



Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 19 June 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 April 30th 2019, for the board to consider and comment upon.

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?	Steve Comb for Elaine McShane 7.6.19 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 April 2019 are as follows:-

Number of children in care

We have seen a decrease in the rate from a 12 month high of 68.0 per 10,000 children (675 children) in Apr 18 to 62.7 (626 children) in April 19. The current 12-month average for Kirklees is 65.3 and we have remained below our 31 March 2018 published rate of 68.0 and below our Statistical Neighbours 2018 rate of 86.1 and the England 2018 rate of 64.0.

The number of children in care has decreased by 42 between March 2018 and April 2019. The number of children in Kirklees aged 0-17 has been revised for the calculation from 99,192 to 99,815 as per the data published by DfE in October 2018)

Kirklees (April 19) = 62.7 per 10.000 child population

Statistical Neighbours (2018) = 86.1 per 10.000 child population

England (2018) = 64.0 per 10.000 child population

Placement Stability and support

The Legal Gateway Permanence Panel continues to support consistency in regard to decision making and planning around placement moves for children and young people. 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 is ongoing 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 already made progress reducing this number placed more than twenty miles away from Kirklees from 127 in 2017 to 101 in April 2019.

We have reviewed all children who are placed at home on interim or full care orders as a legal status (Placed with Parents). This includes children residing at home under a court direction.

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.

Health of Children in Care

What difference did we make?

Initial health assessments:

Kirklees rolling 12-month data for April 19 shows 86.6% were completed in timescales. Locala monthly data at source, reports that 100% were completed in timescales, no breaches. The difference between the figures has been analysed, showing that some situations that can negatively affect the LA data, as it stays visible for 12 months, whereas Locala data is accurate in real time for that month.

Review health assessments:

Kirklees rolling 12-month data for April 19 for developmental assessments, i.e. children under 5 years old, stands at 78.6% and annual assessments, i.e. children over 5 years old, were 88% on time. Locala monthly data at source records that 89% of the developmental and 93% of the annual assessments were completed in timescales. There were 5 late assessments. Reasons: 2x another authority who originally agreed to complete the assessments on our behalf due to distance to placement, retracted offer late due to capacity, therefore arrangements made for Kirklees LAC nurses to travel to complete them, 1x Placement move, 1x declined (virtual assessment completed), 1x family on holiday.

Dental Checks

Within last 12 months: Kirklees rolling 12 month data for April 19 shows that 89.3% of LAC have been recorded as having received a dental check. Additional actions are undertaken to find this information other than at their health assessment i.e. when an SDQ sent out, monthly lists of missing information etc. The missing information is less likely 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. Locala's 'Registered with Dentist' data shows 100% of looked after children up to age 5 (omitting babies under 18 months) & 96% of children age 5 -18ys are registered with a dentist. The Designated Nurse is informed immediately by electronic task from Locala, of any children not registered at the point of their assessment to allow action to be taken.

Substance misuse:

1.78% of Looked after young people 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. (National figure 4%). Those young people who refuse any support are discussed with the local support service, to try to have a targeted response. Any young person misusing substances at any level is offered support.

One Adoption West Yorkshire Children with a plan for adoption

Managers from One Adoption West Yorkshire have attended the Corporate Parenting Board, and will be invited to a future meetings 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.

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.

Senior managers from One Adoption are meeting with relevant senior managers with the council on a regular basis. The average timescale increased in Mar 19, with an average of 344.0 days as compared to 342.2 days in Feb 19. It has remained at the same level in Apr 19. 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.

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.

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. 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?

To the end of Apr 19, 11.3% (21 children) had been adopted as a percentage of children leaving care in a 12-month rolling period. This is below the 12-month high of 12.9% seen in Mar 18. The 12-month average is 11.6% (22). Kirklees remains below England rate of 13% (2018) and Statistical Neighbours rate of 16% (2017). Kirklees remain below England rate of 13% (2018) and statistical neighbour rate of 16% (2017).

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.

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

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

100% initial PEP's have been completed within 10 working days of notification to the Virtual School since 01/09/2018. The difference here is because we are unable to hold PEP meetings if it is the school holidays and there is sometimes a lag in notification processes. This is improving and the last 10 initial PEP's have all been completed within 10 working days.

We continue to work with social work teams to improve both PEP and initial PEP completion and the quality assurance of PEP's. This includes weekly updates to Social Work managers and regular chase up emails and phone calls to Social Workers where there is missing information.

The implementation of Liquid Logic had contributed to a decline in performance within timescale and we worked closely with the implementation team to resolve these issues, for example we have implemented a PEP alert for all Social Workers on the Liquid Logic system. This appears to be impacting positively on performance. We are currently moving to termly PEP's to meet statutory requirements and this will need to be clearly communicated and implemented across the service as a priority.

Attendance is steady and improved on this time last year, as is the number of persistent absentee pupils. However this is an ongoing area of focus as we remain slightly below regional and national data. All pupils with attendance less than 90% have a PA plan in place agreed by all professionals working with the young person.

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 slightly decreased, we have 5 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, the performance in May 19 was slightly better than the England 2017 rate but just below the statistical neighbour rate of 3.6%.

What do we want to improve?

Initial PEP Completion in relation to the date into care. The issue is around the notification to the Virtual School 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

Looked after Children involved in the criminal justice system

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

For the 1st Quarter of this 2018/19 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. For the 4th quarter we have maintained the 0.61% level as seen in quarter 3 this gives us an annual offending figure of 5.48%. This is a continued year on year improvement when considering 2017/18 annual figure of 7.26%.

What do we want to improve?

Compared to last year there has been a decrease in the percentage of LAC offending. In the year 2017/18, 7.26% of LAC had offended, compared to 2018/19 where the figure is 5.48%. While the overall performance over this last year is encouraging, given the continued steady reduction over the previous few years, the figure continues to be significantly lower than 2012/13 when almost 10% of LAC offended.

The YOT continues 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 (2017/18) show a national average that has decreased from 5% to 4% of LAC offending. This is reflective of the trend in Kirklees, however we remain slightly above the published national average rate.

LEAVING CARE

Service Narrative

What difference did we make?

Contact with care leavers – We are maintaining a high percentage of care leavers we are in touch with, currently in touch with 91% 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 decrease in the number of young people in suitable accommodation since December 2018 down from 90.6% to 83% in April 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

We are 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 service report shows that 89% of our Young People aged 17 and 4 months 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 3% above statistical neighbours with 54.3% 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.

Pathway Plans

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.

What do we want to improve?

Number of young people with a pathway plan

The number of young people with a pathway plan has increased to 96% which is due to the better recording of plans on Liquid Logic. Work is currently ongoing within the service and it is expected that the measure will improve further. We have recruited new Personal Advisors 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. A piece of work will take place to analyse the reported decline in young people placed in suitable accommodation.

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. The homes will be re inspected unannounced in this financial year

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 Board 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)