



Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 11 March 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 January 31st 2019.

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 Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Elaine McShane Not applicable 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 January 31 2019 are as follows:-

Number of children in care

The number of children in care remains currently stable with a reduction of 39 since January 2018, number of children in our care January 2019 633

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 troubled children and young people to help build resilience in placements The rate has reduced positively in Jan 19 to 6.2% (39 children). The 12-month average is 8.0%. Kirklees remains below the England 2018 rate of 10% and the Statistical Neighbours 2018 rate of 9.2%.

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

What difference did we make?

Initial health assessments

Kirklees rolling 12-month data for Jan shows 85.9% were completed in timescales. Locala monthly data at source, reports that 100% were completed in timescales with no breaches. The difference between the figures has been analysed.

This shows that there are some situations that can negatively affect the LA data, as it stays visible for 12 months. Examples are: 1) an unaccompanied asylum seeker who was given LAC status and then went missing, to eventually have his LAC status removed, but the IHA shows as outstanding. 2) An IHA that was completed by another local authority before being transferred to Kirklees. 3) Children whose whereabouts are unknown i.e. refugees who returned home soon after LAC status given. A regular process of reconciliation between the Designated Nurse and PIU is established monthly, to enable the anomalies to be considered.

Review health assessments

Kirklees rolling 12-month data for Jan 19 for developmental assessments, i.e. children under 5 years old, stands at 74.4% and annual assessments, i.e. children over 5 years old, was 81.9% on time. Locala monthly data at source records that 100% of the developmental and 85% of the annual assessments were completed in timescales. January was a challenging month. It has the highest number of RHAs due in the year. There was sickness in the LAC health admin team and this impacted on the information being transferred from Locala to LA. In addition to Liquid Logic (LL) issues. There was also a capacity issue in the community nursing teams, who complete a large number of RHAs. There were 15 breaches, (9 in-house late i.e. 2 children on holiday, 4 staff sickness, 1 refusal, 1 placement move, 1 sudden bereavement in carer family) (4 completed late out of area i.e. 1 capacity, 2 admin oversight, 1 no reason given)

Dental Checks within last 12 months

Kirklees rolling 12 month data for Jan 19 shows that 88.4% of LAC have been recorded as having received a dental check. This figure is inaccurate, due to the need for LL to have the most recent date up-loaded. This is less obvious for children up to age 5 as this is asked at their 6 monthly RHA. For children over age 5, this information is reported at the annual RHA. If the dental visit is after the RHA the information will be missing until it is next RHA. In February, all carers of LAC showing as outstanding in January were contacted individually and the information uploaded onto LL. This is an ongoing issue that we are aware of, but monthly collection will always show an inaccurate picture. A recent request has been made to the Locala data service to provide monthly figures to allow future comparisons. Locala's 'Registered with Dentist' data shows 100% of looked after children up to age 5 (omitting babies under 18 months) & 99% of children age 5 -18ys were registered at the dentist (The LAC nurses ensured that the outstanding UASC who was not registered, obtained their NHS number which then allowed for dental registration)

Substance misuse

There has been a positive reduction to 2.53% 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.

One Adoption West Yorkshire

Managers from One Adoption West Yorkshire have attended the Corporate Parenting Board in January 2019, and will be invited to a future meeting to update again.

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.

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.

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

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

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between the Assessment & Intervention Service and One Adoption and will be supported by regular training and workshops.

One Adoption 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. 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.

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.

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.

What do we want to improve?

The family finding team at One Adoption with responsibility for Kirklees will be moving to Civic Centre in the near future, which will improve areas of communication and partnership working to assist timely adoptions.

In January 2019, 12.6% (19 children) were adopted as a percentage of children leaving care in a 12 month rolling period. The average timescale increased in Jan 19, with an average of 349.3 days as compared to 292.7 days in Dec 18. Overall this remains very good performance compared to the Statistical Neighbours and National averages, 532.5 and 520.0 days respectively, 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

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EDUCATION

What difference did we make?

The initial PEP Completion rate had increased to September 2018. All initial PEP's have been completed within 10 working days of notification to the Virtual School since 01/09/2018. The issue appears to be related to the time taken to update Liquid Logic with new into care details.

Attendance is steady as is the number of persistent absentee pupils.

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 2 young people not on a school roll for exceptional reasons and they have a personalised package of education in place. Whilst we keep this as a priority, performance is now better than Statistical Neighbours and the national picture

What do we want to improve?

PEP Completion. 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 had contributed to a decline in performance within timescale. We appear to also have an ongoing issue around the notification of when a young person comes into care, impacting on initial PEP completion data.

We are working together across services to try to resolve these issues, for example to enable a PEP alert for all Social Workers on the Liquid Logic system.

Looked after Children involved in the criminal justice system

Three years ago, Kirklees YOT became aware that successful outcomes for LAC young people we worked with were significantly worse than those of the general YOT population, with less than 30% successful completions by LAC compared with over 60% for 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 2 years there has been a welcome increase in the percentage of LAC young people having a successful outcome to their YOT intervention. In fact during 2017/18, 75% of LAC young people on Orders to the YOT successfully completed their intervention, compared with 68% of the general YOT population, a remarkable turn-around.

For the 1st Quarter of this year (Apr to June) the percentage of LAC offending is 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 we are on target for 2018/19 to have the same LAC offending rate as in 2017/18. The 3rd quarter (Oct to Dec 18) the percentage of LAC offending is 0.61%, which gives us a total of 4.88% April to

Dec 18. All being well, the continuing of this trend for the next quarter will result in a reduction in the LAC offending for the full year

What do we want to improve?

Compared to last year there has been a small increase in the percentage of LAC offending. In the year 2016/17, 6.14% of LAC had offended, compared to 2017/18 when the figure was 7.26%. While the overall performance this last year is disappointing, given the steady reduction over the previous few years, the figure of 7.26% is significantly lower than 2012/13 when almost 10% of LAC offended. The YOT will continue to closely monitor the figures to ensure that we are ready to respond should the situation deteriorate. The latest published figures for a full year (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.

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 decrease in the number of young people in suitable accommodation since December 2018 down from 90.6% to 89.8% in January 2019. 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

The Kirklees Commitment for Care Leavers was launched 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 we are now 7% above statistical neighbours with 58% of care leavers in education employment or training we have a C&K Careers Advisor in the Leaving Care Service. We 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 has now improved to 92%. 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 Councils five Ofsted Registered Childrens 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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Janet Tolley, 01484 221000
janet.tolley@kirklees.gov.uk

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)