

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 19th November 2018
Title of report: Children in Care Services Performance Highlights
 (September 2018)

Purpose of report

This report outlines key performance data and highlights for children in care and care leavers up to September 30th 2018.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable – for information
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane for Sal Tariq – 7.11.18
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Not applicable
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick (Children)

Electoral wards affected: None

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

The key performance data and highlights for children in care and care leavers up to September 30th 2018 is as follows:-

Number of children in care

The number of children in care has continued to decline with a reduction of 21 since October 2017, the current number of children in care being 631 at the end of September 2018.

Decision making for looked after children

The Legal Gateway Permanence Panel continues to support consistency in regards to decision making in relation to children becoming looked after, planning in relation to long term placement moves for children and young people is considered at the permanence panel. A weekly External Placement Review Panel is now in place, to provide better oversight of children who are not placed in council provision. An External Placement Review of all children who are placed out of Local Authority to consider their care planning and explore options of returning to the local area if this is in line with meeting the children and young person's needs. We have reviewed all children in care who were placed at home on interim or full care orders as a legal status (Placed with Parents), this has led to a reduction in those numbers.

Placement Stability and support

For Placement Stability the placement support team are very active and we have implemented innovative solutions to support our children in several placements. When a foster carer or placement gives 28 day notice, the Team Manager will coordinate a meeting within 5 working days to look at what can be provided to avoid placement breakdown and to maintain the current placement.

We have reinstated Placement Stability Meetings to identify when and what support placements require. We will also use lessons learned to inform practice. We aim to recruit more local foster carers to provide more local placement options.

Placement Support Team are increasingly focussing their work on some of our most trouble and young people to help build resilience in placements. We continue to maintain over 95% of children and young people being reviewed within statutory timescales. August saw a decrease to 94.4%. The use of the weekly reports continue to support the link between performance and improving outcomes for children and young people. The Performance Intelligence Unit continues to provide weekly reporting for managers to enable them to identify those reviews due and those out of timescale.

Initial health assessments for children in care

Kirklees rolling 12-month data for Sept 18 shows 92.1% completed in timescales. Locala monthly data at source reports that 100% were completed in timescales with no breaches. The difference in recording may be due to a minor delay in the information being uploaded to the Kirklees IT system from health. There is a 100% completion rate for quarter 2.

Review health assessments for children in care

Kirklees rolling 12-month data for Sept 18 for developmental assessments i.e. children under 5 years old stands at 86.5% and annual assessments i.e. children over 5 years old was 90.3%. Locala monthly data at source records that 95% of both developmental and annual assessments were completed in timescales. The reasons for breach were: 1x carer holiday, 1x child moved back into Kirklees at point of

assessment date, therefore earlier arrangements for another authority to do cancelled and then completed by Kirklees nurses.

Early permanence placements

We continue to consider early permanence placements for children with a plan for adoption and have made some improvements in this area in terms of timescales for children.

One Adoption West Yorkshire

Managers from One Adoption West Yorkshire have attended the Corporate Parenting Board in July 18 and will attend again in January 2019.

Senior Managers from One Adoption meet with relevant senior managers within the council on a regular basis. We have implemented a new arrangement for Agency Decision Maker, bringing us in line with our colleagues in Leeds and the remaining three local authorities in West Yorkshire, to ensure continuity and consistency for care proceedings dealt with in the Leeds Court Centre.

Child permanence reports

We have established weekly clinics to support children's social workers who are undertaking child permanence reports, sibling assessments and considering whether a plan for adoption is appropriate. This is a joint initiative between the Assessment & Intervention Service and One Adoption and will be supported by regular training and workshops.

Children with a plan for adoption

One Adoption social workers continue to attend legal gateway on a weekly basis in order to track children with a plan for adoption and to ensure a family finder is allocated.

We have a structured Agency Decision Making process in relation to adoption planning. This includes legal and medical advice as well as advice from One Adoption West Yorkshire.

Early Permanence Planning

There is now a fully agreed and operational flow chart which outlines the process involved for all workers from the two agencies and clarifies roles and responsibilities.

Adoption Support Fund

There has been an increase in successful applications for Kirklees children that resulted in an increase of support, training and therapeutic input. If an adoption placement ceases then One Adoption have a 'disruption review' and their new procedure is on our procedures website. There will be work with Kirklees staff as to the implementation of this process.

The initial Personal Education Plan (PEP)

Completion rate has increased. This is positive as all initial PEP's have been completed within 10 days of notification to the Virtual School since 01/09/2018.

Attendance of children in care

This has improved and the number of persistent absentee pupils has decreased slightly. This is a very positive impact as at this time of the year one or two days absence can have a large impact on the overall percentage.

Pupils not in full-time education

We continue to maintain a strong focus on pupils not in full-time educational provision. Wherever possible we look to ensure a return to full time education as soon as possible but these situations are often very complex. The number of young people not in full-time education has decreased, we have 3 young people not on a school roll for exceptional reasons and they have a personalised package of education in place. We continue to work with social work teams to improve both PEP and initial PEP completion. This includes weekly updates to Social Work managers and regular chase up emails and phone calls to Social Workers where there is missing information. This is a concern for us and the implementation of Liquid Logic has contributed to a decline in performance within timescale. We are working together across services to try to resolve these issues.

Looked after Children involved in the criminal justice system

For the 1st Quarter of this year (Apr to June) the percentage of LAC offending was 2.13%, a very slight reduction on the same period last year of 2.32%. The 2nd Quarter (July – Sept 18) again gives a figure of 2.13% of LAC offending, this indicates that the 2018/19 LAC offending rate is similar to that in 2017/18. The number of children in care involved in the criminal justice system is below regional average.

Contact with care leavers

We are maintaining a high percentage of care leavers we are in touch with. In some situations, however, young people are not wanting to keep contact with their Personal Advisor, the team work innovatively to keep in touch.

Number of young people in suitable accommodation

Following a steady rise in the number of young people in suitable accommodation over 2018, we saw a small drop in Sept 18, although it remains above July performance. We continue to maintain strong links with Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and the Housing Panel is enabling us to ensure that suitable accommodation is available in a timelier manner when young people are moving to their own accommodation. We have recently made some strong links with private housing providers and are considering how collectively we can improve our skills for independence training.

We now have life skills and pre-tenancy training in place and held weekly at “No.11” and where possible link young people with tenancy support when housed in KNH tenancies.

Personal Advisors for Care leavers

We have now 6 new personal advisors in post. Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers is in the final stages of development, as part of this discussions are taking place with Kirklees housing, private sector providers and third sector providers. This will improve availability, choice and options for young people leaving care. We are planning to launch in the next two months.

Performance on Employment, Education and Training (EET)

Our performance in relation to Employment, Education and Training (EET) indicator is not improving. We have established a multi-agency group to improve opportunities in partnership working who first meet on 23 October 2018. However, we currently remain 4.6% below our Statistical Neighbours & England 2017 averages, both which are 50%.

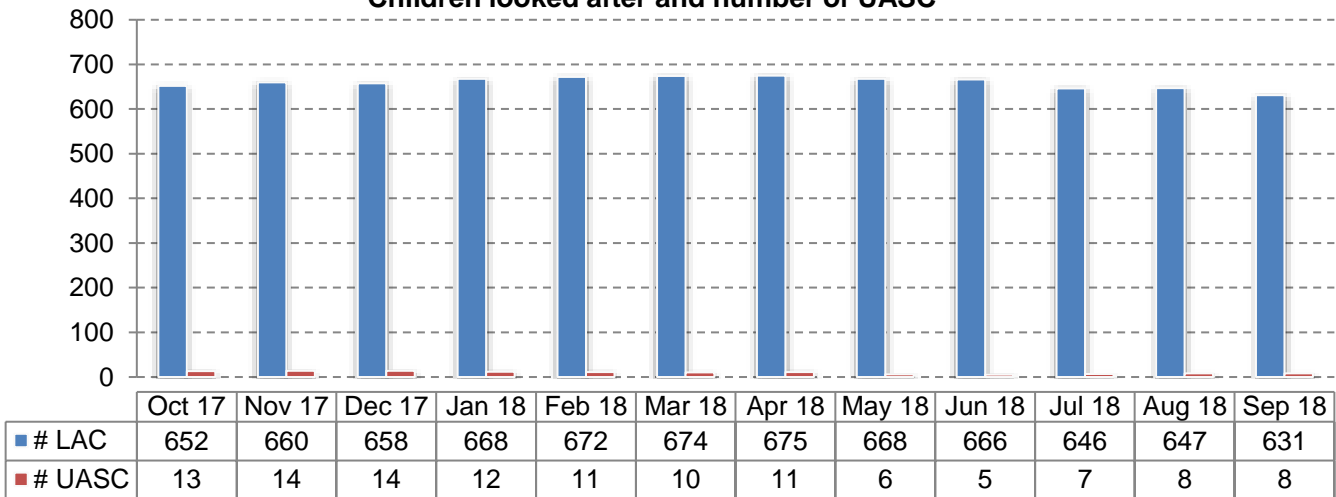
Number of young people with a pathway plan

The number of young people with a pathway plan in place has been over 81.7% since March 18 and we have improved to reach 88.2% in Sept 18. We have recruited the new Personal Advisers, has improved Pathway Planning. We continue to work with the Personal Advisors to ensure pathway plans are completed in a timely manner to meet targets with a focus going forward on the improvement of the quality of plans, the involvement of young people and ensuring we capture their wishes and feelings.

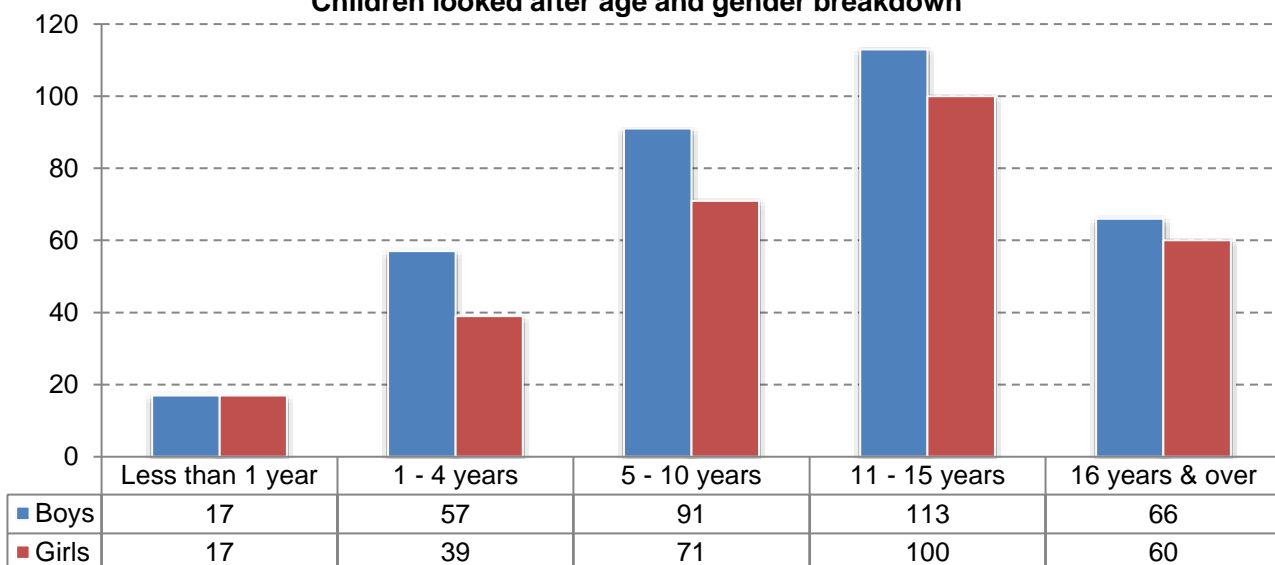
The Councils five Ofsted Registered Childrens Homes have all been inspected unannounced by Ofsted within this financial year, four are graded as Good and one Outstanding.

This graph shows the number of looked after children (excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

Children looked after and number of UASC



Children looked after age and gender breakdown



Children Placed Outside of Kirklees

	31 Jul 2018		31 Aug 2018		30 Sep 2018	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Placed outside Kirklees and over 20 miles from home address	110	17.0%	112	17.3%	107	16.6%

2. **Information required to take a decision**

Not applicable

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)**

Not applicable

3.2 **Economic Resilience (ER)**

Not applicable

3.3 **Improving Outcomes for Children**

Oversight and monitoring of children in care performance data to continue at future Corporate Parenting Boards to monitor progress, as requested by the Chair.

3.4 **Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

3.5 **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

5. **Next steps**

Managers to lead the focus on areas of performance with staff, in areas where outcome data is not what we expect it to be.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report and key highlights on performance within Children in Care Services be noted.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

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9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Monthly performance information is used to inform the narrative for this report

10. **Service Director responsible**

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director (Learning and Early Support)

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