

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 21st January 2019
Title of report: Children in Care Services Performance Highlights

Purpose of report

This report outlines key performance highlights for children in care and care leavers up to November 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 – 8.1.19
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

Have you considered GDPR? Yes GDPR considered no service users identified

1. Summary

The key performance highlights for children in care and care leavers up to November 30th 2018 are as follows:-

Number of children in care

The number of children in care remains currently stable with a reduction of 21 since December 2017, current number 631

Placement Stability and support

For Placement Stability the placement support team are very active and we have implemented innovative solutions to support several placements. An example of plans to limit unplanned moves is as follows: where a foster carer or placement is given 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. Placement Support Team are increasingly focussing their work on some of our most trouble and young people to help build resilience in placements. Whilst the data shows improvement over a 12 month period we are mindful of the deterioration and the impact this has on our children and young people and will continue to focus on the retention of staff and consistency in case allocation.

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 more stability in those numbers.

Health for children in care

Initial health assessments: Kirklees rolling 12-month data for Nov 18 shows 89.9% were completed in timescales. Locala monthly data at source, reports that 100% were completed in timescales with no breaches. The difference in the figures is likely related to the introduction of Liquid Logic and the difficulties in ensuring the data was uploaded.

Review health assessments: Kirklees rolling 12-month data for Nov 18 for developmental assessments i.e. children under 5 years old stands at 84.7% and annual assessments i.e. children over 5 years old was 92% on time. Locala monthly data at source records that 100% of the developmental and 84% of the annual assessments were completed in timescales. There were 4 breaches reasons – 1 x late due to placement move, 1 x Carer not at home at agreed time, 2 x Difficulty arranging a mutual date to complete.

Dental Checks within last 12 months:

95.5% of LAC have been recorded as having received a dental check at Nov 18. This is the highest recorded figure in memory. I have been informed that an improved method of data collection may be responsible for showing the improved picture. However the team have continued to devise additional methods of communication e.g. monthly data sheets of breaches allow carers to be contacted by phone or through social worker and information request slips are added to the strengths & difficulties questionnaires). Locala's 'Registered with Dentist' data shows 100% of looked after children between the age of 18 months to 4 years and 97% of children 5 to 18 years in September 18 were registered with a dentist.

Substance misuse:

There has been a positive reduction to 2.93% in the number of young people who were identified at their last review health assessment, as having a dependant problem with substances. Consideration must be given to the difficulty in obtaining an accurate figure, as it is dependent on the young person admitting the extent of the issue, given that it is illegal and they may not wish to share the information. Those young people who refuse any support are discussed with the local support service, to try to have a targeted response. Any young person mis-using substances at any level are offered support.

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 are in attendance at today's board to update.

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

In Nov 18, 10.6% (19 children) were adopted as a percentage of children leaving care in a 12 month rolling period, the average timescale decreased in Nov 18, with an average of 306.4 days as compared to 309.6 days in September and October. Overall this is very good performance compared to the Statistical Neighbours and National averages from the most recent Adoption Scorecard (3-year average outcome to

March 2017). Kirklees performance on the Scorecard was 549 days, so there has been a considerable improvement since this time.

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.

EDUCATION

The initial Personal Education Plan (PEP) Completion rate had increased in September 2018. All initial PEP's have been completed within 10 working days of notification to the Virtual School since 01/09/2018. 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 key focus for us, the implementation of the new IT system has contributed to a decline in performance in terms of inputting within timescale. We are working together across services to resolve these issues.

Attendance

Attendance 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.

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.

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.

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. We will update at the next board on the third quarter outcome. The number of children in care involved in the criminal justice system is below regional average.

LEAVING CARE

Contact with care leavers

We are maintaining a high percentage of care leavers we are in touch with, at the end of quarter two we were in touch with 99% of care leavers, this has to be viewed in the context of this group all being aged 18 plus. In some situations, young people are not wanting to keep contact with their Personal Advisor, the team work innovatively to keep in touch, we have a best practice protocol in place.

Number of young people in suitable accommodation

There has been a small rise in the number of young people in suitable accommodation since June 2018. We continue to maintain strong links with KNH and 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 held weekly at "No.11" and where possible link young people with tenancy support when housed in KNH tenancies.

Kirklees Commitment to Care Leavers

We are currently in the process of planning the launch our Kirklees Commitment for Care Leavers on Friday 17th January alongside reviewing our service provision for "No.11" to ensure that this is more effective. There has been consultation with Children and Young People along with partner agencies for the development of our offer. We are also working on opening a similar service to number 11 in the North of the district to improve reach with our young people.

Personal Advisors

The majority our Young People aged 17 have an allocated PA, as well as an allocated Social Worker. we have been able to strengthen our pathway planning in relation to developing timely transitions with young people.

Education Employment Training

Our performance in relation to Employment, Education and Training (EET) indicator is a focus for improvement at 4% below our statistical neighbours and we have a C&K Careers Advisor in the Leaving Care Service. We now have a pro-active multi agency group to improve opportunities in partnership working and there is a real desire to ensure our young people are afforded the best of opportunities in relation to EET. We are also working on opening a similar service to number 11 in the North of the district to improve reach with our young people.

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.

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 2018 and we have improved to reach 88.2% at the end of quarter two. We have recruited new Personal Advisers this has led to 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.

CHILDRENS HOMES

The Council's five Ofsted Registered Children's Homes have all been inspected unannounced by Ofsted within this financial year, for their main annual inspection four are graded as Good and one Outstanding.

2. Information required to take a decision Not applicable

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People Not applicable

3.2 Working with Partners Not applicable

3.3 Place Based Working Not applicable

3.4 Improving Outcomes for Children

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

3.5 Reducing demand of services Not applicable

3.6 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)