

Highlight Report for Child Protection & Family Support Corporate Parenting Board 18 September 2017

Key Performance Issues at 30 June 2017

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

Residential placements have increased slightly from 11.8% (2) in May 17 to 23.5% (4) in June 17.

4.01.05 Children entering care by placement: Within LA Boundary / Outside LA boundary

In June 17, 52.9% (9) children were placed within the Kirklees boundary. This shows a reduction from Apr 17 of 79% (11). The overall trend has been reducing from a year high of 81.1% (30) in Nov 16. In contrast, 47.1% (8) children were placed outside Kirklees boundary and this rate is the highest in the last 12 months.

Head of Service Narrative (Julie Mephram – Corporate Parenting)

All new admissions to care require the agreement of the Head of Service and Service Director and are reviewed each Monday at the weekly Legal Gateway Panel. All requests to initiate care proceedings are considered at the weekly Legal Gateway Panel, chaired currently by the Service Director with representatives from each Service, Legal Services and One Adoption.

Improvement:

4.01.07 Children entering care, placement 20 miles or more from home:

In June 17, 88.2% (15) children were placed inside 20 miles. This increased from 41% (7) in April 17 to 94.1% (16) in May 17, before reducing again in June 17 to 88.2% (15), due to data improvement. The recording of “No Post Code” has improved from 36% (5) in April 17 to zero in May and June 17

Head of Service Narrative (Julie Mephram – Corporate Parenting)

We have a weekly consultation in place with Early Help Managers to access appropriate services to support children to remain at home. This has been in place since the 26th of July 2017.

Arrangements are being finalised for a combined ‘At Risk of Care Panel/Resources Panel’ – this will enable families to be supported to continue to care for their children and young people and will consider where children can return home, this will also include facilitating access to a package of support where appropriate

Children in Care: (Page 9)

Current issues:

4.02.03 Placement type and provider: Placed for Adoption

Number of Children placed for Adoption dropped from 21(3%) in Apr 17 to 17 (2.6%) in Jun 17.

4.02.07 Children subject to a care order and placed: a: At home and b: Not 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. Figures evidence we are not meeting improvement target.

In June 17, 8.9% (59) children were placed at home. This is 29 children above the Service Improvement Target of 30 to be achieved by July 17. The trend has been decreasing monthly from a peak of 81 (11.8%) in Oct 16.

4.02.08 Duration of stay at home under a care order

6-12 months: increased to a year high of 24.2% (15) Apr 17, dropping to 22% (13) June 17. The trend has been increasing monthly from 8.2% (5) in July 16.

12<18 months: increased from 6.3% (4) Apr 17 to 10.2% (6) June 17. The trend has been increasing since Nov 16 (1).

Head of Service Narrative (Julie Mepham – Corporate Parenting)

The length of time that children have been placed at home under Placement of Children with Parents Regulations varies from February 2008 to June 2017 as the start date for the placement. All of these children were reviewed at dedicated Permanence Panels held between December 2016 and March 2017 and responsibility for ensuring the plan is reviewed and is appropriate for the child sits with the allocated Independent Reviewing Officer for each child. The remainder are children in care proceedings, placed at home under Placement of Children with Parents Regulations 2011 or under Section 38(6) of the Children Act 1989. The latter arrangement will cease at the conclusion of the care proceedings and are subject to court scrutiny.

One of the Service Managers within the Child Protection Review Unit has been tasked with auditing the children subject to Care Orders – this is to be progressed in early September 2017. There are plans in place to seek Special Guardianship Orders in respect of two of these children; to seek removal in respect of two and a request for discharge is to be considered at Panel for another child.

All new requests for children to be placed at home on either Interim or full Care Orders are considered by Legal Gateway Panel or Permanence Panel.

Improvement:

4.02.01 Children in care - numbers in care per 10,000 of age 0-17 pop.

Current Target 66: In June 17 665 (67.3) children were in care. This is 9 lower than 674 (68.2) in May 17 and 25 lower than 690 (69.8) in April 17. The trend has been steadily decreasing from a peak of 705 (71.4) in Dec 16.

Children Who Ceased To Be Looked After: (Page 14)

Current issues:

4.04.01 Children who ceased to be looked after

The number of Children leaving care in June 17 was 18, which is significantly below May 17 figure of 36. The 12 month average is 25 per month.

Improvement:

4.04.03 Children who ceased to be looked after by reason: Positive Outcome and Other Outcome

In June 17, 17 (94.4%) children left care with a positive outcome. One child (5.6%) left care under "any other reason". There was a dip in May to 83.3% (60 children), 6 children (16.7%) had negative outcomes, with "Care ceased for any other reason" selected for 4 children.

Head of Service Narrative (Julie Mephram – Corporate Parenting and Linda Patterson – Assessment & Intervention)

Children leave care as they achieve 18, this number may have naturally been lower for June 17. It is hard to say why the numbers of children who ceased to be looked after has increased over the past 12 month. Since July 16 fewer children are coming into care. Further interrogation of the data is required, which will be provided for the next Board.

Looked After Children Moves: (Page 18)

Improvement:

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 17.

Figures show we are currently 2.2% above the 10% target set to be reached by Dec 17. We would need to reduce the number of children and young people to 67 by Dec 17, based on June 17 data.

In June 17 there were 12.2% (81) of LAC with three or more moves in 12 months, lower than the outcome of 13.9% (94) in July 16 and the lowest number recorded in the past 12 months.

4.05.02 Placement stability within 2 years

In June 17 the figure was 73.1% and the highest in the last 12 months. The percentage has been consistently over 70% since December 16.

4.05.03 Placement movement reasons (also see table 1 p19)

In June 17 there were 13 Placement Movements, a reduction from 35 in May 17. Improvements are:

"Carer requesting Placement End" March 17 (12) reducing to June 17 (4)

"Change to / Implementation of Care Plan" - March 17 (11) reducing to June 17 (5)

"No reason input" - Mar 17 (8) reducing to June 17 (2) (due to data improvement)

4.05.04 Social worker Change of LAC in care 12+ Months: Number of Social Worker changes and Average

The number of social worker changes had increased to a 12 month high of 482 in May 17, but decreased to 390 in June. The average number of social worker changes standing at 0.86 in July

16, increasing to a 12 month high of 1.22 in May 17 then decreasing again to 0.99 June 17. (also see Performance Overview on p19).

Head of Service Narrative (Julie Mepham – Corporate Parenting)

Performance around placement stability is currently on an improving trend. The Placement Support Team is having an impact in terms of placement stability through the additional support they provide to the child and carer predominantly using skills and techniques to enhance the support to the placement. Increasing stability across the workforce is also a key factor as this facilitates the forming of positive relationships between the child, carer and the worker.

We had 8 children with 5 moves – these are children with a permanence plan to remain looked after into adulthood. Four are aged 16 and the youngest child is aged 12. A significant number of children have had 2 moves – these include children placed initially in an emergency placement; children who have moved to their long term placement; children subsequently placed with adopters.

Children and Young People experience placement moves for a number of reasons. A number of these are planned moves to enable their permanence plan being achieved – a move to an adoptive family following a match being agreed at Adoption Panel; a move to a long term foster placement as agreed by Fostering Panel and a move to supported accommodation as part of a young person's Pathway Plan.

Unplanned moves occur for a number of reasons – placement providers/foster carers giving notice on placements where they no longer feel that they can meet the needs of the child/young person; increasing risks such as CSE or Missing where it is deemed that a child/young person cannot be kept safe; as a young person being unwilling to remain in their identified placement. In addition, at this time of the year, some children will have experienced moves due to their carers having holiday commitments.

Looked After Children Reviews and Visits: (Page 21)

Current issues:

4.06.03 Child participation in reviews (PN1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

In June 17, 85.4% (41) of children participated in LAC reviews. This is the lowest figure in the last 12 months, there have been dips and spikes throughout the year, with a high of 96.4% in Feb 17.

4.07.01 LAC visits within statutory timescale: % of LAC visited in the last 6 weeks

Improvement Plan Success Measure: By September 2017, audits completed will evidence that 85% of visits to looked after children were completed on time (every 6 weeks), increasing to 85% by December 2017 and by March 2018, this will be 98%.

The Improvement Plan Success Measure is 85%, however, at June 17 we remain 23.1% below the target set for Sept 17.

In June 17 61.9% of looked after children have had a statutory visit recorded within the last 6 weeks. - this is a decrease of 4.6% from Apr 17.

The overall trend for the last year has been increasing from July 16 (35.9%) to June 17 (61.9%) with a high of 68% in Jan 17.

Improvement:

4.06.01 LAC Reviews Within Statutory Timescale

For June 17 the % LAC reviews within timescale is 98.3% (633) - an increase of 5.8% from May 17. This is the highest figure since September 2016 (99%).

4.07.01 LAC visits within statutory timescale: % LAC who have had statutory visit in line with Practice Standards

In June 17 87.46% of LAC had a statutory visit recorded, an increase from 81.82% in Apr 17. The overall trend is an increase from December 2016 (76.95%) to June 2017 (87.46%)

4.07.03 Number of Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) visits held in the month (No of visits recorded on Carefirst)

In June 17, 10.8% (72) of LAC had an IRO visit recorded. However, the trend has been steadily decreasing from a year high of 19.6% (131) in Sept 16.

4.07.04 IRO visits held within timescale (6 months) (No. of LAC with a visit by an IRO recorded on Carefirst within the last 6 months based on the cohort of LAC on the last day of calendar month)

In June 17, 57.2% (380/664) of LAC had an IRO visit. The trend shows a steady increase from 45.3% in July 16. We saw a year high of 60.5% in Feb and March 17, reducing to 55% in April 17.

Head of Service Narrative (Reviews Kerrie Scraton – Safeguarding Assurance)

Within the Child Protection & Review Unit (CPRU), scrutiny continues to ensure we achieve 100% compliance for timeliness of LAC reviews which is reviewed in practice, supervision and team meetings. Allocation takes place at the point of notification, delay is challenged and discussed with teams. The impact of IRO absence in the CPRU is being proactively managed, but remains a concern. The current position is 2 interims IROs leaving the service this week and 2 IROs currently on long term sickness.

Statutory visits remains below expectations, although data reporting is being used to drill down further. Data integrity remains an issue and these continue to be reviewed on a Team by Team and Case by Case basis. Analysis of the Annex A downloads reflects ongoing improvement within Statutory Visits recorded and those within timescales. Visits to children by IROs has been reviewed and its anticipated accurate recording of these events will reflect an improvement. This area of work will remain a Service priority in conjunction with Performance and Intelligence Unit team. This is an area of ongoing review and improvement.

Visits are being undertaken by social workers, however, they are not recorded timely on Carefirst. Delays with visits occur when looked after children go on summer holiday and combined with annual leave of staff and sickness in the LAC teams over the summer, this has further impacted on delays in recording.

Missing Looked After Children: (Page 23)

Current issues:

4.09.02: Missing LAC

b. Number of LAC that have more than one missing episode in the month (repeat mispers)

In June 17 this was 50% (13), higher than May 17, 34% (10).

Improvement:

4.09.02: Missing LAC

a. Number of LAC having at least one Missing episode per month

In June 17 this was 3.9% (26), lower than the previous month of May 17, 4.3% (29). The overall trend for the year has been a decrease from a year high of 5.3% (36) in July 16

4.09.03 Independent Return Interviews for LAC offered within 72 hours of the child being located

In June 17, 71.4% (5 out of 7) Independent Return Interviews for LAC were offered (although low denominator/numerators in April, May and June undermine analysis). The year average is 50.3% (89 out of 177).

Head of Service Narrative (Sally Williams – Integrated Response)

The LAC missing pilot project commenced in early June and has continued to build on the developing links with all children's homes across Kirklees. The pilot project aims to drive up our awareness and safety response to the risks that children face when missing episodes occur. The pilot project is made up of a small team of practitioners, this now offers a more consistent response to LAC missing young people, through the provision of the Independent Return Interviews. The practitioners in the project team then hold the case holding social worker to account for the ongoing work to keep the child safe. As part of the project team we have taken an approach that all LAC children who go missing are automatically offered a return home interview, thus stripping out a part of the process that was inadequate and resulted in our poor performance.

There continues to be challenges with the private providers as the young people within these placements are often the most challenging. However relationships with these providers continue to improve with the increase in consistency and stability by the project team. This means that we are in a better position to hold other local authorities to account for the safe care planning of their children placed here in Kirklees. Partnership working with the police has continued to develop, this in turn has led to a decrease in the response time to missing episodes. A regular monthly forum has been re-established to discuss patterns and emerging trends with the LAC cohort of missing young people.

Looked After Children Education Outcomes: (Page 21)

Current Issues:

4.10.01: Attainment LAC Key Stage 2

Reading Test: Kirklees 38% England 41% ↓ -3%

Combined: Kirklees 24% England 25% ↓ -1%

4.10.05: Attendance and Persistent Absence

LAC Attenders: At June 17, LAC attendance was 93.4% . This is lower than March (94.2%)

LAC Persistent Absentees: In June 17, 17% (63) LAC were classed as persistent absentees this is higher than April 17, 15.5% (59)

4.10.07 Pupils not in full time educational provision with reasons

In June 17, there are 482 LAC children with 3.9% (19 children) in part-time education. This is the highest figure in the past 12 months (year average 2.5%). There has been an increase in the use of "Other" for purposes of recording. **This needs to be addressed to enable accurate data analysis.** Increased to 6 in June 17 when year average is 3 per month.

Head of Virtual School Narrative – Janet Tolley

4.10.01 Attainment LAC: This will remain the same until the SFR release in November

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)

4.10.05 Attendance and Persistent Absence: The analysis of this data highlights the need for further clarity about the reporting process, we are looking into this with the data team and hope to provide more detailed response at the next reporting cycle.

4.10.07 Pupils not in full time educational provision with reasons: There are currently 5 pupils who do not have an identified provision due to a placement move. Currently the only code to record this in synergy is "other". There is no appropriate code in synergy for this as it is designed to record reasons for a reduced timetable rather than no school place.

Improvement:

4.10.01:

Attainment LAC Key Stage 2

Writing TA: Kirklees 47% England 46% ↑ +1%

Maths Test: Kirklees 47% England 41% ↑ +6%

KS4

5+ A*-C GCSE: Kirklees 23% England 18% ↑ +5%

4.10.02 a: Personal Education Plans (PEP) up to date (current school age LAC with PEP in the last 6 months)

In June 17, 97.5% (474) LAC had a PEP in last 6 months, the highest figure since 97% in Feb 17.

b: Initial PEP completed within 20 working days of child coming into care

In June 17, 48% had initial PEP completed, slightly lower than May 17 (49.7%) but the trend has been improving steadily since reporting started in Mar 17 (41.4%).

Head of Virtual School Narrative – Janet Tolley.10.01: Attainment LAC KS4

4.10.01: In 2016, attainment at KS4 for Kirklees LAC:-

Achieving A*C in both English and Mathematics GCSE was significantly above all comparator data. In addition to this, the attainment gap between Kirklees LAC and all Kirklees Children (38.5) is better than the equivalent national data (41.8).

Entering the English Baccalaureate: 11.4% of Kirklees LAC were entered for EBacc which is significantly higher than all comparators.

Achieving the English Baccalaureate: 5.7% attained the EBacc which is significantly higher than other all comparators.

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

% achieving A*C in both English and Mathematics GCSE: Quartile B (Rank 22) NB: (EBacc data not available via LAIT)

The attainment 8 score is higher than all comparator averages.

The Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) shows the Kirklees outcome to be in the following quartile nationally: LAC KS4 average Attainment 8 score: Quartile A (Rank 25)

In 2016, progress at KS4 for Kirklees LAC:- The average Progress 8 score is higher than all comparator averages.

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

- LAC KS4 average Progress 8 score: Quartile A (Rank 26)
- LAC overall absence: Quartile B (Rank 72)
- LAC unauthorised absence: Quartile B (Rank 75)
- LAC who are classed as persistent absentees: Quartile B (Rank 51)

4.10.02: There has been a reduction in the percentage of initial PEP that happened within 20 working days of the child coming into care. It should be noted that this calculation does not take account of school holidays. Practice Standards state:

“PEP to be completed within 20 working days of the placement (practitioner to consult with Virtual School), to be available at the first LAC review and subsequently updated before the LAC Review”

The Virtual School leads on all initial PEPs and we are investigating the reasons why this figure is so low and any action that can be taken to improve this.

There appear to be 3 main issues:-

- The notification period, we receive the daily “new into care report” but children do not always appear on this straight away, and sometimes for over 10 days.
- Initial PEP’s when some or all of the 20 day period falls within school holidays - we believe that it is essential that the school / educational provision are represented.
- The child has moved and is not yet on a school roll, as educational provision was not finalised prior to the move.

In terms of actions required for improvement discussions are at an early stage to move things forward

Looked After Children Health: (Page 30)

Improvement:

4.11.13: Health Assessments within the Last 12 Months

June 17 was 96.6 % (112) , the rate has dropped from a sustained 99% in Mar, Apr and May 17. However, the rate is higher than July 16 (93.7%). The rate fluctuates over the last 12 months, year average is 95.7%

4.11.17 Number of LAC children: b. Offered and refused substance misuse intervention during the 12 months period prior to month

In May and June 17 the figure was 5. The overall trend has been an increase since July 16 (2) to June 17 (5)

4.11.12: Initial Health Assessments Completed on Time

In June 17 95.1% Initial Health Assessments were completed on time. This is the highest figure since July 16. LAC Nurse Team and Performance Intelligence Unit have worked together to resolve a recording issue on Carefirst which has now seen an improvement in the data

Narrative – Gill Addy, Designated Nurse for Looked After Children

4.11.13 Annual health assessments: The LA group all age review health assessments together. In order to determine the reasons or themes for breach, Locala data is separated into 'developmental under 5yrs' & 'annual over 5 yrs' assessments and those completed 'in area' and 'out of area'. Locala data for review assessments shows:

In Area: Developmental – 100% (n13)

Annual – 100% (n33)

Out of Area: Developmental – 100% (n1)

Annual – 86% (n7)

The quarterly figures for our 'out of area' assessments being completed in timescales has risen dramatically. This is felt to be due to the additional nursing hours (30) provided by the CCG. These hours have been given for 12 months from May 17. This has allowed the LAC nurses to travel more widely regionally and to ensure they are completed in timescales where possible. Quarter 4 (Jan to March 17) was 41% on time, quarter 1 (April-June) is 85%. Completing the assessments ourselves, reduces the workload for the LA BSO in requesting, administration and follow up, improves timescales and is financially viable

4.11.17 Number of LAC children: a. Offered and accepted a substance misuse intervention b. Offered and refused during the 12 months period: Substance misuse figures remains low, and has shown an increase in uptake of support offered in the 12 months. When drop in centre opens in Huddersfield, the LAC nurses will, in association with sexual health and substance misuse outreach, offer support to young people, which will hopefully see a further increase and acceptance of support offered. Going forward, I see an opportunity to work more closely with the substance misuse worker for The Base. There is an opportunity for closer links with children from other local authorities who are placed in Kirklees to have access to our outreach workers.

4.11.12 Locala records show that there have been no breaches up to and including June 17.

Looked After Children Convictions: (Page 32)

Current Issues:

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.

% Offending (qtr): During Apr-Jun 17/18 Q1, 2.03% (7) Looked After Children aged 10-17 had offended and received a substantive outcome. This figure is higher than previous quarter Jan-Mar 16/17 Q4 of 0.87% (3).

% Offending (yr): The % Offending data figure for 17/18 Q1 is 2.03%. This is 0.28% higher than 16/17 Q1 figure of 1.75%.

Head of Service Narrative – Richard Ian Smith

While there has been a small increase in the percentage of LAC offending in the latest quarter, this is based on a very small number, 7 in total, and is not significant. Since 2014/15 Kirklees figures have stabilised at around 6% of LAC offending for the full year. This is a significant reduction from 9.9% in 2012/13. The latest published figures (2015/16) show a national average of 5% of LAC offending, while regionally the range was between 5% and 9%. It should be noted that these returns are provided by each local authority individually and we are not aware of any validation exercise. Also numerous local authorities, locally and nationally have not submitted any figures.

Some three years ago Kirklees YOT became aware that successful outcomes for LAC young people that we worked with were significantly worse than those of the general YOT population. We have taken various measures to address this including having specialist YOT Officers who work with all LAC cases. Over the past 18 months there has been an increase in the percentage of LAC young people having a successful outcome to their YOT intervention. Such that for the latest quarter (April to June 2017) the percentage of LAC young people successfully completing their YOT intervention was greater than the general YOT population.

Care Leavers: (Page 33)

Currently 218 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).

5.01.11 Number of Care Leavers with a Pathway Plan

In June 17, 89.4% (195) of care leavers had a completed Pathway Plan - this is a decrease from 92% in April 17.

Head of Service Narrative (Julie Mephram – Corporate Parenting)

We have an Education Training and Employment (ETE) advisor in the leaving care team. We have an ASDAN course “preparation for adult life” which we are running a pilot of 10 young people currently, this is counted ETE. There is a participation apprentice in children’s rights. We are developing 2 business support traineeships in the leaving care service to staff the drop in centre. We are approaching a local based national company to look at how they might work with us under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy to offer ETE opportunities. The Service Manager for Care Leavers is working with wider council and HR partner apprenticeships, to look at

developing work tasters, shadowing opportunities, apprenticeships and jobs for care experienced young people.

195 out of 218 (89.5%) Care Leavers have a Pathway Plan. Whilst compliance is improving, the next step is to ensure that the quality of plans continues to improve

Improvement:

5.01.01 Care Leavers

In June 17, 218 Care Leavers are receiving leaving care services. This is the highest monthly total for the last 12 months. The overall trend is a steady increase in numbers since July 2016 (191).

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

In June 17, 80% of children aged between 17 & 18 had an allocated Personal Advisor. The highest figure since recording began in Feb 17 was Apr 17 (75.41%)

5.01.08 Local Authority in Touch with Care Leavers

In June 17, 98.2% (214) of Care Leavers were still in touch with the Local Authority. There has been positive improvement each month since Feb 17 (89.3%) when reporting commenced.

5.1.09 Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation

The trend is improving month on month since the start of reporting in Feb 17 (83%) to Jun 17 (92.7%).

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. As at the end of June, there were 4 out of 218 Care Leavers who the service was not in touch with for the purposes of this indicator, however this was at the request of these 4 young people.

The percentage in suitable accommodation now stands at 92.7% (202 out of 218) and is on an improving trajectory.

Adoption: (Page 37)

Current Issues:

5.02.09 How many children are placed in their adoptive placements

In June 17, 17 children were placed, which is a decrease of 3 from May 17 (20).

The trend has been a decrease month on month since Aug 16 (30). The year average is 24 children per month.

Head of Service Narrative (Linda Patterson – Referral, Assessment & Protection)

We currently have 42 children open in the Service who are subject to a Placement Order. Of these, 27 are not yet placed with their adoptive families. A number are booked into Adoption Panel for a match and family finding is ongoing for all of these children. One Adoption West Yorkshire are responsible for family finding for these children, working with the child's Social Worker. Of this 27, there are some sibling groups of 2 and 3 where Care Plans for permanence are being reviewed given the length of time family finding has been ongoing. For two children, they have experienced an adoption breakdown

Improvement:

5.02.10 Number of children waiting to be placed in adoptive placements

In June 17 there were 25 children. This has increased since the reported figure of 20 in April 17 and increased steadily between Nov 16 (22) and March 17 (27). The year average is 23 children.

Head of Service Narrative (Linda Patterson – Referral, Assessment & Protection)

“In June 17, 17 children were placed, which is a decrease of 3 from May 17 (20). The trend has been a decrease month on month since Aug 16 (30). The year average is 24 children per month.” We currently have 42 children open in the Service who are subject to a Placement Order. Of these, 15 are placed with their adoptive families having been matched at Panel. For a number of these children, we are awaiting a court date to enable an Adoption Order to be made.

Adopters: (Page 43)

Current Issues:

Improvement:

6.01.01 Number of adopters approved by Kirklees Council during a 12 month rolling period

The number of adopters approved over rolling 12 month period has improved steadily since July 16 to a year high of 31 in June 17.

6.01.02 Adopter Initial Enquiries

The number of initial enquiries over rolling 12 months did drop to a year low in Apr 17 (130) , but we have seen a steady rise to 152 in Jun 17. However, this is lower than 200 in July 16.

6.01.05 Completion rate of adopter process from initial enquiry to approval on a rolling 12 month basis

The completion rate has continue to improve over the past 12 months, dipping to a low of 6.4% in Sept 16 , steadily increasing to a year high of 20.4% in June 17.

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

Performance Intelligence Unit has been in contact with managers at One Adoption and are awaiting confirmation as to how and when data will be provided in the future. We will also need to consider the impact of previous performance recording and make the necessary changes.

Foster Carers: (Page 45)

Current Issues:

6.02.01 Activity During Period:

a: Initial contacts in month, foster carer initial response in month

Initial Contacts were higher in June 17 (25) compared to April 17 (15). The rolling 12 month average per month is 25.

b. Foster carer initial response in month

Foster Carers Initial Response were higher in June 17 (27) compared to Apr 17 (18). Average per month is 21.

c. Awaiting essential info part one in month

Awaiting Essential info Part 1 in month was lower in June 17 (7) compared to Apr 17 (11). Average per month is 5.

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

a: Total

There was 1 approval in June 17, this is lower than April and May 17 where there were 6 approvals. The Rolling 12 months approvals figure has reduced from 115 in Apr 17 to 90 in Jun 17

In House Approvals:

In June 17, there were no approvals. The figure was 1 in May 17 and 2 in Apr 17. Monthly average for year is 1.

Other Approvals:

In June 17, there was 1 approval. The figure was 5 in May and 4 in Apr 17. The rate has decreased in last 12 months (12 in July 16), with spike in Mar 17 of 10. Monthly average for year is 6. The Rolling 12 months IFA/OLA approvals figure has reduced from 98 in Apr 17 to 74 in June 17

6.02.09 Foster Placements Split

Friends & Family Placements: In June 17, there were 86 F&F Placements. The figure was 90 in May 17, and 91 in Apr 17. The numbers decreased in the 5 months from July 16 (70) to a low of 65 in Oct /Nov 16, then increased from 75 in Dec 16 to a high of 91 in Apr 17.

Independent Fostering Agency Placements: In June 17, there were 182 Independent Fostering Placements, which is slightly lower than May 17 (186). The figure was 177 in July 16 and the rate had steadily increased month on month with a dip in April 17 (163).

Improvement:

6.02.09 Foster Placements Split

In-house Foster Placements: There were 207 In House Placements in June 17. This has decreased from a year high of 225 in Apr 17. The figure at July 16 was a high of 224

Head of Service Narrative - Rob Finney – Service Manager

The rate of recruitment activity still shows a general upward trend which is really helpful. We have 22 Form F assessments currently ongoing and as previously described, had trouble in allocating 10 of those, however, 8 have now been allocated and the rest will be allocated before the end of August.

Placement numbers remain stable and will be so until the current form F's are completed, which I anticipate will be by November / December. At this point we should see internal placement numbers increase significantly and IFA numbers decrease. Why there was such a fluctuation in April is difficult to explain but plans are now being worked on to improve the recording of placements in a more timely manner, including contemporaneous Individual Placement Agreements capturing placement details and our expectations of providers from day one.

By early September 2017 an IRO and a panel advisor will be in post and this will be useful in terms of additional capacity that will have a positive impact on quality. There is much to remain optimistic about with regard to the future development of the service, including development of data with Performance Intelligence Unit. In September 2017 a more robust approach to gathering internal data will be trialled that will help us to demonstrate better management grip.

Workforce: (Page 48)

Current issues:

7.02.04 Caseload

The service average caseload continues to fluctuate around the 18 case mark with the overall average now being above this mark. Also most teams show a fluctuating picture. At the end of

June 2017, the highest caseloads were seen in Assessment & Intervention Teams 2 and 13 at 31.1 and 30.5 children respectively. The details of actual caseloads were discussed at the July Quality Performance & Review Meeting.

Improvement:

7.02.02 Agency Staff - Service Level

Improvement Plan Success Measure: Proportion of agency staff is in line with national comparators (10%) by December 2017 (Linked to recruitment and retention strategy)

Kirklees is currently 10.1% above this target.

There has been a further reduction in June 17 in the number of agency staff and the agency rate, particularly in Assessment & Intervention and in Social Worker roles. NB: The reorganising of the service means that both MASH and A&I are currently included in the Referral, Assessment and Protection data. (MASH has a more stable workforce than A&I)

Head of Service Narrative: Linda Patterson – Service Manager

7.02.02 Agency Staff - Service Level : Assessment & Intervention (A&I) continues to have significant levels of agency Social Workers and the priority remains to recruit substantive staff, including any agency workers who are seeking substantive employment.

There is an open advert for experienced Social Workers and interviews are scheduled in weekly. In addition, there are adverts out currently for additional Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSWS) and substantive Team Managers in A&I and LAC.

We are in the process of confirming start dates for at least 7 Social Workers across A&I and LAC teams (this is subject to checks and references). At the time of writing we have confirmed start dates for 4 experienced social work staff in A&I with more interviews planned. LAC & Care Leavers Service has start dates for at least 3 new SWs.

7.02.04 Caseload: Work is ongoing re the appropriate closure of cases allowing Social Workers to focus on children who require a current service from us. The Proceedings Team caseload includes children who have plan for adoption and subject to placement order. Plans are in place to transfer these cases to the LAC service. The Step-In Team is making a significant impact on the strategy to stem the flow of work into A&I. Over a period of 7 weeks, the Team has assessed 143 children, 7 of which have been transferred to A&I. Of the 136 which did not transfer approximately half transferred to Early Help with the other half being closed (NFA or transfer to TAF etc.). This is the equivalent of the caseload of 6 Social Workers had they been allocated to A&I. The Step-In Team Manager has attended 5 TAF meetings which were intended to step-up cases - after providing guidance and support to the professionals, only one case necessitated a step-up. The Service has now established weekly meetings between A&I and Early Help (EH) to agree action on cases that can be stepped down to EH.

*Performance Intelligence Unit
Child Protection & Family Support Service
August 2017*