for period April 16 to March 17. There is no comparison data available.

Head of Service Narrative – Richard Ian Smith

LAC: The number of LAC young people who have offended in the 4th quarter is 0.87% which compares with 0.93% at the same period last year. For the year 2016/17 the figure is 6.14% This is a slight increase on the total for the year 2015/16 which was 5.9% For the year 2016/17 44.4% of LAC young people completed their orders successfully, compared to 29% for the previous year 2015/16. Over the same period 2016/17 64% of the general population completed orders successfully compared with 69.7% 2015/16. Thus, the year on year increase in successful completions by LAC from 29% in 15/16 to 44% in 16/17 gives a clear indication that the YOT is achieving its aim of bringing the successful completion rate of LAC young people more into line with that of the general YOT population.

Care Leavers: (Page 29)

Currently 212 care leavers are receiving leaving care services.

Current Issues:

5.01.10 Care Leavers Employment, Education and Training

In April 17 44.8% (95) of care leavers who were receiving leaving care services were in education, employment or training (EET)- this is an increase of 17 children from March 17 38% (78).

Improvement:

5.01.04 Children in care aged between 17 and 18 with an allocated personal advisor

In April 17, 75.41% of children had an allocated Personal Advisor. This is an improvement of 35% from March 17 (40%).

5.01.08 Local Authority in Touch with Care Leavers

In April 17, 95.8% of care leavers were still in touch with the Local Authority - this is an increase of 11.3% from March 17 (84.5%).

5.1.09 Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

In April 17, 86.3% (183) of care leavers were in suitable accommodation - this is an increase of 8.6% from March 17, 77.7% (160).

5.01.11 Number of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan

In April 17, 92% of care leavers had a completed Pathway Plan - this is an increase from 88.9% March 17.

Head of Service Narrative – Julie Mepham

Work with Performance Information Unit has ensured 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 but improving.

There has been a marked improvement in the percentage of young people who are in touch with the service. Only 4.2% are now NOT in touch. The percentage in suitable accommodation has increased by 8.6% (23 young people) and 17 more young people are now recorded as in EET.

There has been an improvement of 12 in the number of Care Leavers with a pathway plan recorded. Whilst compliance is improving, the next step is to ensure that the quality of plans is good or better.

Adoption: (Page 33)

Current Issues:

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

In the 12 months to April 17, 46 children left care as a result of Adoption or 16.7%, a slight increase from March 17. There has been a steady increase since 12 month low in Nov 16 of 15.2% (39). However, it remains below comparator data (Statistical Neighbours 2015/16 = 21.4%)

Improvement:

5.02.03 A1 Average timescale (days) between the child coming into care and being placed with the adopter

Improvement Plan Success Measure: By 31 December 2017 the average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family is in line with our statistical neighbours/England (522/523 days)

There has been improvement month on month from 1,033 days in June 16 to 370 days in April 17.

5.02.05 A2 Average timescale (days) between Kirklees council receiving court authority to place a child and the council deciding to match the child with an adoptive family

Improvement Plan Success Measure: By 31 December 2017, the average time between receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family is in line with our statistical neighbours/England (248/243 days). Note: Kirklees provisional outcome for 2015/16 is 337 days.

In April 17 there were 146.6 days between receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family. In line with Improvement Plan Success Measure, this rate is below the Statistical Neighbours/England rates for 2015/16 of 248/243 days.

5.02.10 Number of children waiting to be placed in adoptive placements

In April 17 there were 20 children. This is lower than Feb 17 and Mar 17 figure of 27 children. This is the lowest figure since Oct 16 (15 children).

Head of Service Narrative – Linda Patterson

5.02.03 A1 Average timescale (days) between the child coming into care and being placed with the adopter:

There continues to be evidence of an improving trend in timescales with current performance showing 370 days from a child coming into care and being placed with an adopter, significantly better than the DfE threshold. A representative of One Adoption (West Yorkshire) is now a member of our Legal Gateway and Permanence Panel. One Adoption is tracking all Kirklees children who have a provisional or confirmed plan for adoption.

5.02.05 A2 Average timescale (days) between Kirklees council receiving court authority to place a child and the council deciding to match the child with an adoptive family:

There continues to be improvement in this area with current performance being at 146.6 days and is improving towards the DfE threshold of 121 days. This cohort remains small

and any delays in placing a child after court authority to place, impacts on the performance. We are working in collaboration with One Adoption West Yorkshire to ensure timely matches to carers. For example, at 12th June Adoption Panel one child was matched after 38 days from the making of the Placement Order and the other after 75 days.

Adopters: (Page 39)

Current Issues:

6.01.02 Adopter Initial Enquiries

There were 116 initial enquiries during the 12 month rolling period running up to April 2017 - this is lower than 132 in March 17. The number has declined month on month from 221 initial enquiries at May 16.

6.01.03 Started/Completed Adopter Approval Process, Average Duration

Stage 1: At April 17, 16 Stage 1's were completed (same in March 17), this is slightly higher than 15 in Feb 17. **Stage 2:** At April 17, 23 Stage 2's were completed (same in March 17). The average time to complete Stage 2 at April 17 is 86.4 (no change from March 17), however, this has increased month on month from 74.8 in Oct 16.

Head of Service Narrative – Sarah Johal, Service Manager, One Adoption Yorkshire

Kirklees is no longer responsible for the recruitment, assessment and approval of adopters. Since January 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 from 1 April 2017.

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 41)

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: Initial Contacts were lower in April 17 (15) compared to Mar 17 (29). The rolling 12 month average per month is 23. Foster Carers Initial Response were lower in April 17 (18) compared to Mar 17 (30). Average per month is 19. Awaiting Essential info Part 1 in month was higher in April 17 (11) compared to March 17 (7).

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

In House Approvals: In Apr 17, there were 2 approvals. The figure was zero in both Mar 17 and Feb 17.

Other Approvals: In Apr 17, there were 4 approvals. The figure was 13 in May 16 and the rate has varied over the past 12 months, with spike in Jun 16 (17).

6.02.09 Foster Placements Split

Internal Fostering: There were 225 in-house placements in April 17. This is the highest figure since Jul 16 (224).

Friends & Family Placements: In Apr 17, there were 91 F&F Placements. The figure was 90 in Mar 17. The number has decreased during the past 12 months from 80 in May 16 to a low of 65 in Oct /Nov 16.

Independent Fostering Agency Placements: In Apr 17, there were 163 Independent Fostering Placements, which is lower than Mar 17 (188). The figure was 161 in April 16 and the rate has steadily increased month on month before dropping in April 17 to 163.

Head of Service Narrative - Rob Finney – Service Manager / Julie Mepham – Head of Service

Initial contacts have dropped in April 17 to 15, which is below the year average of 23. Data integrity checks are being carried out on this area of recording.

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 22 Form F assessments being undertaken. This potentially puts us on track for well exceeding our first year target.

The number of foster placements has increased from 217 in March to 225 in April and Independent Fostering Agency Placements have reduced from 188 in March to 163 in April. 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 ensure that children are looked after in Kirklees (wherever possible). This shift will also make significant financial savings.

More focused recruitment activity is taking place 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 given the time to implement and embed change, building on good resources and many areas of positive practice already in place.

Workforce: (Page 44)

Summary

The service total has increased to 94.62 FTE agency staff, equating to 27.4% of the overall Social Work Capacity of 345.70 FTE. The majority of agency staff are in Assessment & Intervention (69.62 FTE). The agency percentage has been impacted by the loss of Kirklees Social Work staff to One Adoption as part of the regional arrangements. The service average caseload continues to fluctuate around the 18 case mark. Also most teams show a fluctuating picture. There has been a further reduction in the Disabled Children's Service Social Worker caseloads. At the end of April 2017, the highest caseloads were seen in Assessment & Intervention Teams 5 and 11 at 30.7 and 30.4 children respectively.